



Piano Syllabus

Please address any queries to the convenor:
Joanna Brown, jo.clarinet@btopenworld.com

Dates: 16th to 19th February 2026. Please note that no class can be guaranteed to take place on any particular day or time of day.

PLEASE NOTE - each piece may be used only once - i.e. not entered in more than one class in the Piano Section.

Attention pianists, please check out these other categories as you may wish to participate: Concerto Class, Confinemento and Millennium Competitions.

For 'own choice' classes, you must play your chosen piece as printed in the programme and must bring a copy of the music for the adjudicator. Any competitor who plays a different piece on the day, or who fails to provide a copy of their 'own choice' piece, will receive an adjudication but will NOT receive marks or a certificate.

Adjudicator

Andrew Hansford

BMus(Hons), BA(Hons), MA, MMus(Perf), MMus(Cantab), PGCert(OU), ARCM, ARCO, LRSM, LGSM, LTCL, FLCM

Andrew Hansford holds music degrees from multiple universities in the UK. A performing classical pianist specialising in piano accompaniment from relatively early on in his career, he is also an organist, harpsichordist and a choral singer.

In addition to working as an active international BIFF Music Adjudicator, Andrew has been a committed and experienced piano/jazz piano tutor since 1990, teaching all ages from beginner-level to an advanced diploma-level. He has also examined and mentored for the ABRSM and for Trinity College London.

Currently researching for a doctorate, Andrew has previously undertaken postgraduate research on the subject of 'A Study of the (Christmas) Carol' for his own curiosity and interest, and he also continues to enjoy occasional advanced piano accompaniment studies at the Royal College of Music as part of his own ongoing professional development.

Andrew has always had a real affinity for both choral and vocal music (especially English Song as a piano accompanist), nurtured since beginning his musical life at a UK Cathedral Choir School, and he takes special pleasure in accompanying choirs, choral ensembles and singers. He is also one of the resident organists at a local church in Oxfordshire near to where he lives. Particularly adept in the art of music improvisation and having also periodically explored composition (which has led to a number of non-published/personal compositions to date), his preferred choice of instrument for his

performance as a piano accompanist is a Steinway Model D.

FELIX MARR AWARD (£500) AND EPTA CUP

The FELIX MARR AWARD of £500 will be awarded to the competitor gaining the highest mark in the open classes 301-309 (inclusive). In the event of a tie, the final decision will be made by the adjudicator. The value of the prize may be reduced if there are fewer than six entrants.

The prize will be presented in memory of Felix Marr (1947-2012) and the winner will be asked to perform during the final evening of the festival, Saturday 21st February 2026. Felix Marr's family intend that the award be used to support the further studies and development of exceptional entrants.

The EPTA UK Cup will be awarded to the most outstanding pianist aged 18 or under, as decided upon by the adjudicator.

Open Piano Classes (any age)

The FELIX MARR AWARD of £500 will be awarded to the competitor gaining the highest mark in the open classes 301-309 (inclusive). In the event of a tie, the final decision will be made by the adjudicator. The value of the prize may be reduced if there are fewer than six entrants. The prize will be presented in memory of Felix Marr (1947-2012) and the winner will be asked to perform during the final evening of the festival, Saturday 21st February 2026.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
301 Recital Class (Open) Award: Michael Cheung Cup A recital of two or three compositions of contrasting styles and periods (Grade 8 and above).	Any	Up to 15 mins	£17.00 (Under 16 £12.00, Senior £17.00)
302 Baroque Class (Open) Award: Betty Drown Memorial Cup	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00
303 Classical Class (Open) Award: Lady Frederick Lewis Cup Any music written between 1750 and 1830 but excluding Beethoven.	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00
304 Beethoven Class (Open) Award: Stratford Express Cup Any music by Beethoven.	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00
305 Romantic Class (Open) Award: Piano Cup Any music of a Romantic style written between 1830 and 1900 but excluding Chopin.	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
306 Chopin Class (Open) Award: Phillip Young Cup	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00
307 Impressionist Class (Open)	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00
308 British Music Class (Open) Award: George Keene Memorial Cup Any music written by a British composer since 1850.	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00
309 20th/ 21st Century Class (Open) Award: Ackroyd Open Challenge Cup Any music written since 1900.	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00

Solo Piano Classes of 18 Years and Under

Class	Age	Time	Fee
310 Piano Recital Class (11 to 18 yrs) Award: Barbara Halestrap Trophy A recital of two or three compositions of contrasting styles and periods (Grade 5 and above).	Between 11 and 18	Up to 10 mins	£12.00
311 Junior Baroque Class (15 yrs and under) Award: Audrey Sheard Cup	15 and under	Up to 5 mins	£8.00
312 Junior Beethoven (15 yrs and under) Award: Laurence Springett Cup	15 and under	Up to 5 mins	£8.00
313 Sonatina Class (15 yrs and under) Any sonatina movement.	15 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
314 Piano Solo (18 years and under) Award: Yvonne Adair Cup Own choice	18 and under	Up to 5 mins	£10.00
315 Piano Solo (17 yrs and under) Own choice	17 and under	Up to 5 mins	£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00)
316 Piano Solo (16 yrs and under) Award: Grace Herring Memorial Cup Own choice	16 and under	Up to 5 mins	£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00)
317 Piano Solo (15 yrs and under) Award: Mundy Family Cup Own choice	15 and under	Up to 4 mins	£8.00
318 Piano Solo (14 yrs and under) Award: Delta Security Cup Own choice	14 and under	Up to 4 mins	£8.00
319 Piano Solo (13 yrs and under) Award: Intermediate Piano Challenge Cup Own choice	13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£8.00
320 Piano Solo (12 yrs and under) Award: Bloxham Cup Own choice	12 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
321 Piano Solo (11 yrs and under) Award: Col. W. Johnson Galloway Challenge Cup Own choice	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
322 Piano Solo (10 yrs and under) Award: Junior Piano Cup Own choice	10 and under	Up to 3 mins	£8.00
323 Piano Solo (9 yrs and under) Award: Akerman Award Own choice	9 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
324 Piano Solo (8 yrs and under) Award: Gwen Flower Junior Piano Challenge Cup Own choice	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
325 Piano Solo (7 yrs and under) Award: Lily Law Memorial Cup Own choice	7 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00
326 Piano Solo (6 yrs and under) Own choice	6 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00

Graded Piano Classes

One piece from the current syllabus of any recognised exam board. There is no age limit on these classes. The fee is to be paid according to age.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
329 Piano Solo (Grades 7 and 8) Award: James Dace Cup for Piano A Grade 7 or 8 listed exam piece from a current syllabus.	Any		£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00, Senior £8.00)
330 Piano Solo (Grades 5 and 6) Award: Don Egner Cup A Grade 5 or 6 listed exam piece from a current syllabus.	Any		£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00, Senior £8.00)
331 Piano Solo (Grade 4) Award: Ivor Rees Memorial Cup A Grade 4 listed exam piece from a current syllabus.	Any		£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00, Senior £8.00)
332 Piano Solo (Grade 3) Award: Don Egner Memorial Cup A Grade 3 listed solo exam piece from a current syllabus.	Any		£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00, Senior £8.00)
333 Piano Solo (Grade 2) Award: James Kirby Cup A Grade 2 listed solo exam piece from a current syllabus.	Any		£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00, Senior £8.00)

Class	Age	Time	Fee
334 Piano Solo (Grade 1) Award: Rose Akerman Cup A Grade 1 solo listed exam piece from a current syllabus.	Any		£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00, Senior £8.00)

Repertoire Classes

Two contrasting pieces to be performed. Competitors may not play the same piece in any other piano class. However repetition of an item is possible if they enter the Millennium Class.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
335 Piano Repertoire (14 yrs and under) Two contrasting pieces.	14 and under	Up to 6 mins	£8.00
336 Piano Repertoire (11 yrs and under) Two contrasting pieces.	11 and under	Up to 5 mins	£8.00

Jazz/Pop Piano Classes

Class	Age	Time	Fee
338 Jazz/Pop Piano Solo (Open) Award: Jazz Open Cup Own choice	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00
339 Jazz/Pop Piano Solo (18 yrs and under) Award: Beryl Waghorn Cup Own choice	18 and under	Up to 5 mins	£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00)
341 Jazz/Pop Piano Solo (13 yrs and under) Award: Cecil Handley Cup Own choice	13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£8.00
343 Jazz/Pop Piano Solo (9 yrs and under) Own choice	9 and under	Up to 2 mins	£8.00

Non-competitive classes

A new category for those who prefer to share their music in a non-competitive situation. All entrants will receive feedback from the adjudicator, and a participation certificate.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
345 Come and Play! (19 years and over) Non-competitive class - own choice. Time limit 7 minutes	19 and over	Up to 7 mins	£10.00 (Senior £8.00)
346 Come and Play! (12 to 18 years) Non-competitive class - own choice. Time limit 7 minutes	Between 12 and 18	Up to 7 mins	£10.00 (Under 16 £8.00)
347 Come and Play! (11 years and under) Non-competitive class - own choice. Time limit 4 minutes	11 and under	Up to 4 mins	£8.00 (Under 16 £8.00)

Novice Piano

Class	Age	Time	Fee
348 Beginner (Pre-Grade 1 Level) Piano Award: Grace Herring Junior Memorial Cup Competitors must have received less than two years of tuition at the time of the festival and must not have passed Grade 1 or higher. Piece must be of below Grade 1 level. Fee to be paid according to age. Own choice.	Any	Up to 2 mins	£8.00

Senior Citizens

Class	Age	Time	Fee
349 Senior Citizen Piano Class (60 yrs and over)	Any	Up to 5 mins	£8.00

Duets and Teams

Class	Age	Time	Fee
350 Pupil and Teacher Duet (Pre-Grade 1 level) Award: Mayors Pharmacy Cup Pupil to play the Primo part of a duet, this part to be Pre-Grade 1 level (Secondo part any level). Adjudication will be given on the Primo part and on the ensemble.	Any	Up to 2 mins	£8.00 per duo
351 Pupil and Teacher Duet (Grade 1-3 level) Award: Karen Akerman Cup Pupil to play the Primo part of a duet, this part to be of Grade 1-3 standard (Secondo part any level). Adjudication will be given on the Primo part and on the ensemble.	Any	Up to 3 mins	£8.00 per duo
352 Piano Duet (Open) Own choice	Any	Up to 7 mins	£12.00 per duo
353 Piano Duet (16 yrs and under) Award: Jim Akerman Memorial Cup Own choice	16 and under	Up to 4 mins	£12.00 per duo
354 Piano Duet (13 yrs and under) Award: Shalini Ganesh-Ram Memorial Cup Own choice	13 and under	Up to 4 mins	£12.00 per duo
355 Piano Duet (11 yrs and under) Award: Mary Sheehan Memorial Cup Own choice	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£12.00 per duo
356 Piano Team - three or more players at one piano (Open) Own choice Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 5 mins	£12.00 per group
357 Piano Team - three or more players at one piano (16 yrs and under) Group of a minimum of 3 people	16 and under	Up to 4 mins	£12.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
358 Piano Team - three or more players at one piano (11 yrs and under) Award: Dr Lindsay Kobelis Memorial Cup Own choice Group of a minimum of 3 people	11 and under	Up to 4 mins	£12.00 per group