Choirs, Orchestras & Bands Syllabus

Please address any queries to the convenor:

Stella Redburn: 020 8530 3148, stella_redburn@fast-email.com

Venue: St Mary's Parish Church, High Road, South Woodford, London, E18 2PA

Dates: 8 & 11 February 2027
Note: Children's and Young People's classes will take place on Monday 8th February
Adult classes will provisionally be timetabled on these two days, depending on the number of entries:
Monday evening 8th February: Classes 201, 202, 203, 205, 206
Thursday evening 11th February: Classes 204, 211, 212, 216

Closing Date for Entries: 31st December 2026

All classes have a time limit of ten minutes. Please remember to give the number in each group on the entry form.

Where an own choice work is selected from a publication containing several different works which is not published separately, one copy may be made for the use of the adjudicator provided that the choir has already purchased its own copy. The photocopy made will be retained and destroyed immediately after the event.

The accompanist should always be given a printed copy - it is illegal to perform from photocopies of published music.

In the case of junior and infant choirs, if the piece is improvised or taught by ear then the requirement to provide a copy can be waived. In all other cases, a copy must be provided in order to receive an adjudication.

All pieces in this section can be played with or without accompaniment, or they can be accompanied by a backing track.

Adjudicator

Manvinder Rattan

BA (Hons), Hon.D.Litt, FRSM, ACertCM

Manvinder is a choral and orchestral conductor and trainer of conductors. He was born in Nairobi, Kenya and moved to the United Kingdom with his family when he was two. He has lived most of his life in Woodford Green in Essex where he went to Churchfields Junior School and then Ilford County High School for Boys.

Having spent 25 years as Musical Director for the John Lewis Partnership where he was responsible for the company's 21 choirs and orchestra, he is now Musical Director of Hertford Choral Society, Hertford Chamber Choir and the professional Serafine Sinfonia and Chamber Choir, with whom he has released critically acclaimed recordings.

Manvinder is one of the U.K.'s most experienced conductor trainers, with a considerable track record of success in both choral and orchestral training. He spent 17 years as Head of Conductor training for Sing for Pleasure, during which time the courses became accredited by the ABRSM. As well as the UK, Manvinder has directed conducting courses in Europe, India and Kenya. He has been a popular adjudicator at music festivals and appeared as a judge in the BBC Two series "The Choir" with Gareth Malone in 2012 and also the BBC Choir of the Year.

Choral Singing - Children

These classes will take place in the daytime on Monday 8th February 2027

Class	Age	Time	Fee
209 Children's Choir (11 yrs and under) Traditional anonymous folk song Award: Daisy Wykes Cup (1st place) The Delcor Cup (2nd place) Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces. The adjudicator will be listening for musicianship and vocal quality. 1. Own choice of a traditional anonymous folk song 2. Own choice Group of a minimum of 6 people	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
210 Children's Choir (7 yrs and under) Free choice Award: Cantori Vocal Ensemble Cup Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces of their own choice. At least one of the songs should include actions. Group of a minimum of 6 people	7 and under	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
213 Junior choir - Classical Award: Challenge Cup School Choirs - Junior Girls or Boys Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces, at least one of which must be from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic or 20th (classical) repertoire Group of a minimum of 6 people	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £22.00
214 Christmas in February - Childrens Choirs Award: Musicianship Cup An opportunity for choirs to perform two contrasting pieces they learnt for Christmas. Group of a minimum of 6 people	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
215 Children's Choir (9 years and under). Traditional anonymous folk song Award: St. Aubyn's Cup Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces. The adjudicator will be listening for musicianship and vocal quality. 1. Own choice of a traditional anonymous folk song. 2. Own choice. Group of a minimum of 6 people. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £22.00

Choral Singing - Young People

These classes will take place in the early evening on Monday 8th February 2027

Class	Age	Time	Fee
207 Youth Choir (11 to 16 yrs) Free choice Award: Radio Basildon Cup Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces of their own choice. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Between 11 and 16	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
208 Youth Choir (18 yrs & under) Free Choice Award: Senior School Choirs Cup (16 - 18 years) Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces of their own choice. Group of a minimum of 6 people	18 and under	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00

Choral singing - Adult

These classes will take place in the evening.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
201 Amateur Choir Classical Award: Throne Challenge Cup Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces, at least one of which must be Baroque, Classical, Romantic or 20th Century (classical) repertoire Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
202 Amateur Choir Contemporary repertoire Award: The Sir JB Slade JP Cup Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces at least one of which must be Contemporary Repertoire, e.g. Musical Theatre, Rock, Pop, etc. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
203 Amateur Choir Free choice Award: Holland Young Associates Cup Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces. This may include classical songs, early music, folk song arrangements, musical theatre, modern compositions, world music, jazz, pop, etc. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
204 Community Choir - Unison or simple harmony Award: Mike Divver Memorial Cup Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces. Music should be in unison or simple harmony. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
205 Women's Choir Free Choice Award: Clarnico Cup Choirs are required to perform two contrasting pieces. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
206 Christmas In February Adult choirs Award: Simkins Family Trophy An opportunity for choirs to perform two contrasting pieces they learnt for Christmas. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
211 Church choir or Gospel choir Free choice Award: All Saints' Cup An opportunity to sing two contrasting pieces. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
212 Beginner choir Free choice Award: Edith Parnum Cup An opportunity for an adult choir formed in the last three years to perform two contrasting songs. Group of a minimum of 6 people	16 and over	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
216 Non-Competitive Choirs Class Two contrasting pieces. Choirs entering this class will receive an adjudication and a certificate but no mark. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
217 Adjudicator's Choice: Adult Choirs At the end of the choral festival, the adjudicator will be asked to choose his "top pick": the most enjoyable adult performance. That choir will be invited to perform at the Young Musicians Evening on Saturday 20th February at 6pm. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Any	Up to 10 mins	£0.00 per group

Orchestras, Bands and Recorder groups

These classes will take place on Monday 8th February.

All pieces in this section can be played with or without accompaniment, or they can be accompanied by a backing track.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
241 Children's Orchestra or Band (11 yrs and under) Free choice Award: Orchestra Cup Two contrasting pieces. Repertoire may be classical, romantic, jazz, big band, etc. Group of a minimum of 6 people	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
243 Children's Orchestra or Band (12 to 18 yrs) Free choice Award: The Dickson Cup Two contrasting pieces. Repertoire may be classical, romantic, jazz, big band, etc. Group of a minimum of 6 people	Between 12 and 18	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00
253 Children's Recorder Groups (11 yrs and under) Free choice Award: Churchfields Junior School Recorder Cup Groups are required to perform two contrasting pieces. Group of a minimum of 6 people	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£22.00 per group Accompanist £20.00