



Solo & Ensemble Singing Syllabus

Please address any queries to the convenor:

Cathy Edkins, cathy.edkins@btinternet.com

Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th February 2026

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

If the piece has an accompaniment, it should not be performed unaccompanied, unless specifically appropriate (unaccompanied folk song classes)

Attention singers! Please check out these other categories as you may wish to participate: Millennium Competitions and the Musical Theatre Classes in the Speech & Drama section.

The Margery Schwartz Cup will be awarded to a singer with the most outstanding style and presentation, as decided upon by the adjudicator.

Cash prizes are available for classes 101 (£50), 102 (£50), 103 (£300) and 107 (£25), although a minimum number of entries may be required for the prize to be awarded.

In the event of a tie, the final decision will be made by the adjudicator.

No definitive decisions on the scheduling times can be made until we have all the entry numbers. We thank you for your patience.

Adjudicator

Ben Costello

MA, BMus, PgDip

Ben is a freelance musical director, adjudicator, singing coach and accompanist, working internationally. He is Artistic Director of Thames Concerts, and a generalist music adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, having joined in 2009. He is also a music examiner for LCME and is a consultant on their musical theatre syllabi.

A specialist in musical theatre, he has been musical director for numerous productions across the UK, and a reflective product of this has been his continuing work as a musical director and singing teacher at the cutting edge of performing arts training in London. Many of his former singing students enjoy highly successful careers in the West End and beyond, and besides working at many prestigious training establishments Ben also teaches singing at Kingston Grammar School and Tiffin Girls' School.

Ben remains much sought-after as an accompanist, and collaborates in a variety of genres with countless singers and instrumentalists in many performing environments, working with distinguished singers including Michael Chance CBE, James Bowman CBE, Robin Blaze, Hugh Cutting, Alison Pearce, Joanne Lunn and Peter Savidge. He is one of the regular pianists for Cantabile (The London Quartet), and has given international concerts with them.

Ben is a Liveryman and on the Court of the Worshipful Company of Musicians. He chaired the Company's prestigious annual musical direction scholarship for eight years, and is presently Chairman of the Company's Jazz Committee.

Born and based in London, Ben trained initially as a flautist before majoring in piano, singing and conducting. He read Music at Kingston University and the London College of Music, subsequently joining the teaching staff as the College's first resident MD. Outside of music, Ben is a keen motorcyclist and wine buff.

Singing Recital Classes

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 101 Open Recital Class (19 yrs and over) Award: Felix Marr Memorial Cup A prize of £50 will be awarded to the winner of this class Competitors are required to perform a recital programme of three songs of contrasting styles and periods. The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance, the choice of the programme, and for singing from memory. | 19 and over | Up to 15 mins | £17.00 Accompanist £20.00 |
| 102 Junior Singing Recital Class (13 to 18 yrs) Award: Margaret Simkins Memorial Award A prize of £50 will be awarded to the winner of this class. Competitors are required to perform a recital programme of three songs of contrasting styles and periods. The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance, the choice of the programme, and for singing from memory. | Between 13 and 18 | Up to 10 mins | £12.00 Accompanist £15.00 |

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| <p>103 Lila Grisley Open Challenge Recital Class (19 yrs and over)</p> <p>Award: J. Spencer Curwen Memorial Challenge Bowl</p> <p>A prize of £300 will be awarded to the winner of this class. A minimum number of entries to this class is required for it to take place.</p> <p>Competitors are required to perform four songs or arias from the following categories; no two songs to be from the same category.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purcell/ Dowland 2. Italian songs and arias 3. Lieder 4. Opera 5. English art song 6. Sacred and oratorio music 7. Chanson | 19 and over | Up to 15 mins | £17.00 Acccompanist £20.00 |

Any Age Singing Classes

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|-----|--------------|-------------------------------|
| <p>104 Wartime Favourites (any age)</p> <p>Award: Westcott Cup</p> <p>Own choice of a song popularised by the 1st or 2nd World Wars.</p> | Any | Up to 4 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| <p>105 Humorous Song (any age)</p> <p>Award: Moon-Little Cup</p> <p>Own choice of a humorous song by, for example, Tom Lehrer, Flanders & Swann, Noel Coward, etc</p> | Any | Up to 4 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| <p>106 Music Hall Song (any age)</p> <p>Award: Ronald Hills Memorial Award</p> <p>Own choice</p> | Any | Up to 4 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| <p>107 English in Song and Speech (any age)</p> <p>Award: AECC Cup</p> <p>Competitors are required to perform a themed programme of two songs and a poem or piece of prose, all of which were originally written in English. The adjudicator will also take into account the introduction explaining the themed choice. A prize of £25 will be awarded to the winner of this class.</p> | Any | Up to 8 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £10.00 |

Classical Style Songs

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| <p>108 Grand Opera (19 yrs and over)</p> <p>Award: Rose Cup</p> <p>Own choice. May be sung in the original language or in English.</p> | 19 and over | Up to 6 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 109 Light Opera/ Operetta (19 yrs and over) Award: Ernest Fudge Cup Own choice of an aria from a light opera or operetta by, for example, Edward German, Franz Lehár, Ivor Novello, Johann Strauss, Gilbert and Sullivan. | 19 and over | Up to 5 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 110 Sacred and Oratorio (17 yrs and over) Award: Mabel Tarrant Cup Own choice. May be sung in the original language or in English. | 17 and over | Up to 5 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 111 Early English Song (pre 1674) (17 yrs and over) Award: Doris Wallen Cup Own choice | 17 and over | Up to 5 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 112 Lieder Class (17 yrs and over) Award: Lieder Cup Competitors are required to perform ONE song in German by Brahms, Mahler, Schubert, Schumann, R Strauss or Wolf. Own choice. | 17 and over | Up to 5 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 113 English Art Song (17 yrs and over) Award: William Graham Memorial Challenge Cup Competitors are required to perform ONE song for example by Dring, Gibbs, Head, Ireland, L'Estrange, Quilter, Vaughan Williams or Warlock. | 17 and over | Up to 5 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 114 International Art Song (17 yrs and over) Award: Gwen Flower Cup Own choice of a song from any country except Britain or Germany. | 17 and over | Up to 5 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 115 Bach, Handel or Mozart (17 yrs and over) Award: Janet Gorman Cup Own choice | 17 and over | Up to 5 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 116 Classical Style Songs (16 to 18 yrs) Award: Peter J. Pirie Memorial Cup Own choice | Between 16 and 18 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 117 Classical Style Songs (12 to 15 yrs) Award: Secretary's Singing Cup Own choice | Between 12 and 15 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Jazz Classes

Competitors are required to perform a song in jazz style. It can be a spiritual, blues, ragtime, bebop, or vocalisation. Some improvisation is recommended. Ideally you should bring your own accompanist or a backing track.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 118 Jazz Style Song (19 yrs and over) Award: Ewington Cup Own choice | 19 and over | Up to 4 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 119 Jazz Style Song (18 and under) Award: Hummingbirds Cup Own choice | 18 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Boys & Girls Own Choice Songs

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|---------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 120 Boys and Girls Solo (13 to 14 yrs) Award: Leslie Gorrod Memorial Cup Own choice | Age 13 and 14 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 121 Boys and Girls Singing Solo (11 to 12 yrs) Award: Daphne and Archie Granditer Memorial Cup Own choice | Age 11 and 12 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 122 Boys and Girls Singing Solo (9 to 10 yrs) Award: Tonie Berger Cup Own choice | Age 9 and 10 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 123 Boys and Girls Singing Solo (8 yrs and under) Award: Laura Sproit Cup Own choice | 8 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Religious Songs

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 124 Religious Song (12 to 16 yrs) Award: Stockwell Family Cup Own choice | Between 12 and 16 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 125 Religious Song (11 yrs and under) Award: Walter Tee Trophy Own choice | 11 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Graded Singing Examination Classes

Competitors are required to perform ONE song from the most recent syllabus of the Associated Board, Trinity Guildhall, or London College Examinations. The competitor must NOT have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice is made. There is no age limit on any of these classes. Please state on the entry form the Examination Board and the year of your choice.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|-----|------|------------------------------|
| 126 Singing Solo (Grades 7 and 8) Award: Dorothy Parnum Memorial Cup | Any | | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|-----|------|------------------------------|
| 127 Singing Solo (Grades 5 and 6) Award: James Allen Hatch Cup | Any | | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 128 Singing Solo (Grades 3 and 4) Award: Hedwig Brejora Cup | Any | | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 129 Singing Solo (Grades 1 and 2) Award: Dr. Morris Schwartz Cup | Any | | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Unaccompanied Traditional Song

Traditional Songs are folk songs originating among the native people of a region and forming part of their culture. It can be sung in any language or key. The first note or the key-chord may be played on the piano to establish pitch. If the song uses words other than English, a short translation should be read to the audience and adjudicator first.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------------|--------------|--------|
| 130 Traditional Song (19 yrs and over) Award: Plessey Challenge Cup Own choice | 19 and over | Up to 4 mins | £10.00 |
| 131 Traditional Song (16 to 18 yrs) Award: Enid Dobinson Memorial Cup Own choice | Between 16 and 18 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 |
| 132 Traditional Song (12 to 15 yrs) Award: Christine Spiers Cup Own choice | Between 12 and 15 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 |
| 133 Traditional Song (11 yrs and under) Award: Junior Folk Song Cup Own choice | 11 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 |

Accompanied Traditional Song

Traditional Songs are folk songs originating among the native people of a region and forming part of their culture. It can be sung in any language or key. If the song uses words other than English, a short translation should be read to the audience and adjudicator first.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 134 Traditional Song (19 yrs and over) Award: Tina Davidson Cup Own choice | 19 and over | Up to 4 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 135 Traditional Song (16 to 18 yrs) Award: Anna Knight Cup Own choice | Between 16 and 18 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 136 Traditional Song (12 to 15 yrs) Award: Catherine Margaret Elsky Cup Own choice | Between 12 and 15 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 137 Traditional Song (11 yrs and under) Award: Pamela Cairns Cup own choice | 11 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Songs From The Shows (Pre 1960)

Competitors are required to perform a solo from any musical show (stage or film) published up to and including 1960.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 138 Songs from the Shows (Pre 1960) (19 yrs and over) Award: Barbara Halestrap Cup Own choice | 19 and over | Up to 4 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 139 Songs from the Shows (Pre1960) (16 to 18 yrs) Award: Mildred Pirie Memorial Cup Own choice | Between 16 and 18 | Up to 4 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 140 Songs from the Shows (Pre 1960) (12 to 15 yrs) Award: Joy Harris Memorial Cup Own choice | Between 12 and 15 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 141 Songs from the Shows (Pre 1960) (11 yrs and under) Award: Secretary's Cup Junior Songs from the Shows Own choice | 11 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Songs From The Shows (1961 - 1990)

Competitors are required to perform a solo from any musical show (stage or film) published between 1961 and 1990.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 142 Songs from the Shows (1961-1990) (19 yrs and over) Award: Ronald Spiers Cup Own choice | 19 and over | Up to 4 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 143 Songs from the Shows (1961-1990) (16 to 18 yrs) Award: Peter Lawrence Cup Own choice | Between 16 and 18 | Up to 4 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 144 Songs from the Shows (1961-1990) (12 to 15 yrs) Award: Redbridge Mencap Trophy Own choice | Between 12 and 15 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 145 Songs from the Shows (1961-1990) (11 yrs and under) Award: Junior Singing Challenge Cup Own choice | 11 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Songs From The Shows (Post 1991)

Competitors are required to perform a solo from any musical show (stage or film) published from 1991 onwards.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| 146 Songs from the Shows (Post 1991) (19 yrs and over) Award: Dr Laurence Allen Challenge Cup Own choice | 19 and over | Up to 4 mins | £10.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 147 Songs from the Shows (Post 1991) (16 to 18 yrs) Award: Ruby Hanwell Cup Own choice | Between 16 and 18 | Up to 4 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 148 Songs from the Shows (Post 1991) (12 to 15 yrs) Award: Ronald Skillett Cup Own choice | Between 12 and 15 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 149 Songs from the Shows (Post 1991) (11 yrs and under) Award: Kathlyn Ryan Memorial Cup Own choice | 11 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Acccompanist £7.00 |

Ensemble Classes

Competitors are required to perform in small groups of two to nine people. Own choice. Part-singing is essential and there must be only ONE singer to each part.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| 150 Ensemble (any age) Award: Plessey Ensemble Cup Own choice Group of any size | Any | Up to 6 mins | £12.00 per group Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 151 Ensemble (18 yrs and under) Award: Group Award Cup Own choice Group of any size | 18 and under | Up to 4 mins | £12.00 per group Acccompanist £7.00 |
| 152 Ensemble (11 yrs and under) Award: Ensemble Class Challenge Cup Own choice Group of any size | 11 and under | Up to 3 mins | £12.00 per group Acccompanist £7.00 |

Senior Citizens' Class

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 153 Senior Citizens Class (60 yrs and over) Award: Butler Cup Own choice | 60 and over | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Accompanist £7.00 |

Non-Competitive Singing Classes

These are non-competitive classes and would suit people who would like an opportunity to perform and receive feedback on their performance without the pressure of competition.

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|---|-----|--------------|----------------------------|
| 154 Non-Competitive Singing - Classical Song Style (any age) Own choice | Any | Up to 4 mins | £8.00 Accompanist £7.00 |
| 155 Non-Competitive Singing - Songs From The Shows (any age) Own choice | Any | Up to 4 mins | £8.00 Accompanist £7.00 |

Popular Songs (written or arranged after 1950)

| Class | Age | Time | Fee |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 171 Popular Songs (19 yrs and over) Award: Stembridge Memorial Cup Own choice | 19 and over | Up to 4 mins | £10.00 Accompanist £7.00 |
| 172 Popular Songs (16 to 18 yrs) Award: Peter Sewell Memorial Cup Own choice | Between 16 and 18 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Accompanist £7.00 |
| 173 Popular Songs (12 to 15 yrs) Award: Redbridge Singing Cup Own choice | Between 12 and 15 | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Accompanist £7.00 |
| 174 Popular Songs (11 yrs and under) Award: New Decade Cup Own choice | 11 and under | Up to 3 mins | £8.00 Accompanist £7.00 |