Instrumental Syllabus

Please address any queries to the convenor:

Karen Akerman: orchestral.selmf@gmail.com, or 07931 707381

Wednesday 17th - Friday 19th February 2027

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

If the piece has an accompaniment, it should not be performed unaccompanied.

Attention recorder players. Recorder classes are now included within the Instrumental section of the syllabus.

When an own choice piece is selected from a publication containing several different works and which is not published separately, one copy may be made for the use of the adjudicator provided that the competitor has already purchased their own copy. The photocopy made will be retained and destroyed immediately after the event. It is illegal to perform from photocopies of published music.

Time limits will be strictly adhered to. Any part of the performance played outside of the time limits will not be adjudicated.

Please note that there will be cash prizes of £50 for:
Best performance on a brass instrument;
Best performance on a stringed instrument, including harp;
Best performance on a woodwind instrument, including recorder;
Best performance on percussion.

Adjudicator

James Kirby

GRSM, ARAM

James is a popular adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals. He has been delighted to work at many Festivals throughout the UK, as well as the Hong Kong Festival on several occasions.
As a pianist, James studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Moscow Conservatoire He currently gives recitals throughout the UK, and also in Europe and Asia, as well as many concerto performances with the English and Scottish Chamber Orchestras and Moscow and Penang Symphony Orchestra. He was a member of the Barbican Piano Trio for over thirty years and performed regularly with them at Festivals and important concert series in the UK and throughout Europe and the USA. The Trio has a repertoire consisting of over seventy works and an impressive discography.

James is a dedicated teacher and enjoys positions at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Royal Holloway, University of London and Eton College. He is an Honorary Professor of the Rachmaninov Institute in Tambov, Russia, and serves on the juries of many international competitions. He gives many masterclasses in the UK and overseas. James has been an ABRSM examiner since 1998 and has worked in Singapore, China, and Indonesia and many European countries.

Instrumental Recital Classes

Class	Age	Time	Fee
405 Instrumental Recital Class (Open) Award: Reginald Turner Memorial Cup The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance and the choice of the programme. Competitors are required to perform a recital programme of two or three compositions of contrasting styles and periods.	Any	Up to 15 mins	£17.00 Accompanist £20.00
406 Instrumental Recital Class (18 yrs and under) Competitors are required to perform a recital programme of two or three compositions of contrasting styles and periods. The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance and the choice of programme.	18 and under	Up to 13 mins	£12.00 Accompanist £15.00
407 Instrumental Recital Class (11 yrs and under) Award: Tonie Berger Instrumental Cup Competitors are required to perform a recital programme of two or three compositions of contrasting styles and periods. The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance and the choice of programme.	11 and under	Up to 10 mins	£12.00 Accompanist £15.00

Chamber Music

Class	Age	Time	Fee
408 Unaccompanied Instrumental Performance (18 yrs and under) Competitors to perform a movement or movements from a piece originally written for an unaccompanied solo instrument.	18 and under	Up to 7 mins	£12.00
409 Senior Chamber Music (12 to 18 yrs) Award: Purcell School Chamber Music Cup Any combination of two or more players (one player to a part) are required to perform music of their own choice. If there is a piano part and this is an accompaniment, it will not be adjudicated. This is an ideal opportunity to 'try out' a GCSE or AS/A2 level ensemble piece. Group of any size	Between 12 and 18	Up to 10 mins	£12.00 per group

Class	Age	Time	Fee
410 Junior Chamber Music (11 yrs and under) Award: Junior Chamber Music Cup Any combination of two or more players (one player to a part) are required to perform music of their own choice. A piano part is optional and will not be adjudicated. Group of any size	11 and under	Up to 7 mins	£11.00 per group Accompanist £7.00
411 Ensemble Class (Open) Award: Chamber Music Challenge Cup Maximum of five players. Any combination of piano, strings, wind and brass instruments. Suitable for duet, trio, quartet or quintet. If the accompaniment or continuo is an integral part of the work then all instruments will be adjudicated. Group of 2 to 5 people	Any	Up to 7 mins	£12.00 per group
412 Ensemble Class (11 yrs and under) Maximum of five players. Any combination of piano, strings, wind and brass instruments. Suitable for duet, trio, quartet or quintet. If the accompaniment or continuo is an integral part of the work then all instruments will be adjudicated. Group of 2 to 5 people	11 and under	Up to 4 mins	£11.00 per group
413 Family Group Instrumental Class (Open) Any combination of two or more players who all belong to the same family. There must be one player to a part. Group of any size	Any	Up to 5 mins	£12.00 per group

Challenge Classes

Competitors must perform only one piece. Challenge Classes are open to any instrument, with the exception of piano who have their own specific classes.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
414 Instrumental Challenge Class (Open) Own choice	Any	Up to 10 mins	£11.00 Accompanist £10.00
415 Challenge Class (18 yrs and under) Award: Doris Hudson Cup Own choice	18 and under	Up to 8 mins	£11.00 Accompanist £10.00
416 Instrumental Challenge Class (11 yrs and under) Award: Junior Challenge Cup Own choice	11 and under	Up to 5 mins	£11.00 Accompanist £7.00

Instrumental Examination Classes

Competitors are required to perform ONE piece from the appropriate current syllabus of the Associated Board, Trinity Guildhall, Victoria College or London College Examinations.

The competitor must NOT have passed any grade higher than the one from which the choice has been made.

There is no age limit on any of these classes. The fee is to be paid according to age. Please state on the entry form the Examination Board and the year of your choice.

You must bring a copy of the music for the adjudicator.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
417 Instrumental Solo (Grades 7 and 8) Award: James Dace Instrumental Cup	Any		£11.00 Accompanist £7.00
418 Instrumental Solo (Grades 5 and 6) Award: Redbridge Instrumental Cup	Any		£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
419 Instrumental Solo (Grades 3 and 4) Award: Hazel Martin Cup	Any		£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
420 Instrumental Solo (Grades 1 and 2) Award: Maureen Westcott Cup	Any		£9.00 Accompanist £7.00

Strings

Class	Age	Time	Fee
430 Strings Solo (18 yrs and under) Award: Senior Strings Cup Own choice	18 and under	Up to 7 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
431 Strings Solo (14 yrs and under) Award: Grace Palmer Memorial Cup Own choice	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
432 Strings Solo (11 yrs and under) Award: H. J. Large Memorial Cup Own choice	11 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
433 Strings Solo (8 yrs and under) Award: John and Olive Burren Cup Own choice	8 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
434 Novice Strings Solo (any age) Award: Akerman Orchestral Cup Beginner/ Pre Grade 1. Must not to have taken the Grade 1 exam or progressed beyond Grade 1 level. Piece must be below Grade 1 level.	Any	Up to 2 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00

Woodwind and Brass

Class	Age	Time	Fee
440 Woodwind and Brass Solo (8 yrs and under) Award: Mark Cup Own choice	8 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
441 Woodwind Solo (18 yrs and under) Award: Senior Woodwind Cup Own choice	18 and under	Up to 6 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
442 Woodwind Solo (14 yrs and under) Award: Norman Waghorn Memorial Cup Own choice	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
443 Woodwind Solo (11 yrs and under) Award: Yvonne Dudley Cup Own choice	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
444 Novice Woodwind Solo (any age) Beginner/ Pre Grade 1. Must not to have taken the Grade 1 exam or progressed beyond Grade 1 level. Piece must be below Grade 1 level.	Any	Up to 2 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
445 Adult Woodwind and Brass (19 yrs and over) Open to amateurs only.	19 and over	Up to 4 mins	£11.00 Accompanist £7.00
446 Brass Solo (18 yrs and under) Award: Peter Fudge Cup Own choice	18 and under	Up to 7 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
447 Brass Solo (14 yrs and under) Award: Elgin Trophy Own choice	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
448 Brass Solo (11 yrs and under) Award: Hazel Martin Trophy Own choice	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
449 Novice Brass Solo (any age) Beginner/ Pre Grade 1. Must not to have taken the Grade 1 exam or progressed beyond Grade 1 level. Piece must be below Grade 1 level.	Any	Up to 2 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
452 Instrumental Jazz Solo (18 yrs and under) Competitors are required to perform one jazz piece on any instrument that is permitted in the orchestral classes.	18 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
453 Instrumental Solo (Open) Competitors are required to perform one piece on any instrument from the strings, brass, woodwind, percussion and guitar families.	Any	Up to 10 mins	£11.00 Accompanist £10.00

Percussion Classes

Competitors are required to perform one piece in drum kit, snare drum, timpani or tuned percussion. We have some Instruments available but competitors may have to bring their own instruments. Please contact the convenor to discuss further.

Competitors may perform with or without piano accompaniment, or with a backing CD.

You must bring a copy of the music for the adjudicator

Class	Age	Time	Fee
460 Percussion Solo (18 yrs and under) Award: John Martel Percussion Cup Own choice	18 and under		£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
461 Percussion Solo (14 yrs and under) Own choice	14 and under		£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
462 Percussion Solo (11 yrs and under) Own choice	11 and under		£9.00 Accompanist £7.00

Guitar/ Fretted Instruments

Competitors are required to play one piece of their own choice on the guitar or any fretted instrument.

Class	Age	Time	Fee
470 Guitar Solo (18 yrs and under) Own choice	18 and under	Up to 7 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
471 Guitar Solo (14 yrs and under) Award: Playtent Co-operative Cup Own choice	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
472 Guitar Solo (11 yrs and under) Award: Edward Cross Guitar Trophy Own choice	11 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
473 Novice Guitar Solo (any age) Competitors should have received less than one year of tuition at the time of entry. Fee to be paid according to age. Own choice.	Any	Up to 2 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00

Harp

Class	Age	Time	Fee
480 Harp Solo (18 yrs and under) One or more pieces may be performed within the time limit. Own choice.	18 and under	Up to 7 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
481 Harp Solo (14 yrs and under) One or more pieces may be performed within the time limit. Own choice.	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
482 Harp Solo (11 yrs and under) One or more pieces may be performed within the time limit. Own choice.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00

Recorder Recital Classes

Class	Age	Time	Fee
501 Recorder Recital Class (Open) Award: Britten's Music Challenge Cup Competitors are required to perform a recital programme of three compositions of contrasting styles and periods. The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance, the choice of the programme, and for playing from memory.	Any	Up to 15 mins	£17.00 Accompanist £20.00
502 Recorder Recital Class (12 to 18 yrs) Award: Gilling Cup Competitors are required to perform a recital programme of three compositions of contrasting styles and periods. The adjudicator will give credit for the quality of the performance and the choice of the programme.	Between 12 and 18	Up to 10 mins	£12.00 Accompanist £15.00

Recorder - Open and Senior Classes

Class	Age	Time	Fee
503 Advanced Recorder Solo (Open) Award: Wootton Cup Competitors are required to perform two movements from a Recorder Sonata written for any instrument of the consort. The choice of work will be taken into consideration.	Any	Up to 7 mins	£11.00 Accompanist £10.00
504 Senior Recorder Solo (12 yrs and over) Award: Walter Bergmann Memorial Cup for Senior Recorder Solo Competitors are required to perform any composition(s) of their own choice on any instrument of the consort.	12 and over	Up to 5 mins	£11.00 (Under 16 £9.00) Accompanist £7.00
505 Senior Baroque Recorder Solo (12 yrs and over) Competitors are required to perform any music from the Baroque period.	12 and over	Up to 5 mins	£11.00 (Under 16 £9.00) Accompanist £7.00
506 Senior Classical / Romantic Recorder Solo (12 yrs and over) Competitors are required to perform any composition(s) written between 1770 and 1900. Arrangements will be accepted.	12 and over	Up to 5 mins	£11.00 (Under 16 £9.00) Accompanist £7.00

Class	Age	Time	Fee
507 Senior 20th/21st Century Solo (12 yrs and over) Award: Morris Cup Competitors are required to perform any composition(s) written since 1900. Arrangements will be accepted.	12 and over	Up to 5 mins	£11.00 (Under 16 £9.00) Accompanist £7.00
508 Senior Descant Recorder Solo (12 yrs and over) Award: Michael Brown Cup Own choice	12 and over	Up to 5 mins	£11.00 (Under 16 £9.00) Accompanist £7.00

Recorder - Junior Classes

Class	Age	Time	Fee
509 Junior Recorder Solo (11 yrs and under) Competitors are required to perform on any instrument of the consort.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
510 Junior Descant Recorder Solo (11 yrs and under) Award: Walter Bergmann Memorial Cup for Junior Recorder Solo Own choice	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
511 Junior Baroque Solo (11 yrs and under) Competitors are required to perform any composition from the Baroque period.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
512 Junior Classical/Romantic Solo (11 yrs and under) Competitors are required to perform any composition(s) written between 1770 and 1900. Arrangements will be accepted.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
513 Junior 20th/21st Century Solo (11 yrs and under) Award: Recorder Cup for a Modern Solo Competitors are required to perform any composition(s) written since 1900. Arrangements will be accepted.	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
514 Junior Folk Tune Recorder Solo (11 yrs and under) Competitors are required to perform, accompanied or unaccompanied, a traditional melody from any country. A backing CD may be used.	11 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
515 Recorder Solo (9 yrs and under) Award: Junior Recorder Cup Own choice	9 and under	Up to 2 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00
516 Novice Recorder Solo Award: Arthur Ingham Memorial Cup Competitors should have received less than one year of tuition at the time of entry. There is no age limit. Own choice.	Any	Up to 2 mins	£9.00 Accompanist £7.00

Recorder Duets

Class	Age	Time	Fee
520 Recorder Duet (Open) Award: Walter Bergmann Memorial Cup for Recorder Duet Own choice	Any	Up to 6 mins	£12.00 per duo Accompanist £7.00
521 Junior Recorder Duet (11 yrs and under) Award: Walter Bergmann Memorial Cup for Junior Recorder Duet Own choice	11 and under	Up to 3 mins	£12.00 per duo Accompanist £7.00

Recorder Consorts and Groups

Class	Age	Time	Fee
524 Recorder Consort (Open) Award: Challenge Cup It is required that there is just one instrument to a part, and that there should be NO conductor, accompaniment or percussion. Own choice. Group of any size	Any	Up to 6 mins	£12.00 per group
525 Junior Recorder Consort (11 yrs and under) Award: Junior Consort Challenge Cup It is required that there is just one instrument to a part, and that there should be NO conductor, accompaniment or percussion. Own choice Group of any size	11 and under	Up to 4 mins	£12.00 per group
526 Recorder Group (Open) Award: Senior Recorder Challenge Cup Three or more players are required to perform two contrasting items of their own choice. Group of a minimum of 3 people	Any	Up to 8 mins	£12.00 per group Accompanist £10.00
527 Junior Recorder Group (11 yrs and under) Award: Cowell Award Three or more players are required to perform two contrasting items of their own choice. Group of a minimum of 3 people	11 and under	Up to 6 mins	£12.00 per group Accompanist £7.00