

SUTTON MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026

FESTIVAL RULES – Please read carefully

1. ELIGIBILITY

Except where otherwise indicated (e.g. that a class is OPEN) only AMATEURS and not professionals may enter the competitions.

A Professional is defined as one who derives, or has derived, the major part of his or her living from performing or teaching the instrument or voice concerned. Open classes, shown in each section of the syllabus, are open to all candidates whether professional or amateur.

No competitor may take part more than once in the same class, except on a different instrument.

Performers who have studied with the Adjudicator may not compete.

2. AGE LIMITS

Where age limits apply, they will be strictly adhered to; such age to be reckoned as at **SEPTEMBER 1st** preceding the Festival. Proof of age must be provided if requested.

3. ENTRIES AND ENTRY FEES

Entries to be made online by following a link from our website **www.suttonmusicfestival.org.uk** by 1st October 2026

Fees are not returnable.

The Committee reserves the right to refuse entry.

LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

NO SWITCHING OF CLASSES OR CHANGES TO THE PUBLISHED TIMETABLE WILL BE PERMITTED

4. MARKING

Marks will be awarded in **ALL** sections and entrants placed in one of **SEVEN** categories as an indication of their achievement.

MARK	CATEGORY
95 or higher	Exceptional
90 to 94	Outstanding
85 to 89	Honours
80 to 84	Commended
75 to 79	Merit
70 to 74	Progressing
65 to 69	Developing

Certificates will be awarded for each category

5. AWARDS

Trophies and Prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator and only where a minimum mark of 85 has been achieved.

Medals will be awarded as follows to the performers aged 15 and under **only**.

A First Prize gold coloured medal will be awarded to the first placed performer, provided that a **minimum mark of 85** has been achieved, with a **Second Prize silver coloured medal** awarded to the second placed performer, provided there are **EIGHT** or more performers in the class and a **minimum mark of 80** has been achieved.

- **In classes with SEVEN or fewer performers**, a second prize medal will not be awarded unless warranted by exceptional circumstances.
- **Split classes** will carry separate medal awards but only one overall trophy, where relevant.

6. MUSIC

Editions: The prescribed editions of music and key, where specified, must be used.

Accompaniment: If a selected piece has been composed and published with an accompaniment, it must be performed with that accompaniment in order to qualify for adjudication. Recorded accompaniments are not permitted unless specified in the syllabus.

Own Choice: Title, composer and performance time must be stated on the entry form **at the time of entry**. Only notated items may be offered unless otherwise specified in Jazz/Improvisation classes. Set pieces in this syllabus may not be offered in Own Choice classes, and **no item may be included in more than one class**.

Any change of piece must be notified to the relevant Section Secretary before 1 October.

The adjudicator will take into consideration the artistic merit of self-chosen pieces, i.e., whether the standard of music etc. is worthy of the class in which it is to be performed.

Where the chosen piece fails to meet the designated criteria for a class, the competitor will not be considered for a place amongst the winners and their mark/category may be withheld. **In all cases of Own Choice, a copy of the piece selected must be provided to the adjudicator at the time of competing.** Please do not send music to the Section Secretary unless requested.

7. PERFORMING RIGHTS

This Festival has entered into an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collection Society. This means that entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items performed to a time limit of 10 minutes.

Performers and teachers should know that this will ensure authors are directly reimbursed as a consequence of their works being performed. Duologues and group dramatic items are not covered by this agreement and copyright for these items must be sought by performers at the time of entry. Solo dramatic items must be announced with title and author at the time of performance to qualify for copyright indemnity and the performer must not change the words or gender of the character.

8. PHOTOCOPIES

Photocopies will not be accepted except in the following circumstances: when an Own Choice work is selected from a publication containing several different works and is not available separately, one copy may be made for the use of the adjudicator provided that the performer has already purchased his/her copy.

The photocopy will be retained and destroyed by the Festival immediately after the event.

9. TIME LIMITS

These, where set, will be strictly adhered to. For any performers who overrun the time, their mark/category may be reduced and they will not be considered for a place amongst the winners. It is not acceptable to offer only part of a movement or piece.

10.TIME OF COMPETITION

Notice of the time of competition will be sent to every competitor at least one week before the Festival. If by then no notice has been received, an immediate enquiry should be sent to the relevant Section Secretary.

11.GALA CONCERT

On the recommendation of the adjudicators, selected participants will be invited to perform in the Gala Concert. They will be notified in writing after the completion of the competitions in each Section.

Cups and Trophies will normally be presented from the platform at the Gala Concert. They cannot be sent through the post or by courier services, if the recipient is unable to collect them at the Concert.

CUPS AND TROPHIES AWARDED IN 2026 WILL BE HELD FOR 11 MONTHS ONLY. THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED IN PERSON IN THEIR BOXES AND IN A PROPERLY CLEANED CONDITION ON OR BEFORE 14th OCTOBER 2027.

For further information please contact information.smf@gmail.com

12. COMPLAINTS

See separate complaints policy on our website.

13. SAFEGUARDING

The Festival aims to provide a safe environment for everyone who enters the event. Please refer to our Child Protection Policy and Creating Safer Festivals for Everyone, published on our website <http://www.suttonmusicfestival.org.uk/rules-policies>

14. PHOTOGRAPHY

Please refer to the PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING POLICY published on our website: <http://www.suttonmusicfestival.org.uk/rules-policies>

MOBILE PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF IN THE PERFORMANCE AREAS AT ALL TIMES. THE USE OF LAPTOPS, TABLETS AND ALL FORMS OF SOUND AND PICTURE RECORDING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE PERFORMANCE AREAS THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE FESTIVAL.

15. PRIVACY

Please refer to the DATA PROTECTION POLICY published on our website <http://www.suttonmusicfestival.org.uk/rules-policies>

16. UNACCOMPANIED ENTRANTS AND ENTRANTS UNDER 16

Teachers/Parents/Carers must ensure that the young person is fit, and their health will not suffer by taking part in any performances.

For the duration of the Festivals all teachers/parents/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils are aware of the identify and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Festival venues, practice and changing rooms that may be provided.

17. LOST PROPERTY

The Festival cannot take responsibility for any property left unattended.