

## Worcester Competitive Arts Festival 2022: Rules of Entry and Admission

### GENERAL

1. Entries must be submitted electronically via the PlayandPerform platform by 23:45 on Monday 24th January 2022. Late, verbal or paper entries will not be accepted.
2. No entry can be accepted unless accompanied by the correct fee. Fees can be paid via credit or debit card or by BACS transfer at the point of making the entry via PlayandPerform.
3. For online sections, VIDEOS and ADJUDICATORS' COPIES must be submitted electronically by 23:45 on Monday 14th February 2022. Late submissions will not be accepted and entry fees will be forfeited if video submissions are not received by the deadline.
4. Entries may be withdrawn at any point, but fees are non-refundable. Competitors withdrawing from classes are asked to let Rosemary Hopkins know as early as possible:  
rosyosy@hotmail.co.uk
5. The Committee reserves the right to:
  - i. change any class to a virtual class, meaning that video submissions will be required by the advertised deadline
  - ii. cancel any class and return the fee
  - iii. divide and combine some classes.
  - iv. change the order of individual performers in a class and if necessary, the class itself
  - v. make any changes necessary to the festival to accommodate current government guidance on infection control
6. The Competitor's age on 1st September 2021 shall be regarded as his/her age for the purposes of the competitions. (This corresponds with the academic year 1st September - 31st August.)
7. Competitors may enter only ONE age or standard class plus the OPEN CLASS in each SECTION. Performances on two DIFFERENT instruments may be entered in the same class/section.
8. A different piece must be played or performed for each entry.
9. It is the performer's responsibility to ensure that they have the correct equipment and music to enable them to perform. Due to difficulties experienced in other recent festivals, our festival advises against the use of digital devices as a digital score.
10. Competitors who overrun time limits or perform in the incorrect genre will receive adjudicator's comments only and will not be placed. The adjudicator's decision is final and in no circumstances will any subsequent discussion or correspondence be entered into.
11. No eating or drinking is allowed in the competition rooms, but plastic water bottles are permitted.
12. Individuals should bring their own music stands with them. Bands and orchestras requiring music stands please contact Jan Venables: 07928 316080 AT LEAST one week before the festival.
13. Recording and photography of Classes is NOT be allowed during performances and adjudications. We may have an official photographer who will take photographs during festival days, which may subsequently be used by the Press or on the Festival website. Where parents, guardians or carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that a committee member is aware so that their child/pupil/vulnerable adult is not included in official authorised photos.
14. One of the following categories will be awarded to each performance: Commended, Highly Commended, Merit, Distinction, Honours. In all cases the Adjudicator's decision will be final. The

Adjudicator will announce the winner of each class. In classes of 5 or more, a 2nd place will also be awarded. In classes of 10 or more, a 3rd place will also be awarded.

15. Copies of the Adjudicator's remarks should be collected from the steward at the close of each Class. Certificates should be collected from the certificate area in the foyer. There may be a slight delay, as certificates are prepared as quickly as possible following the end of the class.

16. Trophy winners are required to sign a form on receipt of their trophy.

17. The timetable will be available on the WCAF website: [www.wcaf.org.uk](http://www.wcaf.org.uk) It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they are in the correct place at the right time. A map and signage will be available at the venue.

## MUSIC CLASSES

18. In classes where the time limit is 5 minutes or less, ONE PIECE is to be performed. Where the time limit is 6 minutes or more, ONE or TWO pieces may be performed unless otherwise stated. Timings should include breaks between pieces. The competitor should give an introduction (no longer than 30 seconds) including the title of the piece to be performed.

19. A copy of own choice pieces must be uploaded for the Adjudicator. For Rock and Pop and Jazz classes, a formal score might not always be appropriate, but a chord tab or crib sheet MUST be provided instead, clearly indicating the title and composer. Unauthorised copying of music is an infringement of copyright. If the music is out of print, permission to copy MUST be obtained in writing from the publishers and a copy of their letter or email attached to the music. The Music Publishers' Association has issued a code of practice making the concession that own choice pieces may be copied from volumes only and for the use of the Adjudicator only. The copying of music for the accompanist is forbidden. Photocopies for the Adjudicator must be totally legible. With the exception of the above concession, no other photocopying of music is permitted. If music is downloaded from the internet, the performer should also print off and submit the permission statement that accompanies the music. The adjudicators' photocopies will not be returned.

20. THERE IS NO LONGER AN OFFICIAL ACCOMPANIST. Competitors should bring their own accompanist (and page turner where necessary). Pieces that require accompaniment MUST be played with an accompanist. Pre-recorded backing tracks are not permitted for use as an accompaniment, except where stated in the syllabus.

21. Where specifically stated in the syllabus, live performances at the festival or video submissions can include live accompaniment or high quality backing tracks, providing that they are balanced and do not detract from the overall performance. No solo instrument or voice is permitted as part of any backing track and the part being played or sung by the entrant should not be duplicated as part of the backing track. If using a backing track at the festival, competitors must bring their own PAT-tested playback equipment.

## MUSICAL THEATRE, POETRY, PROSE AND DRAMA CLASSES

22. The Festival has an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any poetry, prose or SOLO dramatic item performed, to a time limit of 15 minutes. Authors will be directly reimbursed as a consequence of their works being performed at this Festival. Duologues and group dramatic activity are NOT covered by this agreement and copyright for these items should be sought by performers at the time of entry.

23. The title and author of all own choice pieces must be handed to the adjudicator's steward before the class starts. A copy of own choice pieces must be provided for the Adjudicator at the beginning of the Class.

24. Competitors are reminded that due to Performing Rights, no costume or scenery may be used but movement and basic props are allowed. The following props are acceptable - practice skirts, practice trousers, scarves, shawls, headwear, gloves, fans and other hand-held small items. Competitors in these classes are allowed to provide their own prompts. Competitors should NOT wear stage makeup.

25. Unacceptable Language Thresholds. Some works performed often explore adult themes, and contain strong language. However care should be taken when choosing or devising contemporary pieces. We ask that you present your work in a manner that respects the 'family' orientated nature of the festival and avoids the unnecessary exposure of younger children to inappropriate themes and language. Therefore, in the Speech & Drama section, if you have some potentially contentious language or themes in your passage, a copy of the piece as you intend to perform it must be sent to the festival prior to the festival, or upon entry. Four letter words (e.g. f\*\*\*) must be replaced by milder expletives, and such expletives should be used only sparingly. The festival aims to celebrate the best and highest forms of literature and language, and therefore reserves the right to refuse entries that are made up of continuously bad language and/or gratuitous expletives.

26. The person making the entries should ensure that each entrant is aware of all the rules and has read the Safeguarding Policy and the Privacy documents.

## ADMISSION

27. The Festival is run by volunteers but, in order to hire the venue and pay professional adjudicators, a charge for admission has to be made. Members of the public will be admitted to the festival at a charge of:

Adults £3.00

Children Free

Tickets are valid for the whole day. There are no half-day tickets. **SCHOOLS ARE REQUESTED TO INFORM ANY PARENTS LIKELY TO ATTEND THAT THERE WILL BE A CHARGE FOR ADMISSION.** Programmes covering both days of the Festival will be available priced £2. Competitors, teachers, conductors and accompanists are admitted free of charge.

28. Spectator tickets and programmes will be available in advance via the WCAF website and on the door on the days of the festival. Please bring your proof of purchase to reception on the day of the festival to receive your entry stickers.

29. Car parking is limited at RGS Worcester. Please contact Jan Venables on 07928 316080 well in advance so that arrangements can be made for disabled access if necessary.