



INFORMATION and Rules for The Piano Festival 2026

VENUE IN ILKLEY

This year's venue is Christchurch, The Grove Ilkley.

AGE QUALIFICATION DATE

The age limits set out in the syllabus refer to the age of the entrant during the period 1st **September 2026 – 31st August 2027**. This means:

7 years and under.....	YEAR 2
8 years and under.....	YEAR 3
9 years and under.....	YEAR 4
10 years and under.....	YEAR 5
11 years and under.....	YEAR 6
12 years and under.....	YEAR 7
13 years and under.....	YEAR 8
14 years and under.....	YEAR 9
15 years and under.....	YEAR 10
16 years and under.....	YEAR 11
17 years and under.....	YEAR 12
18 years and under.....	YEAR 13

JUNIOR AWARD CLASSES

Age 14 years and under

SENIOR AWARD CLASSES

Open to all ages 14 - 18 years

*Diploma Class is no age limit - adults may enter

ENTRY FEES

SOLO ENTRIES unless stated otherwise: - £8 **SOLO RECITAL CLASSES** £12

DUET ENTRIES £10 (No charge for accompanying Teachers)

TRIO ENTRIES £12

MUSIC COPIES - PERFORMANCE RIGHTS & COPIES OF MATERIAL

All books set by the syllabus will be provided for our adjudicator, but performers will be required to bring ORIGINAL BOOKS to use for their own performances.

All OWN CHOICE music performers will be asked to scan /post a copy of the music to:
Linda Wellings (Piano Secretary) by the end of September 2026.

Linda@wharfedalefestival.co.uk 4 Saw Mill Lane, Addingham, LS29 0ST

The Music Publishers' Association **Code of Practice on Photocopying works** makes the following concession for copying OWN CHOICE pieces from volumes, and only for the use of the Adjudicator at a Festival.

~The use of a photocopy is allowed if the participant has already purchased his / her own copy, and that the copy is retained and destroyed by the administrator of the Festival immediately after the event~.

REPETITION

Performers should not present items which they have performed at the WHARFEDALE FESTIVAL FOR PERFORMING ARTS in the last three years, and no piece may be performed in more than one class.

ADJUDICATION

All individual pianists will be given a certificate of performance and a written adjudication with their achieved grade. First, Second and Third places will be awarded as is deemed appropriate by the Adjudicator. A full list of awards and trophies to be allocated to the classes will be notified to all participants on October 1st 2026. Any award can be withheld at the Adjudicator's discretion. The decision of the Adjudicator is final.

SYSTEM OF GRADING PERFORMANCES

In accordance with the Revised British and International Federation of Festivals Marking Scheme April 2024

DEVELOPING (65 – 69)	A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency and artistry
PROGRESSING (70 - 74)	A performance showing development of technique and / or technical ability
MERIT (75 – 79)	A competent performance showing some artistic awareness and / or technical ability
COMMENDED (80 – 84)	A convincing performance technically and artistically with increasing stylistic and communication skills
HONOURS (85 – 89)	An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality

OUTSTANDING (90- 94)

An impressive performance technically and artistically,
displaying spontaneity and clear individuality

EXCEPTIONAL (+95 MARKS)

A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic
individuality

TIME LIMITS

- a) Please observe all time limits for performances. The Adjudicator Steward will be closely observing performance times.
- b) Entrants are welcome to introduce their chosen piece, but please note that this will form part of the overall timing.

CLASS ENTRIES

The Wharfedale Festival reserve the right to limit the numbers of entries to each class and to withdraw any classes with less than 3 entries. A full refund of fees paid will be given in these circumstances.

PRIMARY SCHOOL YEAR / GRADED CLASSES – PIANO SOLO / DUETS / TRIOS

FESTIVAL TROPHY AWARDS for a pianist from classes 2 -4, and a Duet or Trio from classes 5-6

Class	Age	Time	Fee
1.(NC) Non-Competitive Class – Piano Solo and or a Duet / Trio	Year 6 and under	2 mins	£7
<i>Rule: Classes 0002– 0013</i> <i>Participants may also enter classes above their existing year group</i>			
2.Piano Solo One or two short pieces Own choice	Year 3 and under	2 mins	£7
3. Piano Solo Any piece from The Joy of First Year Piano OR Second Year Piano Or Any piece from the Initial Grades or Grade 1 2025/26 ABRSM or 2023 Trinity Syllabus	Year 4 and under	2 mins	£7
4.Piano Solo Choose one piece from: The Joy of Graded Piano – NEW EDITION – Grade 1 Yorktown Music Press.Inc Or	Year 6 and under	2 mins	£7

Any piece from the Grade 1 or Grade 2 2025/26 ABRSM or 2023 TRINITY Syllabus			
5. Piano Duet Own choice	Year 6 and under	2 mins	£8

SECONDARY SCHOOL YEARS / GRADED CLASSES - PIANO SOLO

Rule: Participants may also enter classes above their current school year group.

FESTIVAL TROPHY AWARDS for a pianist from classes 7-10 and from classes 11-14

Class	Age	Time	Fee
7.(NC) Non-Competitive Class – Piano Solo and or a Duet / Trio Own choice	Year 9 and under	5 mins	£7
8. Piano Solo Choose one piece from: The Joy of Graded Piano – NEW EDITION – Grade 2 Yorktown Music Press.Inc Or Any piece from the Grade 2 or 3 2025/26 ABRSM or 2023 TRINITY Syllabus	Year 7 and under	5 mins	£7
9. Piano Solo Choose one piece from: The Joy of Graded Piano – NEW EDITION – Grade 3 Yorktown Music Press.Inc Or Any piece from the Grade 3 or 4 2025/26 ABRSM or 2023 TRINITY Syllabus	Year 8 and under	5 mins	£7
10. Piano Solo Choose one piece from: The Joy of Graded Piano – NEW EDITION – Grade 4 Yorktown Music Press.Inc Or Any piece from the Grade 4 or 5 2025/26 ABRSM or 2023 TRINITY Syllabus	Year 9 and under	5 mins	£7
11. Piano Solo Choose one piece from: The Joy of Graded Piano – NEW EDITION – Grade 5 or 6 Yorktown Music Press.Inc	Year 10 and under	Not to exceed 6 mins	£8

Or Any piece from at least Grade 5 2025/246 ABRSM or 2023TRINITY Syllabus			
12. Piano Solo Own choice OR Any piece from at least Grade 6 2025/26 ABRSM or 2023 TRINITY Syllabus	Year 11 and under	Not to exceed 8 mins	£8
13. Piano Solo Own choice OR Any piece from at least Grade 7 2025/26 ABRSM or 2023 TRINITY Syllabus	Years 12 and under	Not to exceed 8 mins	£8
14. Piano Solo Own choice	Year 13 and under	Not to exceed 10 mins	£8

OR Any piece from the Grade 8 2025/26 ABRSM or 2023 TRINITY Syllabus			
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15. Open Diploma Piano Solo <i>Advanced Performance Platform Class</i> Any one piece from the ABRSM /LCME syllabus from 2010 onwards OR any one piece of the same standard that you wish to perform for professional feedback. No pieces included that have been played in any other class at the 2026 Festival of Piano.	No age limit	Up to 12 mins	£12
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JUNIOR PIANO SOLO REPERTOIRE CLASSES

FESTIVAL AWARD for a pianist from classes 16-19

Class	Age	Time	Fee
16. Baroque Solo Own choice	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£8
17. Classical Solo Own choice of one work or movement	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£8
18. Romantic Solo Own choice of one work or movement	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£8
19. 20/21st Century Solo Own choice of one piece May include ragtime / blues or a jazz solo. Improvisation is optional. <i>This class may also include a piece written by the performer</i>	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£8

SENIOR PIANO SOLO REPERTOIRE CLASSES

FESTIVAL AWARD for a pianist from classes 20 - 23

Class	Age	Time Limit	Fee
20. Baroque Solo Own choice of one piece	14 and over	Up to 8 mins	£8
21. Classical Solo Own choice of one work or movement	14 and over	Up to 8 mins	£8
22. Romantic Solo Own choice of one work or movement	14 and over	Up to 10 mins	£8
23. 20/21st Century Solo Own choice of one piece. May include ragtime/blues or a jazz solo. Improvisation is optional This class may also include a piece written by the performer.	14 and over	Up to 8 mins	£8

DUETS AND TRIOS (One Piano 4 hands / One Piano 6 hands)

FESTIVAL AWARD for an ensemble from classes 24-31

Class	Age	Time Limit	Fee
24. Junior Duet Pupil and teacher Own choice Pupil only to be adjudicated. The pupil should pay only a solo fee and no fee for the teacher	14 and under	Up to 5 mins £7	£10
25. Junior Duet Own choice	14 and under	Up to 5 mins	£10
26. Senior Duet Pupil and teacher Own choice Pupil only to be adjudicated. The pupil should pay only a solo fee and no fee for the teacher	14 and above	Up to 8 mins £7	£10
27. Senior Duet Own choice	14 and above	Up to 8 mins	£10
28. Family Duet Own choice	Any age	Up to 8 mins	£10
29. Duet Teacher and Pupil Own choice Pupil only to be adjudicated	Adult – any age	Up to 8 mins Up to 8 mins	£10

30. Adult duet Own choice Both players to be adjudicated	Any age and partner		£10
31. Piano Trio Own choice All players to be adjudicated	Any age		£12

Class	Age	Time Limit	Fee
32. Piano Solo Stage and Screen Own choice of one piece from the stage or screen	Any age	Up to 5 mins	£8
33. Piano Accompanist Competitor may accompany any solo instrument or vocalist, excluding show songs and light ballads. Standard of choice will be taken into consideration	Any age	Up to 5 mins	£8
34. New repertoire – Female Composer Any piece from 22 Nocturnes for Chopin by women composers (EVC Music)	Any age	Up to 5 mins	£8
35. Female Composer Any piece from Piano Music by Women Composers Book 1 or Book 2 (Hal Leonard)	Any age	Up to 5 mins	£8
THE WATERMAN RECITAL MEDALS and showcase concert			
The Junior and Senior Waterman Recital Medal recipients will have the opportunity to perform at the 2027 Waterman Day All pianists entering the Waterman medals will play a piece from their recital at the public showcase recital on the evening of Wednesday 18 th November 2026 where the results are announced by the adjudicator.			

Classes will take place during this day.			
(Rule: All repertoire chosen should be Grade 6 standard and above. No pieces included that have been performed in any other class at the festival. Own choice of 3 pieces showing a contrast of style taken from each of the following periods: 1.Baroque (1650 – 1760) or Classical (1750 – 1830) 2.Romantic 1830 to Early 20th Century 3.20th /21st Century. A few words spoken as an introduction to your programme are essential and must be included in the time limits. Consideration of your repertoire will be given in your adjudication. Short ORIGINAL programme notes about the chosen pieces to be submitted to the Piano Secretary by October 14th 2025 latest. Linda@wharfedalefestival.co.uk 36.Junior Medal 37.Senior Medal		Up to 15 mins Up to 20 mins	£12 £12

