



## Rules and Conditions of entry - 2020

### Introduction

The Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir Festival of Young Musicians offers talented school age musicians from the Buckinghamshire area the opportunity to perform publicly and receive constructive feedback to further their musical education.

The Festival is open to eligible performers on any acoustic instrument including percussion, church organ, traditional instruments and voice.

To encourage and give recognition to excellence in performance, cash prizes are awarded for each class. Selected winners will be invited to perform at the Choir's Annual Concert and further concerts throughout the year and all entrants are eligible to apply for the Choir's Bursary Scheme.

The Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir, a charity with the aim of promoting musical education and appreciation, is proud to be the promoter of this leading Music Festival for youth and encourages all eligible young musicians to participate.

These rules aim to provide the best opportunity for each entrant. If there are any queries or if entrants feel they present problems, these can be explored by contacting Festival Co-ordinator James Smith by email ([ymfest@wycombeorpheus.org.uk](mailto:ymfest@wycombeorpheus.org.uk)).

### 2020 Festival

The 2020 Festival will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> (mainly Senior) and 14<sup>th</sup> of March (Encouragement and Junior) at the Wesley Methodist Church, Priory Road, High Wycombe HP13 6SE from 09:30 to 18:00.

The Committee may limit entries to eight per class on a first come first served basis. The final closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020. The Festival aims to publish a schedule of performances by 14<sup>th</sup> February. It is possible, that some classes may have to be switched between the two days.

### Eligibility and Entries

The Festival is open to students in Years 5 - 13 who live, attend school or receive musical education in Buckinghamshire and its immediate area. Normally all performing members of Ensembles should meet this requirement but some exceptions may be made for youth led groups. Please contact the Festival Co-ordinator.

Entries are to be made using the online application form at <https://www.wycombeorpheus.org.uk/womvc2/fym/>.

Entries in other formats e.g. email to the Festival Co-ordinator will be accepted for technical or practical reasons.

All performers under 18 years of age will need the consent of an appropriate adult (e.g. named parent, guardian or a boarding school music teacher) before entering. For ensembles the adult should also check that all performers have the proper consents. The adult is also confirming that performers are suitable for the class entered and the Choir suggests they consult, if necessary, with music teachers on this point.

## Sections

The Festival has three Sections: Encouragement, Junior and Senior. Each Section is for solo performance except for Ensembles which normally consist of two to twenty performers with any combination of instruments and/or voices. The Festival Committee will consider larger groups where justified. Please contact the Festival Co-ordinator.

### Encouragement - Years 5-8

This Section is for pupils performing below grade 5 in their selected instrument who would benefit from the experience of entering the Festival. There is normally one general class but if there are sufficient entries the class may be split. The Festival Committee will consider younger performers where it is appropriate. Please contact the Festival Co-ordinator.

### Junior - Years 5-9

This Section is for performers who generally are performing at Grade 5 or above.

### Senior - Years 10-13

This Section is for performers who generally are performing at Grade 7 or above.

## Classes

Entries are invited to the following Junior and Senior Classes for 2020:

Brass	Woodwind	Strings	Pianoforte
Percussion	Organ (Senior)	Vocal	Ensemble

Young Musicians may enter a maximum of two solo classes and may also perform in multiple Ensembles. The Organ Class may be offered in addition.

Entries for additional solo classes attract a discount. Where appropriate, a student may enter a Junior class on a first solo instrument and the Encouragement class on a second solo instrument for the same fee as entering two solo classes

The Festival Committee may occasionally have to merge classes from the Junior and Senior sections into a single joint class. In extreme cases the Festival Committee may cancel classes where there are insufficient entries.

## Entry Fees

Section	First class entered	Additional class if entered
Encouragement solo	£12.50	£12.50
Junior and Senior solo	£17.50	£12.50
Ensemble	£35	Not applicable

Performers should not be barred from entry by the entry fee. In case of genuine financial hardship please contact the Festival Co-ordinator.

## Repertoire

**Repertoire does not have to be submitted on entry but should be communicated to the Festival Co-ordinator by 22nd February 2020.**

Performers are free to choose music that best demonstrates their abilities in musical performance in the allotted time. This might include pieces or movements in contrasting styles. Where appropriate, the Choir encourages popular or entertaining repertoire. Candidates may perform their own compositions, but the adjudication will concentrate on the performance aspects.

We adjudicate on quality of performance, not quantity! A short well-chosen programme to the highest standards can be very effective, so do not feel you have to fill the time.

**The total musical content of the performance (i.e. excluding tuning and pauses between pieces etc.) must not exceed 4 minutes for the Encouragement class, 6 minutes for all other solo classes and 10 minutes for Ensembles.** This rule must be adhered to as overruns are unfair and discourteous to other entrants and delay the progress of the Festival. If an entrant feels that an overrun is absolutely essential this must have been agreed explicitly with the Festival Co-ordinator before acceptance of repertoire. Otherwise the adjudicator may stop the performance and will penalise extended performances.

A copy of all the chosen music must be made available for use on the day of the Festival by the adjudicator and may be collected after the Festival class is completed. Don't forget the copy for the Accompanist too!

## Instruments

The Festival will provide the piano and where agreed, use of the church organ. All other instruments are the responsibility of the performer. Please liaise with the Festival Co-ordinator on access for bulky instruments. Ensembles should bring their own music stands!

## Accompanists / Conductors

Performances may be accompanied on the piano or be unaccompanied. Performers need to make their own arrangements for accompanists. Please consult the Festival Co-ordinator for advice if required.

The Choir wishes to recognise and develop the musical skill of accompanists in Years 5 – 13 and offers an Accompanist's Prize at the discretion of the adjudicator.

The Festival Committee will accept backing tracks such as those provided by the ABRSM by prior arrangement but the performer shall be responsible for providing audio equipment.

Ensembles may be conducted by their adult leaders where appropriate. The Festival encourages Ensembles to perform without external direction as communication between performers is part of performance.

## Adjudication and Awards

The adjudicator will comment on each performance at the end of each Class. The determination of any first, second and third places and highly commended performances will be decided solely by the adjudicator whose decision is final.

The awards for each place shall be:

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Encouragement	£50	£25	£15
Junior & Senior Solo	£75	£40	£25
Junior & Senior Ensemble	£100	£75	£50

The adjudicator will not normally tie places. Where this is unavoidable, e.g. if two Senior entrants are tied for second place, no third place shall be offered and the individual cash awards for the places concerned will be pooled.

Where the Festival Committee determines there have been insufficient entries, or for other practical reasons, the performances for classes may be combined. The adjudicator will then have the discretion to split places between the combined classes. Where performances of sufficient standard are heard, the adjudicator will normally award a first place in each class.

Prizes, certificates, and written adjudications will be presented on the day.

In addition, the Choir proposes to award Junior and Senior trophies to recognise distinguished performance in the Festival. These would normally be presented in person at the Choir's Annual Concert or other convenient occasion.

## Attendance at the Festival

All young musicians, their accompanist and chaperone must arrive at the time designated for each particular Festival class and must book in with the appropriate Steward who will accept copies of the music.

*Photocopied music marked "FOR FESTIVAL USE ONLY" will be accepted. (There are no photocopy facilities available at Wesley Methodist Church and entrants are reminded that it is illegal to photocopy (or copy by any other means) works, which are subject to copyright, without the permission of the copyright holder.) The Festival Committee does not accept any responsibility for the use of photocopied music.*

Performers must adhere to the scheduled timetable of the Festival, issued prior to the event or as otherwise directed by the Stewards on the day.

Performers will be conducted by an assigned steward to the rehearsal room and to and from the auditorium. The rehearsal room may be used for up to six minutes prior to the performance and may not be used at other times. Entrants may return to the auditorium after their performance to hear the adjudication.

Performers under 18 years old must be chaperoned by an appropriate adult chaperone at all times while backstage both before and after the performance. Normally the Festival may assume that an accompanist is an appropriate chaperone approved by the parents. Where there is no accompanist or the accompanist is also under 18 this must be drawn to the attention of the Stewards and a parent or other chaperone will be required to accompany the performer.

If for whatever reason the chaperone requirement cannot be met, the young musician must remain in the public areas and will not be able to use the rehearsal room, but will be permitted to perform from the auditorium.

Performers are reminded that the Festival assesses performance in the broadest sense, which would include their presentation, and all their actions from entering to leaving the auditorium which contribute to an overall impression.

Entrance to the auditorium is open to the public free of charge. Programmes, snacks and refreshments will be available at a modest charge.

Flash photography during performances is prohibited. Photographs and video recordings may be taken of one's own children or with the consent of the parents but is otherwise prohibited.

Speaking to the adjudicator during the Festival is not permitted. The only announcements allowed are those made by the compere.

**Everybody must respect the young musician on stage and must not talk, enter or leave the auditorium or create any distraction while they are performing.**

## Privacy and Publicity

By entering the Festival consent is given for the Choir to:-

- Publish performers' names, instruments and schools in the Festival Programme.
- Publish the results of each class of the Festival including each performer's name, place (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or highly commended), and the instrument on the Choir's website and on other publicity materials such as the Annual Concert programme.
- Provide feedback to head teachers on the successes of their pupils.
- Contact performers to promote the Festival in future years or to perform with the Choir at concerts.
- Record official photographs, video and/or film footage and audio recordings in public areas of the Festival venue.
- Edit and use the materials for the purpose of promoting the Festival and the Choir. This may include the incorporation of such materials into the Choir's website or other websites. The Choir will be sensitive to privacy, and will not use substantial video or audio materials or deliberately identify individuals without further consent.

Other than as provided above, the information from application forms will be used for Festival purposes only and details will not be passed to a third party without prior permission.

The Festival operates within the Choir's Child Protection Policy and our use of entrants' Personal Data is governed by the General Data Protection Regulations as described in the Choir's GDPR Privacy Notice. Details are displayed on the Choir's website [www.wycombeorpheus.org.uk](http://www.wycombeorpheus.org.uk).

Entrants are required to give assent to the Festival GDPR provisions to make a valid entry.

## General

The Festival is promoted by the Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir (registered charity number 298518) and is managed by the Choir's Festival of Young Musicians Committee. The Festival Coordinator is James Smith who will be pleased to tackle any queries by email [ymfest@wycombeorpheus.org.uk](mailto:ymfest@wycombeorpheus.org.uk)

The decision of the Festival Committee in the interpretation of these rules and all matters arising is final.

Any infringement of the rules, which may affect the fairness of the Festival, shall be brought to the attention of the Stewards and the necessary action will be taken.

The Festival Committee may:

- Refuse any proposed entry.
- Modify, alter or cancel any of the Festival arrangements.
- Withhold awards in any class where there are insufficient entries or wherein the opinion of the Adjudicator, the entrants have not reached the required minimum standard.

All attending the Festival are reminded to take care of their own personal property as the Choir cannot be held responsible for any loss.