

Notes for the Performers and/or Parents/Guardians

The full rules are in the Festival Syllabus. A copy of this can be found on HCFMSD.CO.UK under the Syllabus menu item.

These notes are to help those unfamiliar with the Festival to know what to expect and what to be careful of when selecting pieces.

Before the Festival

- Please make sure you have chosen the correct class and the correct pieces within the rules of the class. Turning up for the wrong age, year or grade group with an incorrect piece, or one that over-runs by even a few seconds can be embarrassing.
- If an official accompanist is required, a copy of the music must have been sent to the Festival by the Friday after the closing date. See the Music section on the hcfmsd.co.uk website
- Copyright rules mean that the performer must have an original copy of all music in the room at the time of the performance. It is the performer's responsibility to bring an original.
- Bring a copy of your "own choice" work, music score or scripts, complete with your name, class number and position clearly marked on the front page. This will be required by the adjudicator.

Arriving at the Festival

- There is a large car park behind the school that may be used by competitors and spectators
- **Spectators are welcomed to any and all parts of the Festival. Starting at a small fee of £4 per adult for a session this will be charged on the door to help towards the cost of hiring the premises.** Tickets are also available from the main entrance for Full Day, Full Weekend and Whole Festival options.
- Under 17s enter free
- Each session lasts about 3 hours.
- Up to four rooms can be used concurrently. It is important for you to know which room the performance will be in and at what time it starts.
- Our door volunteers can help you find the right room.
- Sometimes the previous class may overrun. The room doors will only be opened between classes, although it may be possible for one or two people to slip in between performances, but only if doing so quietly and as permitted by the door steward.

During the Festival

- When you enter the performance room, check in with the Platform Steward who will be sat to one side of the room, near the door. They need to know that you have arrived.
- If you have "own choice" copy that will need to be given to the Adjudicator's Steward who sits next to the Adjudicator near the middle of the room. The Steward is a volunteer whose job is to put the right piece of music or script in

front of the adjudicator at the right time. It's crucial that your name and position is on the paper.

- During each class, the Platform Steward will invite each performer to the stage to perform their piece. The performer should look for a signal from the Adjudicator that he or she is ready for them to start. This is typically a nod and a smile.
- The adjudicator will make handwritten notes on the performance which will be available with a certificate from the certificate office after the performance.
- Classes that state Maximum Performance time will use a stop clock that will start at the beginning, and stop at the end, of each piece. An overrun of more than a few seconds will mean that the grade will be downgraded by one level. The adjudicator will still comment on the performance, the performer will be placed and can even win the class and may proceed if performing in a class that feeds into to a competition play off class.
- Recording and photography is not permitted during performances at the Festival. This is partly due to Child Protection considerations and also due to us having permission for the public performance of copyright material during the Festival on the condition that we do not permit recording or photography. Please respect this.
- There is no child care provided by the Festival. Young children are in the care of either their teacher or guardians, but NOT the Festival. There is a Child Protection Policy available on the website or from the Festival Secretary (email: Festivalsecretary@hcfmsd.co.uk)
- If the entrant chooses to have their own accompanist, the accompanist must be in the room when the entrant is called to perform.
- Certificates are provided for all entrants. These can be collected from the certificate room after the class has finished. Depending on class sizes and busy periods, this would normally be within 20 minutes, but it can be longer for large classes.
- Feeder Classes. Some classes feed into Trophy classes. The winners of the feeder classes may be invited to return to perform their same piece, performing with the winners of other feeder classes. The Trophy class may be at a later date.
- The **Festival Final Concert**, held on the final Sunday, features a selection of performances from the Festival and also the final competitions for the

"Young Musician of the Festival" and the **"Speech & Drama Champion of the Festival"**

- Trophies are awarded for a few of the classes. These must be signed for with a promise to return them before the middle of the following January, in good and clean condition.
- There is a Festival Office in the main building where assistance may be requested for any issues.

After the Festival

- **Feedback.** As the Festival is managed and run on a voluntary basis, we consider ourselves to be amateurs, with just once a year experience, who are

open to positive feedback and suggestions for improvement offered in good spirits. If you can "do better", then we welcome you to join our small team and help us improve.

- **Volunteering.** We are always short of helpers over the weekends of the Festival and are always in need of fresh talent and ideas around the planning and organisation. Please approach our [Chairman](#) or [Secretary](#) to find out how you can help. See also the contacts page on hcfmsd.co.uk
- **Sponsoring.** The cost of running the Festival exceeds £20,000 per year. The main expenses being venue costs; adjudicator fees and expenses; printing; piano moving and tuning; and accompanist fees. Effectively the average cost per class is just over £100. Over the last few years, the Council grant has reduced to nothing. We need philanthropic sponsors. With 200 classes, if we could find sponsors for each class, prepared to donate just £3 per month per class we may even be able to reduce our entry fees.
- **Advertising.** If you know a company who would like to sponsor a class in return for advertising in our syllabus and programme, please [contact](#) us.

Background

- The Festival is a registered charity, managed and run by volunteers who give up hours of their time to create, plan, manage and then run this event over the three weekends. This is for the benefit of the 2-3,000 performers who typically attend the event every year.
- The aim of the organisers is to create a safe environment for the practise of performing their rehearsed skills in front of an audience and a specialist adjudicator who will judge and most importantly feedback comments and advice on the performance given.
- This should be an enjoyable and learning experience. The volunteers do their best to support this. Sometimes things go wrong and we ask your tolerance, forgiveness, or better still your own voluntary support to improve next year.
- The location of the Festival is independent from the Festival. Since we lost use of the Royal Baths, the Festival has been hosted by 5 different schools in Harrogate. We are grateful for the support of this year's hosts.