

Aldershot and Farnborough Festival of Music and Art

Established 1941 Registered Charity No 1039442



Affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals for
Music, Dance and Speech

SYLLABUS

2026

PIANOFORTE SECTION

Thursday 30 April from 5pm

Friday 1 May from 5pm

Saturday 2 May all day

Hosted by
Salesian College
119 Reading Road Farnborough
GU14 6PA

Yamaha Grand Piano

Closing date
11 March 2026

www.aldershot-festival.org

Piano Section Organiser

Susan C Gillis: 6 Wayside Close, Chippenham SN15 5NY
Tel: 07519 511528 Email: piano-section@aldershot-festival.org

Committee and Organisers

Hon Vice President
Noreen Castle

Officers

Hon Chairman Les Ruskell
Hon Secretary Hilary Orton
Hon Treasurer Nicky Best

Piano Section Committee

Noreen Castle, Judith Hawkett, Liz Mathias

Dance Section Organiser

Leanne Lynch

Instrumental and Voice Organiser -vacancy

Speech and Drama Organiser -vacancy

Our Sponsors



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Adjudicator - James Kirby



James appears as recitalist and concerto soloist throughout the UK and Europe. Highlights include performances at London's Wigmore Hall, Edinburgh and Aldeburgh Festivals, St George's, Bristol, and Dora Stoutzker Hall, Cardiff. He is increasingly in demand in the Far East, where recent appearances include concerts in China, Singapore and Malaysia.

James studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London with Hamish Milne and the Moscow Conservatoire with Tatiana Nikolaeva and Eliso Virsaladze. Following his student years in Moscow he undertook regular solo and chamber music tours of the former Soviet Union, making notable appearances at the Sakharov Festival in Nizhny Novgorod, the Omsk Festival and the Viktor Merzhanov Festival in Tambov. He was a semifinalist in the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and won First Prize in the Citta di Marsala Piano Competition in Sicily.

He has appeared as concerto soloist with the English, Scottish and Belarusian Chamber Orchestras, the Moscow, Kazakh, Astana and Penang Symphony Orchestras, the Arad and Oradea Philharmonic Orchestras (Romania), in venues including the Royal Albert Hall and Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in London, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire and Astana Opera House. He has performed both Brahms Concertos in Russia and Romania.

James is a member of the Barbican Piano Trio, performing at Wigmore Hall, in major UK festivals and concert series, and throughout Europe and the USA. Highlights include Carnegie Recital Hall and many cycles of Beethoven's complete Piano Trios including the Master Concert Series at Wigmore Hall. The Trio's repertoire consists of over seventy works. He enjoyed a long collaboration with the celebrated Russian violinist Lydia Mordkovitch and has worked with Martyn Brabbins, the Vanbrugh Quartet, BBC Singers, Dame Sarah Connolly and the pianist David Willison.

James is a dedicated teacher and holds posts at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Royal Holloway, University of London, and Eton College. He is a regular jury member of international piano competitions and much in demand for masterclasses and as an adjudicator.

About our venue

We are looking forward to our ninth year in the McGuinness Music School and once again we will be guests of Salesian College who offer us hospitality par excellence. As well as the facilities of the McGuinness Music School including practice rooms, Salesian generosity includes the printing of our syllabus and programmes.

Salesian College is an independent Catholic Grammar School for boys from 11 to 16 with a co-educational Sixth Form. Founded in 1901 it has a well-deserved reputation for excellence in academic, cultural, physical and all-round achievement. We extend our sincere thanks to Headmaster Mr Gerard Owens and his staff for allowing us to use this wonderful facility.

FREE ON SITE PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE



www.salesian.hants.sch.uk

Class Fees

Age at closing date - 11 March 2026

15 years and under	£11.00
18 years and under	£17.00
Over 18 years	£22.00
Intermediate recital	£25.00
Advanced recital	£30.00
Open recital	£35.00

Duets and Trios count as one entry - *See page 8 for details*

Trophies

All trophies are awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator

Mary Brown Cup - best performance under 12 years

The Wibaut Cup- the most outstanding junior

Senior Special Award - the most outstanding senior performance

Fumay Cup - best French performance

Inner Wheel Rose Bowl - best ensemble

Junior Special Trophy - the most promising junior performance

All Trophies to be returned to Liz Mathias by 11 March 2027

Standards for Classes

These standards relate to the grade of music to be played in the class rather than any grade that the performer has achieved. Any competitor entered under the wrong standard risks disqualification.

Primary-Music up to Grade 2 standard

Elementary-Music of Grade 3 or 4 standard

Intermediate-Music of Grade 5 or 6 standard

Advanced-Music of Grade 7 or 8 standard

Open-Music above Grade 8 standard and professionals

Examination Classes – *Any piece or pieces set by an Examining Board for 2025-26 as long as the time allowed including repeats, is not exceeded.*

1 Primary	2 minutes
2 Elementary	3 minutes
3 Intermediate	4 minutes
4 Advanced	5 minutes

Jazz Classes – *Any piece in the Jazz idiom.*

5 Primary	2 minutes
6 Elementary	3 minutes
7 Intermediate or Advanced	4 minutes

Bach Classes – *Any piece by Bach*

8 Primary or Elementary	3 minutes
9 Intermediate or Advanced	4 minutes
10 Open	8 minutes

French Classes – *Any piece by a French Composer*

11 Intermediate	4 minutes
12 Advanced	5 minutes
13 Open	6 minutes

Sonatina and Sonata Classes – *Classical, Romantic or Modern*

14 Elementary or Intermediate - <i>any one movement of a Sonatina or Sonata</i>	4 minutes
15 Advanced - <i>any one movement of a Sonata</i>	8 minutes
16 Open - <i>any one movement of a Sonata</i>	12 minutes

Romantic Classes – *Any piece by a romantic composer excluding Chopin.*

17 Intermediate or Advanced	6 minutes
18 Open	8 minutes

Chopin Classes

19 Intermediate or Advanced	7 minutes
20 Open	10 minutes

Recital Classes – *Any 2 or 3 contrasting pieces.*

21 Intermediate	7 minutes
22 Advanced	15 minutes
23 Open	20 minutes

Competitors' Own Choice

24 Intermediate	4 minutes
25 Advanced	5 minutes
26 Open	7 minutes

Age Group Classes Own Choice – *one or more pieces as long as the time allowed is not exceeded - Age at closing date: 11 March 2026*

27 7 years and under	2 minutes
28 9 years and under	4 minutes
29 11 Years and under	4 minutes
30 13 Years and under	5 minutes
31 15 Years and under	6 minutes

Beginners' Class – Own Choice

32 Entrants who have been learning for 2 years or less	3 minutes
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Adult Classes - Non competitive

33 Grade 4 and under	4 minutes
34 Grade 5 and above	5 minutes

Duet and Trio Classes - Own Choice

One or more pieces may be played *as long as the total time including breaks is not exceeded.*

35 Primary or Elementary 4 minutes	£10.00
36 Intermediate or Advanced 5 minutes	£12.00
37 Open 8 minutes	£15.00
38 Teacher and Pupil (Grade 4 and under) 4 minutes	£10.00
39 Teacher and Pupil (Grade 5 and above) 7 minutes	£12.00
40 Family (not open to professionals) 4 minutes	£12.00
41 Open Family 8 minutes	£15.00
42 Any standard Piano Collaboration (accompanying) 8 minutes. For up to two instruments or voice. No orchestral arrangements permitted. Only the pianist will be adjudicated.	£18.00
43 Senior Citizens 8 minutes <i>-any standard, at least one partner must be a senior citizen.</i>	£18.00

Winners' Concert

This will be held in the McGuinness Music School on Saturday 2 May at 7.00pm when invited class winners will once again have the opportunity to perform their winning piece on the Grand Piano which has been especially hired for the Festival. The concert is usually a lovely occasion and we are happy for our performers to invite friends as well as family but with seating capacity in mind, we kindly ask that there is a maximum of 5 guests per performer.

The special Trophies- see page 5- are presented at the end of the evening; these are awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator.

There will be a CASH ONLY collection as you leave the concert for the Handicapped Childrens' Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT) on behalf of Salesian College. It is our way of acknowledging their generosity and support of our Festival. Last year many people were disappointed not to have had cash on them. They wanted to contribute by card but because the collection was not a Festival as such, we were not able to help them. So, this year we are forewarning you so you can come prepared. May we urge you to be generous. As always, entry is free but donations are most welcome!

Rules of the Festival

1 OPEN CLASSES* - Any entrant deriving a **regular** income from teaching or performing the chosen instrument or dance may enter only classes marked 'Open'

2 OPEN CLASSES: 10, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 26 and 37, 41 for the ensemble classes.

3 AGE - A competitor's age is determined by the age of that of the oldest member of a group at the official closing date.

4 CHILD PROTECTION - Entry forms for persons under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults must be signed by the adult (parent/ guardian/ carer/ teacher) who will be responsible for their supervision at the festival. Forwarding of the Entry Form shall constitute acceptance of that responsibility.

5 ENTRY FEES - Fees are not refundable and entrants may not perform until paid. Cheques to be made payable to "Aldershot and Farnborough Festival". Bank transfer details as detailed on entry form. **LATE ENTRIES** - Will only be accepted at the discretion of the organiser. Competitors will be notified of the date and time of their class not later than one week before the event.

6 ENTRY FORMS - Entrants must give the name of own choice piece(s) to be performed together with the name of the composer and the time the performance takes.

7 COPIED MUSIC - Photocopies must be left with the organiser to be destroyed. These may only be used to provide a copy for the Adjudicator and not as the main source for performing. When using printed copies downloaded from the internet or stored electronically the performer must also print off and submit the permission statement, which accompanies the music.

8 TROPHIES - Must be returned unaltered and in good condition, by the specified date for each section.

Engraving is at the competitor's expense and must be in keeping with the existing engraving.

9 COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE ADJUDICATOR by competitors, teachers or other interested parties, apart from the committee, prior to or during the competition is not permitted.

10 TIME LIMITS - must not be exceeded. Adjudicators may stop a performance at any time.

11 RECORDING - Photography or video or audio recording will not be permitted at any performance or concert. Any type of recording is in serious breach of the Child Protection Policy.

12 LOST PROPERTY - The festival and its officers will not accept responsibility for any property, personal or otherwise, which may be lost or damaged at any venue of the festival.

13 COMMUNICATIONS - Requests for a written reply must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

14 CERTIFICATES - No competitor may receive more than one certificate for one class.

Piano section rules in addition to the general rules of the festival.

1. Competitors may enter only **ONE** of classes 27 to 31 inclusive.
2. In all classes a copy of the music must be provided for the adjudicator.
3. No piece may be played in more than one class by the same competitor.
4. **Repeats: all da capo and dal segno indications should be observed but all other repeats should be omitted, unless they are very brief (i.e. a few bars).**
5. Designated professionals may only enter OPEN classes.
6. The organiser reserves the right to restrict the size of any class.
7. Entrants entered under the wrong standard risk disqualification.
8. Duets and Trios count as one entry.
9. All competitors must be able to attend at their stated times as no concessions can be allowed.
10. It is the responsibility of teachers to ensure that their pupils are conversant with Festival rules.
11. There will be a door entry fee of £5.00 per adult on each of the festival days. FREE programme included.
12. Teachers, competitors and under 16's go FREE

Closing date
11 March 2026

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Data is held solely for the purpose of running the festival and will not be disclosed to third parties except to enable it to fulfil its constitutional purpose.

PERFORMING RIGHTS

The Festival is affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech. As an annual fee is paid to the Performing Rights Society a separate licence for live or recorded music to be played at the Festival is not required.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Festival's child protection policy is on the Festival Websites, available from Section Organisers and displayed at venues. Neither the Festival nor the owners of the Festival venues undertake any supervision whatsoever of persons under 18 (children) or vulnerable adults. Responsibility for their adequate supervision and that of any such persons accompanying those lies at all times with the person entering them in the Festival. If that person is not the primary carer* then they must make suitable arrangements to satisfy the primary carer* that there will be adequate supervision.

*Primary carer- the parents, guardian or carer who has Primary care of the child or vulnerable adult.

CHILD PROTECTION RULE

Anyone entering a person under the age of 18 or a vulnerable adult is responsible for their supervision at the Festival. Forwarding of the entry form shall constitute acceptance of that responsibility.

Festival Adjudicator 2027 Mark Tanner

Mark Scheme

Mark Range	Certificate	Performance Descriptor
65-74	Developing	A performance demonstrating an awareness of technical skills, requiring more consistency and artistry
75 - 79	Merit	A competent performance, showing some artistic awareness and /or technical ability. Most fluent and accurate, with some awareness of tone and style, but requiring a sense of communication and performance.
80 – 84	Commended	A convincing performance technically & artistically, with increasing stylistic & communication skills. Confident, with clear evidence of tonal and stylistic qualities and a developing awareness of communication and performance, although there may be moments of imprecision.
85 - 89	Distinction	An excellent performance, demonstrating fluent technical and artistic skills with emerging individuality. Assured and expressive, demonstrating a high level of technical security, imagination and stylistic insight and with a real sense of communication and performance, although small blemishes may be present.
90+	Honours	An impressive performance technically and artistically, displaying spontaneity & clear individuality. A stimulating, imaginative and persuasive performance, showing stylistic flair, interpretative insight, poise and unobtrusive technical command.