

## The 24th



**Burton upon Trent Music Festival aims to provide a platform to amateur performers to enable them to perform and receive a professional adjudication about their performance.**

### **Management Team 2026/2027**

|                                   |                                                 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>                  | Coral Gould MBE                                 |
| <b>Vice President</b>             | John Gould                                      |
| <b>Chair</b>                      | Sharon Bonner LLCM                              |
| <b>Vice Chair</b>                 | Patricia Thorpe                                 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                  | <i>Vacant</i>                                   |
| <b>Federation Files Secretary</b> | Anne Andrews                                    |
| <b>Entries Secretary</b>          | <i>Vacant</i>                                   |
| <b>Trophies Secretary</b>         | Patricia Thorpe                                 |
| <b>Stewards Secretary</b>         | <i>Vacant</i>                                   |
| <b>Publicity Secretary</b>        | Lilly Prince                                    |
| <b>Associate Members</b>          | Carol Brittle Khan, Christine Eales, Katie Robb |

*The Burton upon Trent Competitive Music Festival is a member of The British and International Federation of Music, Dance and Speech.*



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## Message from the Chairman

Thank you for taking the time to read the Burton Music Festival 2027 syllabus. As always, our goal is to provide competitors with a platform to perform and be assessed by experienced professionals in the music field. We're continually working to grow and improve the Festival, taking on board feedback from competitors, teachers, and sponsors.

Last year we introduced some new GUITAR classes and we offer these again this year, joining our much-loved Vocal and Piano categories. After the success of last year's Festival with a record number of entries, we have set the date in April once again which will give everyone a little more preparation time.

The Festival will take place on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2027** at the Brewhouse Arts Centre.

### Entry Fees

We remain committed to keeping costs as low as possible, but with rising expenses, unfortunately, we have had to make a small increase of 25p to each of our class entry fees.

### Guitar Classes

We're thrilled to welcome Guitar classes again. We've developed a range of classes designed to suit different ages and abilities. These include Electric Guitar classes for various age groups, an Open Acoustic Guitar class, and a special Acoustic Guitar with Song class — perfect for budding guitarist-singers.

### Vocal Classes

We continue to offer a wide range of Vocal classes across many genres and ages including our special Vocal class for teachers, professional singers, and full-time singing students.

### Piano Classes

Working closely with local Piano teachers, we have made a slight adjustment to the classes offered this year. The Beginners Class now becomes Beginners & Grade 1 while the Grade 1 – 3 class now becomes Grade 2 – 3. We feel this will be a fairer opportunity for pianists.

### Adjudicators & Accompanists

We're delighted to welcome our new adjudicators to this year's Festival. You can find their details below and read more about their experience and achievements.

As always, we're fortunate to welcome back Karen Thompson as our regular accompanist, who has been part of the Festival since its very beginning. We're also pleased to welcome Catherine Matthews, who will be joining us as a full-day accompanist for the first time, following her successful accompaniment of several classes last year.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

We are once again deeply grateful to our sponsors, whose generosity makes this Festival possible.

You may be surprised to learn that it costs over £5,000 to stage the Festival, with venue hire alone accounting for more than £2,000. Sponsorship is therefore vital in helping us cover these costs and keep the Festival running. If you know of any companies, theatre societies, choirs or individuals who might be willing to offer a small sponsorship contribution, we would be delighted to hear from you. Every contribution, however large or small, makes a real difference and is greatly appreciated. Please contact us at [burtoncompetitivemusicfestival@gmail.com](mailto:burtoncompetitivemusicfestival@gmail.com).

Thank you again and we look forward to receiving your application.

Sharon Bonner



## 2027 Timescales

- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2026 Online applications open  
[Apply Here](#)
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2027 Deadline for online applications, including choice of pieces to be performed.
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2027 Deadline for application payments.  
Applications will be denied if any payments are not received by midnight.
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2027 Deadline for submission of music for accompanist. To be submitted **in PDF format**, by email to:  
[burloncompelilivemusicfestival@gmail.com](mailto:burloncompelilivemusicfestival@gmail.com).
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2027 Deadline for submission of backing tracks for Pop and Jazz classes. These should be submitted **in MP3 format** and further information of the provision of these files will be provided to entrants after application.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2027 Day of Music Festival**



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## Adjudicators

### **Gail Mortley**

**LRAM,ARCM,DipRAM**

Gail is a professional singer, actress and teacher and studied at the Royal Academy of Music. Her distinguished performing career has spanned opera, musical theatre and commercial theatre, with appearances for companies including Sadler's Wells and Kent Opera. Her many roles include Violetta in *La Traviata*, Cosette in *Les Misérables*, Julie Jordan in *Carousel* and Joanna in *Sweeney Todd*. She was also a member of the original London cast of *Chess* and performed as principal soprano in *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* in London and Seville.

Alongside her performing career, Gail has taught singing at professional institutions and now runs a thriving private practice, nurturing aspiring young performers. She is also an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals.

### **Sarah Jefferies**

**LRAM,ARCM**

Sarah is a vocal graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, where she won numerous prizes for Early Music, Lieder and English Song. She continued her studies in Amsterdam before embarking on an international career, performing recitals and oratorios across Europe and as a member of the Opéra de Lyon, with whom she recorded several major works.

Sarah is a visiting voice teacher at Marlborough College and an experienced adjudicator, having worked throughout the UK and the Middle East, as well as at leading UK conservatoires. Passionate about the workings of the human voice, she enjoys helping singers of all ages and abilities develop their vocal skills.

### **Maria Jagusz**

**GRNCM.FISM**

Maria trained initially as a dancer before studying at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she won the Ricordi Prize for Opera, followed by further studies at the National Opera Studio. She enjoyed a distinguished singing career with leading opera companies across the UK and Europe, performing roles including Carmen, Cherubino, Orlofsky and Dorabella, and working alongside world-renowned artists.

Maria now specialises in training aspiring opera and musical theatre professionals. She is Vocal Consultant for the International College of Music Theatre in London and Vocal Mentor for Longborough Festival Opera's Young Artists Programme. Through her company, MJ-UK Music and Arts, she provides valuable performance opportunities for young singers and has directed numerous productions spanning opera and musical theatre. She has also led Longborough Festival Opera's *Playground Opera*, bringing opera to young audiences through touring productions.

### **Ivan Scott**

**FTCL,LTCL(Recital),FLCM,LGSM**

Ivan's training included guitar performing with Oliver Hunt, Professor of Guitar at the London College of Music and attending master classes in Spain with Emilio Pujol, a student of the legendary Francisco Tarrega.

Since 1967 he has travelled to all parts of the UK giving recitals and workshops in addition to presenting programmes of guitar music and songs to schoolchildren of all ages.

He has regularly adjudicated for the Federation since 1982 and he is listed in the Private Teacher and Adjudicator sections of the ISM.



## Accompanists

### **Karen Thompson** **ALCM**

Karen was born in Burton and educated in local schools. She started to play the piano aged about 5, studying with local teachers. At 13, Karen took up the organ, tutored by Mike, her late husband, a local Organ Builder and organist. She subsequently had more organ lessons at Lichfield Cathedral, tutored by Jonathan Rees Williams.

Studying singing with Coral Gould, Karen gained her ALCM in 1993 and now teaches Piano, Church Organ, Singing and Theory.

She is much in demand as an accompanist and, in addition to being the regular pianist for The Burton Musical Theatre Company (formerly Burton Operatic Society) and for Burton and Derby vocal festivals, also accompanies students taking instrumental and vocal examinations.

### **Catherine Matthews** **BA Hons Music**

Catherine started to learn the piano at age 4. After being a member of County Youth Orchestra and winning Music Festivals on Piano in Cumbria, she went on to study BA Hons in Performance for Classical Piano at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. The highlight of her studies was winning the John Ireland Piano Prize and performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 1.

After graduating she qualified to be a teacher and has been Head of Music and led the Arts Faculty at Ashby School for 28 years. During this time, she has also been Musical Director for Ashbiean Musical Theatre Group and The Tinhatters Theatre company at Hinckley Concordia. Catherine also conducted Meridian Windband in Solihull for 15 years before recently taking the position as Musical Director for Charnwood Symphonic Wind Orchestra.

As well as conducting, she has worked as an accompanist for Hinckley Concordia Youth Theatre as well as playing for numerous shows in the East Midlands as a pit musician. Alongside this she has accompanied for examinations, competitions and recitals as well as being a peripatetic piano and woodwind teacher.



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## **2027 Classes**

### **JUNIOR VOCAL CLASSES – UNDER 18**

| <b>Class Number and Name</b> | <b>Song Type</b>                               | <b>Max. Song Duration</b> | <b>Sponsor and Award Name</b>                       | <b>Prize</b>                                                | <b>Entry Fee</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Class 1: 10 Years and Under  | Own choice                                     | Max. 3 mins               | The Heron Video Trophy and The D&C Eales Award      | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8               |
| Class 2: 11 to 14 Years      | Own choice                                     | Max. 3 mins               | The Albion Trophy and The Caroline Owen Award       | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8               |
| Class 3: 10 Years and Under  | Show or Musical<br>Film song<br>1970 - present | Max. 3 mins               | The Mellow Dramatics Trophy and Award               | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8               |
| Class 4: 11 to 14 Years      | Show or Musical<br>Film song<br>1970 - present | Max. 3 mins               | The Vadis Insurance Brokers Trophy and Award        | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8               |
| Class 5: 15 to 16 Years      | Show or Musical<br>Film song<br>1970 - present | Max. 3 mins               | The Murray's Funeral Directors Trophy and Award     | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8               |
| Class 6: 15 Years and Under  | Classical song                                 | Max. 3 mins               | The Eric Reynolds Trophy and The Ivy Smith Award    | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8               |
| Class 7: 16 to 18 Years      | Classical song                                 | Max. 4 mins               | The Tim Lawrence Trophy and The Nick Lawrence Award | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8               |

## SENIOR SOLO VOCAL CLASSES

| Class Number and Name                                     | Song Type                                | Max. Song Duration | Sponsor and Award Name                                        | Prize | Entry Fee |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Class 8: Open Folk Song                                   | Traditional, Unaccompanied               | Max. 3 mins        | The Anne Leatherland Trophy and The Kate and Brian Robb Award | £50   | £9        |
| Class 9: Open Foreign Language                            | Foreign Language                         | Max. 4 mins        | The Darquise Bilodeau Trophy and The Barbara May Award        | £50   | £9        |
| Class 10: 17 Years and Over                               | Show or Musical Film song 1970 - present | Max. 4 mins        | The New Era Trophy and The JASS Award                         | £50   | £9        |
| Class 11: Classical Operatic or Oratorio Aria             | Classical song                           | Max. 4 mins        | The Mason Family Trophy and The Friday's Friends Award        | £50   | £9        |
| Class 12: English Classical                               | Art Song                                 | Max. 3 mins        | The Carol Brittle-Khan Trophy & Denis Mansfield Award         | £50   | £9        |
| Class 13: Gilbert and Sullivan                            | Own choice                               | Max. 3 mins        | The Mike Thompson Trophy and Karen Thompson Award             | £50   | £9        |
| Class 14: Recital ( <i>three contrasting pieces</i> )     | Own choice                               | Max. 12 mins       | The Thornley Trophy and The Festivities with Friends Award    | £50   | £12       |
| Class 21: Jazz Solo ( <i>optional backing track</i> )     | Own choice                               | Max. 3 mins        | The Syd Jones Trophy and Award                                | £50   | £9        |
| Class 22: Pop Song ( <i>Backing Track in MP3 format</i> ) | Pop Song                                 | Strictly 4 mins    | The Edwards Electrical Trophy and The 'Jenny' Award           | £50   | £9        |

| Class Number and Name                                                       | Song Type                 | Max. Song Duration | Sponsor and Award Name                      | Prize | Entry Fee |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Class 23: Open 1940 – 1969 Musical Theatre                                  | Show or Musical Film song | Max. 3 mins        | The Coral Gould Trophy and The Thorpe Award | £50   | £9        |
| Class 24: Musical Theatre Recital ( <i>three contrasting pieces</i> )       | Show or Musical Film song | Max. 12 mins       | TBC                                         | TBC   | £12       |
| Class 30: Vocal Teachers, Professional Singers and Full Time Vocal Students | Own Choice                | Max. 4 mins        | N/A                                         | £0    | £9        |

## **DUET & ENSEMBLE VOCAL CLASSES**

| Class Number and Name                                                                                | Song Type                 | Max. Song Duration | Sponsor and Award Name                                   | Prize | Entry Fee |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Class 15: Duet 11 Years and Under                                                                    | Own choice                | Max. 3 mins        | The Keith Gould Trophy and the Andrew Last Award         | £50   | £12       |
| Class 16: Duet 12 to 17 Years                                                                        | Own choice                | Max. 3 mins        | The Rachel Gilman Trophy and The Alice Rose Bridal Award | £50   | £12       |
| Class 17: Duet 18 Years and Over                                                                     | Own choice                | Max. 3 mins        | The Keith Gould Trophy and The Steven Mansfield Award    | £50   | £12       |
| Class 18: Duet Musical Theatre Open                                                                  | Show or Musical Film song | Max. 3 mins        | The Crescendo Vocal Trophy and Sharon Bonner Award       | £50   | £12       |
| Class 19: Junior Ensemble<br><b><i>Ensemble classes limited to between 3 and 12 participants</i></b> | Own choice                | Max. 3 mins        | The Edwards Electrical Trophy                            | TBC   | £12       |
| Class 20: Open Ensemble<br><b><i>Ensemble classes limited to between 3 and 12 participants</i></b>   | Own choice                | Max. 4 mins        | The Burton Musical Theatre Company Trophy and Award      | £50   | £12       |

## **PIANO CLASSES**

| Class Number and Name                 | Song Type  | Max. Song Duration | Sponsor and Award Name                                       | Prize                                                       | Entry Fee |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Class 25: Beginners and Grade 1 Piano | Own choice | Max. 3 mins        | The David Mansfield Trophy and The Excel Music Schools Award | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8        |
| Class 26: Grade 2 - 3 Piano           | Own choice | Max. 3 mins        | The March Trophy and The Mike Mear & Margaret Jolland Award  | 1st - £25<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> - £15<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> - £10 | £8        |
| Class 27: Grade 4 - 5 Piano           | Own choice | Max. 3 mins        | The Music with Carol Trophy and Award                        | £50                                                         | £9        |
| Class 28: Grade 6 - 7 Piano           | Own choice | Max. 3 mins        | The Edd Thorpe Trophy and Award                              | £50                                                         | £9        |
| Class 29: Grade 8 and Above Piano     | Own choice | Max. 3 mins        | The Festival Trophy                                          | TBC                                                         | £9        |
| Class 36: Piano Duet                  | Own choice | Max. 3 mins        | TBC                                                          | TBC                                                         | £12       |
| Class 37: Piano Duet with Teacher     | Own choice | Max. 3 mins        | TBC                                                          | TBC                                                         | £12       |

## **GUITAR CLASSES**

| Class Number and Name                    | Song Type  | Max. Song Duration | Sponsor and Award Name | Prize | Entry Fee |
|------------------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Class 31: Guitar 12 yrs and under - Open | Own Choice | Max. 4 mins        | TBC                    | TBC   | £9        |
| Class 32: Guitar 13- 18 yrs – Open       | Own Choice | Max. 4 mins        | TBC                    | TBC   | £9        |
| Class 33: Guitar Over 18 yrs – Open      | Own Choice | Max. 4 mins        | TBC                    | TBC   | £9        |
| Class 34: Acoustic Guitar - Open         | Own Choice | Max. 4 mins        | TBC                    | TBC   | £9        |
| Class 35: Acoustic Guitar with song      | Own Choice | Max. 4 mins        | TBC                    | TBC   | £9        |

### **BANK DETAILS FOR PAYMENT OF FEES:**

Account name : Burton Music Festival  
Sort Code: 40-15-20  
Account Number: 62093928

### **WEBSITE & ONLINE ENTRY FORM:**

<https://burtonmusicfestival.com/>

### **ACCOMPANIST FEES :**

All entrants requiring the official accompanist will be required to pay a £6.25 accompanist fee for the day, payable at the time of entry, this covers an unlimited number of classes.



### **Overall Winners**

Winners from each class compete for the Junior, Senior and Piano Overall Winner awards. The Overall Winners will be selected by the adjudicators.

#### **Junior Overall Winner**

Winners from classes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16 & 19  
The BADAC Trophy and the Little Theatre Company Award of £50

#### **Senior Overall Winner**

Winners from classes 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24  
The Coral and John Gould Quaich and The Coral and John Gould Award of £100

#### **Piano Overall Winner**

Winners from classes 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 36 & 37  
The Nannette Mansfield Award, donated by Denis Mansfield, of £50

### **Special Awards**

The adjudicators will be responsible for awarding the special awards.

#### **The Mabel Millin Trophy and Adele Bates Award**

Awarded to the most promising vocalist under the age of 21. The receiver of this award does not need to have been placed in any of their classes.

#### **The Marilyn Baker Trophy & Katie & Brian Robb Award**

Awarded to the most promising female vocalist throughout the competition. The receiver of this award does not need to have been placed in any of their classes.

#### **The Robert Adcock Trophy**

Awarded to the most promising male vocalist throughout the competition. The receiver of this award does not need to have been placed in any of their classes.

#### **General Information:**

- Ages refer to age of entrant as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027.
- Trophies are given to be kept for 1 year and are to be **returned** to the Trophies Secretary **before the 2028 festival.**

