Thornbury arts festival
Celebrating the arts for over 50 years
Registered Charity No. 1143137

THORNBURY EISTEDDFOD

7 – 20 MARCH 2027

SYLLABUS



Sponsored by THE LIONS CLUB of Thornbury

Affiliated to the BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION of FESTIVALS

THORNBURY ARTS FESTIVAL EISTEDDFOD 2027

DATES:

Sunday 7th March	Instrumental classes
Thursday 11th March	Choirs
Sunday 14th March	Vocal classes (am) Speech and Drama (pm)
Saturday 20th March	Concert

All Entries should be sent to:

Mrs Kate Phillipson-Masters
"Paddocks End"
30 The Paddocks
Thornbury
Bristol BS35 2HP
Tel: 07769 908380
Email: kate.pm@hotmail.co.uk

Official accompanist

For details concerning our accompanist please refer to Kate at the address above.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 24th JANUARY 2027

Please note that we cannot accept late entries or make changes to entries under any circumstances after this date.

A copy of the syllabus can be downloaded from the Thornbury Arts Festival website:

www.thornburyartsfestival.org.uk

ADJUDICATORS FOR THE EISTEDDFOD

Alison Mary Sutton, GGSM, PGCA, FISM, trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, gaining honours in Graduate and Recital Diplomas and winning several major awards. As a concert singer, she has performed at most of the major London concert halls and, as part of a voice/harp duo, has fulfilled numerous recital engagements at music clubs and festivals throughout the UK. She has performed many operatic roles, working with Kent Opera, Pavilion Opera, London Opera Players, London Opera Factory, and Opera de Lyon, with whom she toured in Europe and the USA. She has also sung in the Monteverdi Choir.

Alison has had a long career as a singing teacher, examiner, adjudicator, and choral workshop tutor, including with the BBC Symphony Chorus. For many years, she was an external examiner for GSM&D and later for the ABRSM as a Diploma examiner. Alison ran her own residential solo singing course for several years in the Cotswolds and has also tutored at Hereford International Summer School and Benslow Music Trust. She was the External Specialist Assessor on the final recitals panel at Birmingham Conservatoire for several years, returning to conduct a vocal workshop, and has been on the jury for the AESS National Junior English Song Competition.

Alison continues to be very committed to her work in vocal rehabilitation, and has been the singing rehabilitation coach in the Voice Clinic at Cheltenham General Hospital for many years. Her first book, *The Heart of the Breath*, was published in May 2023, and her second, *Aspects of the Vocal Package*, in November 2025.

RICHARD HASLAM

Richard studied at Sussex University for a degree in Education, specialising in Music and also at the Royal College of Music where he gained a Diploma in Pianoforte Teaching and a Distinction in Grade 8 singing.

Richard was Director of Music at Burgess Hill School for Girls for nearly thirty years where he taught to A level as well as running a variety of extra-curricular activities including Chamber groups, Choirs and Orchestras and has recently retired from full time teaching.

Richard has taught piano and singing to Diploma standard and has also been a Moderator for GCSE Music and an examiner for A Level Music. He is currently an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals and a Mentor for Music for Youth.

Richard also examines for the ABRSM and has completed a number of overseas tours. He is an experienced accompanist, conductor and singer and has worked with a number of different groups in the community including Choral and Operatic Societies.

Richard ran his own choir “Cantemus” for over twenty years and raised over £300,000 for charity. He currently enjoys singing 1st Tenor in the Stratford-upon-Avon Chamber Choir.

BARBIE DAVIES

Since student days at the Edinburgh Festival and in the Cambridge University European theatre tours, Barbie has kept her love of acting alive by appearing in a huge number of amateur productions including BBC Bristol's tribute to Brunel and in her own two-woman show about Jane and Cassandra Austen “Pictures of Perfection” which has been performed in many venues including the Bath Jane Austen Festival and the Jane Austen Museum at Chawton.

She has directed a wide range of productions from Shakespeare to Alan Bennett, and large-scale musicals with casts of hundreds. As Head of Theatre Studies for nearly 30 years at Marlwood School she has had the pleasure of seeing many of her students succeed in the world of theatre, television and radio through acting, directing and the all-important off-stage work of lighting, costume, props, and stage management.

Barbie particularly enjoys community theatre and was responsible for directing the 1000 strong cast and crew for the outdoor “Thornbury Plays 2000”, and “The Wigan Girls” in Thornbury Leisure Centre. She sees theatre as a wonderful way of drawing together people of every age and skill.

Classes on 7th and 14th will be held at The Whitsun Hall, the Hatch Community. Big Sing venue to be confirmed.
The concert will be held in St Mary’s Church.
The Whitsun Hall is part of the Hatch Camphill Community.
Details of classes will be published when all entries have been received.
These will include venues, times and names of competitors.
If you do not wish your child’s name to appear please let us know.
They can be listed as ‘A.N.Other’ or as their initials.



EISTEDDFOD RULES

WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF TEACHERS WOULD MAKE SURE THAT ALL COMPETITORS ARE AWARE OF THESE RULES.

THE ADJUDICATOR'S DECISION IS FINAL

GENERAL RULES

1 Please use the official entry form at the end of this syllabus – photocopy as many as you need, complete one for each class you wish to enter.

2 **Entry to venues is not allowed for practice prior to the Eisteddfod**

3 Please arrive at the hall or the church 15 minutes before your class is due to begin.

4 Age limits for solo classes are reckoned as on **1st September 2026** and must be strictly observed.

5 Age limits for duet or small ensemble classes should be reckoned by the age of the oldest member on **1st September 2026**

6 Competitors may only enter **ONCE** in any class and must not perform the same work in any subsequent class.

7 Those who have won events in past years must select a different piece for this year.

8 The programme will show the order in which competitors will perform in each class.

9 The committee will not usually be able to allow substitutes when an entrant is unable to perform except in group entries.

10 The committee reserves the right to limit the number of entrants in any one class.

11 Additional classes may be created or classes combined at the discretion of the committee.

12 In order to abide by the Child Protection rules, the Committee cannot permit any forms of audio, photographic and video recording during any of the performances.

13 Evaluation and Marking system:

MARKING SCHEME

Marking Band	Mark	Description
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 communication and commitment
MERIT	75 - 79	A competent performance showing some artistic appreciation 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+	A superlative performance, displaying exceptional artistic Individuality

14 Adjudicators will usually announce only the marks of the top three competitors.

15 Certificates and mark sheets will be given to all competitors.

16 Please would competitors dress smartly.

RULES FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

17 6 minutes is the maximum time allowed for solo performances, 8 minutes for duos and 15 minutes for a group performance.

RULES FOR SPEECH AND DRAMA CLASSES



18 The length of time allowed for each performance in each class must be adhered to since exceeding the time limit may result in the competitor being disqualified.
3 minutes maximum is the time allowed for solo pieces 11 yrs and under,
5 minutes for solo pieces 12 yrs and over and 12 minutes for group performance.

19 Set and Own Choice selections are covered by an agreement with the British Federation of Festivals so competitors need not obtain permission to perform these pieces.

20 Only published material is allowed except in the Improvisation Class.
Sketches are not acceptable.

21 Token props and costumes are allowed.

22 Competitors must provide a copy of their entry for the Adjudicator on the day.

RULES FOR MUSIC CLASSES



23 Backing tracks are not allowed, except where specified.

24 3 minutes maximum is the time allowed for solo pieces 11 yrs and under,
5 minutes for solo pieces 12 yrs and over and 12 minutes for a group performance.

25 One piece only to be performed unless otherwise stated. Pieces that exceed the time limit may be penalised.

26 The Adjudicator may stop any performance when he/she has formed a judgement or if the time limit is exceeded

27 The rules of copyright apply to music.
If you select your Own Choice from an album and it is not available as a single copy, you may make one copy for your accompanist provided you have bought the album. The committee steward will keep this copy after the class.
Providing Songs from the Shows are sung as a concert item with minimum movement and no costume, copyright permission is not required.

28 Competitors **must provide a copy of the music for the Adjudicator** on the day of the competition for **all** classes.

29 We have an official accompanist who will be available for all classes on request or you may bring your own accompanist. Please indicate on the entry form if you would like our accompanist. There will be a nominal charge for this.
If you are using our accompanist you will be sent details so that you can contact him to arrange a practice.

30 Some music classes are arranged according to the level at which students are currently performing - their musical maturity - and are not set in age bands.
They should choose an appropriate piece from any suggested syllabus grade but do NOT have to have passed the exam, or to be preparing for it, in order to enter.

TROPHIES



Trophies are awarded to class winners [at the Adjudicator's discretion].
Trophies are held **for ONE YEAR ONLY** and not won outright.
Trophy winners are responsible for the cost of having their names engraved if they so wish.

Return of Trophies:

A recall letter will be sent out to specify where trophies should be returned. Trophies should be returned **cleaned and securely packed** by 31 January of the following year.

Loss or Damage to Trophies:

Competitors are responsible for the safekeeping of the Trophies whilst in their possession, and for reimbursing the organising committee for any loss or damage to the Trophies however sustained.

Upon successful verification of your identity you are entitled to obtain the following information about your own personal information:

(a) The purposes of the collection, processing, use and storage of your personal data
(b) The categories of personal data stored about you
(c) The recipients or categories of recipients to whom your personal data has been or may be transmitted, along with the location of those recipients.
(d) The envisaged period of storage for your personal data or the rationale for determining the storage period
(e) The use of any automated decision-making and/or profiling

If you want to exercise any of these rights or make a complaint, you can by email [info@thornburyartsfestival.org.uk] or write to:

The Data Manager, Thornbury Arts Festival Trust, The Old Malthouse, Upper Morton, Thornbury, South Glos, BS35 1LH

In certain circumstances we might not be able to provide you with access to some of your personal information, but where appropriate, we will notify you of the reasons for this.

How long do we keep your information?

Your personal data will not be retained by the Festival for longer than necessary in relation to the purposes for which it was originally collected, or for which it was further processed, subject to certain legal obligation mentioned below:

We will retain personal data in accordance with our data retention policy set out below.
We review our data retention periods for personal data on a regular basis. We will hold personal data relating to:

(a) Your Festival/Eisteddfod entry for 3 years following the end of the Festival/Eisteddfod. Trophy winners' details will be retained until the trophies are returned safely to the Festival.
(b) Eisteddfod cup winners' names will remain on a list in the TAF archive in perpetuity. This is for historical record purposes.
(c) Volunteering with the Festival for 1 year following the end of your volunteering with us

The law allows you to withdraw your consent to any usage of your data at any time without needing to specify a reason. You can withdraw your consent by emailing us at info@thornburyartsfestival.org.uk

Details of classes will be published when all entries have been received.
They will also be e-mailed to competitors.
These will include venues, times and names of competitors.
If you do not wish your child's name to appear please let us know.
They can be listed as 'A.N.Other' or as their initials.

SPEECH, SET POEM AND DRAMA CLASSES

The classes have been organised by school year group. Please check you have entered the right class. In pair or group classes, select the class for the oldest participant of a pair or group.

Open classes are open to all competitors up to Yr 13.

Solo classes are £6 per entry Duo and trio classes are £10 per entry

Small groups (up to 8) are £12 per entry Larger groups are £20 per entry

Most poems are available on line or from a variety of books.

In the classes where you select your own piece please provide a copy of the piece for the Adjudicator.

SOLO VERSE SPEAKING

SV1	up to Y1	Either:	The Cow by Robert Louis Stevenson
		Or:	Any poem about an animal
SV2	Yr 2	Either:	Why do I have to clean my room? By Jack Prelutsky
		Or:	Any poem about Home
SV3	Yr 3	Either:	The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear
		Or:	Any Nonsense poem
SV4	Yr 4	Either:	When Daddy fell into the pond by Alfred Noyes
		Or:	Any poem about the Family
SV5	Yr 5	Either:	The computer swallowed Grandma by Valerie Waite
		Or:	Any poem about School
SV6	Yr 6	Either:	Daffodils by William Wordsworth
		Or:	Any poem about Nature
SV7	Yr 7	Either:	Night Mail by W H Auden
		Or:	Any poem about Travel
SV8	Yr 8 -Yr13		Own Choice but not to exceed 4 minutes

NON-COMPETITIVE CLASS

This class will be for any solo, duet or group. Any age or standard.

£6 per entry

N-C Speech and Drama

DUO POEM – Own Choice

DV1	Juniors	Yr R – Yr 6	Own choice
DV2	Seniors:	Yr 7 - Yr13	Own choice

GROUP POEM

GV1	Juniors:	Yr R – Yr 6	Own choice
GV2	Seniors:	Yr 7 – Yr13	Own choice

READING ALOUD

Own choice of prose (not drama) from a work of fiction.

RA1	Juniors:	Yr R – Yr 6	Own choice
RA2	Seniors:	Yr 7 -Yr13	Own choice

STORY TELLING

Competition to tell a story around a surprise object selected 10 minutes before being called into the class.

ST1	Juniors:	Yr R – Yr6	Own choice
ST2	Seniors:	Yr 7 – Yr13	Own choice

DRAMA CLASSES

Please perform your own choice of speech or scene from play. Please note that only token costume and props are allowed in Drama Classes. Sketches are not acceptable.

SOLO ACTING

DS1	Juniors:	Yr R – Y 6	Own choice
DS2	Seniors:	Yr 7 – Yr13	Own choice

DUO ACTING

DD1	Juniors:	Yr R –Yr6	Own choice
DD2	Seniors:	Yr 7 – Yr13	Own choice

GROUP ACTING

DG1	Juniors:	Yr R – Yr6	Own choice
DG2	Seniors:	Yr 7 – Yr13	Own choice

SHAKESPEARE SOLO

A speech or scene from any Shakespeare play.

D-SH	Open	Own choice

MIME All classes are open

DM-S	Solo	Own choice
DM-D	Duo	Own choice
DM-G	Group	Own choice

NOTES ABOUT MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES

The emphasis is on a complete performance and presentation, rather than solely a study of music. It can show ability in acting, singing, dancing and choreographic skills.

Performances must show implicit dramatic content with portrayal of characters and their motivations.

This is an opportunity to explore style, form and character through communicating the dramatic content of a musical text.

Minimal props and a suggestion of costume essential to the action or character may be used. Full stage costume may not be used as this may contravene copyright.

Entrants may use a backing track but must provide their own equipment.

MUSICAL THEATRE

MTh1	11 yrs and under	Solo	Own choice
MTh2	12-14 yrs	Solo	Own choice
MTh3	15-18 yrs	Solo	Own choice
MTh4	11 yrs and under	Duo	Own choice
MTh5	12-14 yrs	Duo	Own choice
MTh6	15-18 yrs	Duo	Own choice
MTh7	11 yrs and under	Group	Own choice
MTh8	12-14 yrs	Group	Own choice
MTh9	15-18 yrs	Group	Own choice

CHOIRS

BIG SING - non-competitive class

Some of these songs are from 'Singing Sherlock'. Others can be found on the web.

Please choose 1 or both of the suggested songs
As well as these songs it is suggested that each group might like to sing a song of their own choice. This is optional

Key stage 1: 'Teddy Bear rock 'n' roll', 'Let's go fly a kite'

Key stage 2: 'Si si si', 'Somewhere over the rainbow'

Key stage 3 and above: 2 own choice pieces

VOCAL CLASSES

SONGS FROM THE SHOWS including Operetta, Songs from Stage and Screen.

V1	11 yrs and under	Own Choice
V2	12-14 yrs	Own Choice
V3	15-18 yrs	Own Choice

TRADITIONAL

(Traditional, National, Folk Songs) (excluding Songs from the Shows)

V4	11 yrs & under	Own Choice
V5	12-14 yrs	Own Choice
V6	15-18 yrs	Own Choice

CLASSICAL – Own Choice – (excluding Traditional or Folk Songs)

V7	11 yrs & under	Own Choice
V8	12-14 yrs	Own Choice
V9	15-18 yrs	Own Choice

VOCAL DUET/ TRIO/QUARTET

Any choice of song which must contain at least 50% harmony

V10	11 yrs & under	Own Choice
V11	14 yrs & under	Own Choice
V12	18 yrs & under	Own Choice

POP SONG Any choice of song.

Entrants may use a backing track but must provide their own equipment.

VPOP1 11 yrs and under
VPOP2 12-14 yrs
VPOP3 15-18 yrs

NON-COMPETITIVE CLASS

This class will be for any solo, duet or group. Any age or standard.
£6 per entry

N-C Vocal

INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

MIXED INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE (Any combination of instruments)

M1	Grades 1 - 2	Own Choice
M2	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
M3	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice

BRASS (Trumpet/Cornet/Tuba/Trombone/Euphonium/Horns (F & E) /Baritone)

B1	Prep - Grade 2	Own Choice
B2	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
B3	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice

BRASS ENSEMBLE (Any combination of Brass Instruments)

B4	Grades 1 - 2	Own Choice
B5	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
B6	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice

BRASS DUET/TRIO

B7	Duet /Trio	Own choice

WOODWIND (Recorder/Flute/Clarinet/Saxophone/Oboe/Bassoon)

W1	Prep - Grade 2	Own Choice
W2	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
W3	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice

WOODWIND ENSEMBLE (Any combination of Woodwind Instruments)

W4	Grades 1 - 2	Own Choice
W5	Grades 3 – 5	Own Choice
W6	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice

WOODWIND DUET/TRIO

W7	Duet /Trio	Own choice

GUITAR (Excluding Electric Guitars)

G1	Grades 1 - 2	Own Choice
G2	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
G3	Grade 6 and above	Own choice

GUITAR DUET/TRIO

G4	Duet /Trio	Own choice

STRINGS (Violin/Viola/Cello/Double Bass)

S1	Prep - Grade 2	Own Choice
S2	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
S3	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice

STRINGS ENSEMBLE

S4	Grades 1 - 2	Own Choice
S5	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
S6	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice

STRING DUET/TRIO

S7	Duet /Trio	Own choice

HARP

H1	Grades 1 - 2	Own Choice
H2	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
H3	Grade 6 and above	Own choice

NON-COMPETITIVE CLASS. N-C Instrumental

PIANO (Classical) One piece only.

P1	Prep – Grade 2	Own Choice
P2	Grades 3 - 4	Own Choice
P3	Grades 5 - 6	Own Choice
P4	Grade 7 and above	Own Choice

PIANO (Contemporary to include jazz and popular music) One piece only.

P5	Prep - Grade 2	Own Choice
P6	Grades 3 - 4	Own Choice
P7	Grades 5 - 6	Own Choice
P8	Grade 7 and above	Own Choice

PIANO DUET/TRIO

P9	Grades 1 - 2	Own Choice
P10	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
P11	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice
P12	Open. Any age or grade	Own choice

KEYBOARD

K1	Grades 1 - 2	Own Choice
K2	Grades 3 - 5	Own Choice
K3	Grade 6 and above	Own Choice

ANYTHING GOES

(Any combination of instruments and voices not catered for in other classes)

AG1	18 yrs & under	Own Choice

FAMILY GROUPS (Any size)

FG1	Any age	Own Choice

NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSES

These classes will be for any solo, duet or group.
Any age or standard.

N-C Speech and Drama
N-C Vocal.
N-C Instrumental

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Registered Office Address: Thornbury Arts Festival Trust, The Old Malthouse, Upper Morton, Thornbury, South Glos, BS35 1LH

THORNBURY ARTS FESTIVAL EISTEDDFOD

SPEECH AND DRAMA ENTRY FORM



PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH CLASS ENTRY
ONLY ONE FORM IS REQUIRED PER DUO OR GROUP
Photocopy this form as required but please do not alter the size or orientation

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

*Use the back of the entry form if necessary for names in ensembles

Class code: (eg: SV7)	
Name of entrant(s)/ Group:*	
Guardian's name:	
E-mail address:	
Postal address:	
Phone number	

Solos - £6 per entry. Duos/Trios/Quartets - £10 per entry. Small groups (up to 8) - £12 per entry
Larger groups £20 per entry
Payment may be made by cash or cheque payable to 'Thornbury Arts Festival Trust (Eist)' and posted with entry form or BACS account number 53189342 sort code 23-05-80

Total amount: £..... Cash / Cheque [enclosed] BACS *please delete as appropriate
By submitting this form I agree to abide by the rules for entry at the beginning of the syllabus

Signed: .....

Please send entries to: **Mrs Kate Phillipson-Masters** **"Paddocks End"** **30 The Paddocks** **Thornbury BS35 2HP** **kate.pm@hotmail.co.uk**	Entries close **on 24 JANUARY 2027** Unfortunately, we cannot accept any late entries under any circumstances. If you are sending entries by post, please ensure you allow enough time and have paid sufficient postage for the letter to reach its destination. It is not advisable to send cash in the post

N.B. Details of classes will be e-mailed to competitors
If you do not wish your child's name to appear please let us know.
They can be listed by their initials or as 'A.N. Other'

THORNBURY ARTS FESTIVAL EISTEDDFOD

MUSIC ENTRY FORM



PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH CLASS ENTRY
ONLY ONE FORM IS REQUIRED PER DUO OR GROUP
Photocopy this form as required but please do not alter the size or orientation

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

*Use the back of the entry form if necessary for names in ensembles

Class code: (eg: V7)	
Name of entrant(s)/ Group: *	
Guardian's name:	
E-mail address:	
Postal address:	
Phone number:	
Is the Official accompanist required?	

Solos - £6 per entry. Duos/Trios/Quartet - £10 per entry. Small groups (up to 8) - £12 per entry
Larger groups/ choirs £20 per entry
Payment may be made by cash or cheque payable to 'Thornbury Arts Festival Trust (Eist)' and posted with entry form or BACS account number 53189342 sort code 23-05-80

Total amount: £……Cash / Cheque [enclosed] BACS *please delete as appropriate
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If you do not wish your child's name to appear please let us know.

THORNBURY EISTEDDFOD

The Eisteddfod is a celebration of the great range of talent in the local area.
We hope that taking part in a competitive festival will be an enjoyable and encouraging experience and will provide a platform for our young performers.
All ages and abilities are welcome to take part.

We are affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals.

A selection of the performers are asked to take part in a concert as a finale to the Eisteddfod.
This will be on Saturday 20th March at 7pm in St Mary's Church, Thornbury.

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Thornbury Arts Festival Trust is proud to include the Eisteddfod and the Severn Vale Art Trail 'under its umbrella'.

Grateful thanks go to The Lions Club of Thornbury for their continued generous financial support of the Eisteddfod over the past 30 years.

Thanks also to all our helpers, teachers, parents and performers.
to the Hatch Community
to St Mary's Church
to our many supporters.

THANK YOU