

Buxton Music Speech and Drama Festival 2026 Syllabus

Welcome to the syllabus for 2026 which includes our usual classes plus a few new ones. The 2026 Festival will take place on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May.

You may notice that the numbering of classes has been changed and that competition days are not specified apart from the choir classes which will be held on Friday 16 May.

This allows us to spread the competition evenly over the two days and to give everyone the time they deserve for performance and adjudication.

Please ensure we receive your entries via the website buxtonmsdfestival.co.uk by **28 February 2026**

We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

PIANO

PIANO SOLO CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
NC1	Non-Competitive Piano Solo - own choice	8 & under
NC2	Non-Competitive Piano Solo - own choice	12 & under
NC3	Non-Competitive Piano Solo - own choice	16 & under
NC4	Non-Competitive Piano Solo - own choice	18 & under
101	Piano solo grade 1 and 2 standard - own choice	18 & under
102	Piano solo grade 3 and 4 standard - own choice	18 & under
103	Piano solo grade 5 and 6 standard - own choice	18 & under
104	Piano Solo Advanced - own choice	18 & under

PIANO DUET CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
105	Piano Duet - own choice	10 & under
106	Piano Duet - own choice	14 & under
107	Piano Duet - own choice	18 & under

PIANO TRIO CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
108	Piano 3 or more players - own choice	10 & under
109	Piano 3 or more players - own choice	14 & under
110	Piano 3 or more players - own choice	18 & under

Please note: for piano duets, trios and ensembles, competitors can perform in more than one combination within any class.

NEW - ORGAN CLASS

Class No.	Description	Age
111	A new class for young organists – own choice	18 & under

Should you require more information or guidance on this new class, please contact us via our website buxtonmsdfestival.co.uk

STRINGS

STRINGS SOLO CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
NC5	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, harp solo - own choice	8 & under
NC6	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, harp solo - own choice	12 & under
NC7	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass harp solo - own choice	16 & under
NC8	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, harp solo - own choice	18 & under
112	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp solo. Preparatory - own choice (for players who have not taken Grade 1 examination by the closing date of the Festival).	18 & under
113	Violin or Viola Solo - Grades 1 & 2 standard - Own Choice	18 & under
114	Violin or Viola Solo - Grades 3 & 4 standard - own choice	18 & under
115	Violin or Viola Solo - Grades 5 & 6 standard - own choice	18 & under
116	Violin or Viola Solo - Advanced - own choice	18 & under
117	Cello, Harp or Double Bass Solo - Grade 1 & 2 standard - own choice	18 & under

cont.

118	Cello, Harp or Double Bass Solo - Grade 3 & 4 standard - own choice	18 & under
119	Cello, Harp or Double Bass Solo - Grade 5 & 6 standard - own choice	18 & under
110	Cello, Harp or Double Bass Solo – Advanced – own choice	18 & under
111	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp Duet - own choice - no accompaniment.	10 & under
112	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp Duet - own choice - no accompaniment	14 & under
113	Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp Duet - own choice - no accompaniment	18 & under

CLASSICAL GUITAR CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
NC9	Guitar (acoustic) or Ukulele solo - own choice	18 & under
114	Guitar (acoustic) or Ukulele solo - own choice	10 & under
115	Guitar (acoustic) or Ukulele solo - own choice	14 & under
116	Guitar (acoustic) or Ukulele solo - own choice	18 & under

VOCAL

VOCAL SOLO CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
NC10	Vocal Solo Own Choice (non-competitive)	10 & under
NC11	Vocal Solo Own Choice (non-competitive)	12 & under
NC12	Vocal Solo Own Choice (non-competitive)	15 & under
NC13	Vocal Solo Own Choice (non-competitive)	18 & under
117	Classical Song including Light opera and G&S - own choice	10 & under
118	Classical Song including Light opera and G&S - own choice	12 & under
119	Classical Song including Light opera and G&S - own choice	15 & under

cont.

120	Classical Song including Light opera and G&S - own choice	18 & under
121	Popular Song including Film and Musicals - own choice	10 & under
122	Popular Song including Film and Musicals - own choice	12 & under
123	Popular Song including Film and Musicals - own choice	15 & under
124	Popular Song including Film and Musicals - own choice	18 & under
125	Unaccompanied Folk Song - own choice	10 & under
126	Unaccompanied Folk Song - own choice	12 & under
127	Unaccompanied Folk Song - own choice	15 & under
128	Unaccompanied Folk Song - own choice	18 & under
129	Vocal solo for boys with changing voice - own choice	18 & under

VOCAL DUET CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
130	vocal duet - any voices - own choice	10 & under
131	vocal duet - any voices - own choice	12 & under
132	vocal duet - any voices - own choice	15 & under
133	vocal duet - any voices - own choice	18 & under

VOCAL ENSEMBLE CLASS – Friday 16 May

Class No.	Description	Age
134	vocal ensemble - 3 to 10 voices own choice programme of 10 – 15 minutes	18 & under

Choirs and ensembles are required to present a programme of 10 – 15 minutes duration comprising 3 to 5 pieces chosen to show variety and skill. Songs may be accompanied or unaccompanied.

Note: the official accompanist will not be available for these classes.

CHOIR CLASSES – Friday 16 May

Class No.	Description	Age
135	Youth Choir - more than 10 voices - own choice programme of 10 – 15 minutes	18 & under
136	Youth Choir - more than 10 voices - own choice programme of 10 – 15 minutes	12 & under

Choirs and ensembles are required to present a programme of 10 – 15 minutes duration comprising 3 to 5 pieces chosen to show variety and skill. Songs may be accompanied or unaccompanied.

Note: the official accompanist will not be available for these classes.

RECITAL/INSTRUMENTAL/VOCAL

NEW - INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CLASS – SOLO OR ENSEMBLE

Class No.	Description	Age
137	A new class for children who wish to perform international music – solo or ensemble	18 & under

Should you require more information or guidance on this new class, please contact us via our website buxtonmsdfestival.co.uk

FAMILY ENSEMBLE CLASS

Class No.	Description	Age
138	Two or more related performers, children and/or adults, any combination of instrument/vocal. Extra marks given for widest age difference!	Open

OPEN VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL RECITAL CLASS

Class No.	Description	Age
139	Competitors should perform a varied programme for a maximum of 15 minutes. See Rule 3.	18 & under

BRASS SOLO CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
NC14	Brass or woodwind solo (including recorder) - own choice	18 & under
140	Brass or woodwind solo (including recorder) - grade 1 & 2 standard - own choice	18 & under
141	Brass or woodwind solo (including recorder) - grade 3 & 4 standard - own choice	18 & under
142	Brass or woodwind solo (including recorder) - grade 5 & 6 standard - own choice	18 & under
143	Brass or woodwind solo (including recorder) - advanced - own choice	18 & under

BRASS ENSEMBLES

Class No.	Description	Age
141	Brass/woodwind/recorder duet or trio - own choice	10 & under
142	Brass/woodwind/recorder duet or trio - own choice	18 & under
143	Brass/woodwind/recorder ensemble - more than 3 players - own choice max 10 mins (unaccompanied)	10 & under
144	Brass/woodwind/recorder ensemble - more than 3 players - own choice max 10 mins (unaccompanied)	18 & under

Please note: for duets, trios and ensembles, competitors can perform in more than one combination within any class.

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE CLASSES

Class No.	Description	Age
145	Instrumental ensemble up to 8 players. Any combination of instruments - own choice - 10 minutes	18 & under
146	Instrumental ensemble over 8 players. Any combination of instruments - own choice - 10 minutes	18 & under