



Ramsbottom Music Festival

Reg. Charity No.1102099

Syllabus

*!!!! Deadline for entry
submission extended
until end of Feb '26 !!!*

Festival Date
Saturday 14th March
2026



FESTIVAL PATRONS

The committee records with thanks the support of

Marjorie Burgum
Helen & John Holt
Mr & Mrs R Hunter

Lorraine Scholes
Mrs J Smale
and other anonymous patrons

Why not be a patron of the festival?

The aim of the scheme is to make the festival's future more secure by seeking annual donations from anyone with an interest in the festival. Patrons' names will be listed in our syllabus and programme, unless the patron wishes to remain anonymous. Please email us for more information.

FESTIVAL OFFICIALS

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www.ramsmusicfest.co.uk Email: ramsmusicfest@gmail.com

Affiliated to The British and International Federation of Festivals

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 2026 Ramsbottom Music Festival syllabus. This year, as usual, we have a packed offering of classes for all kinds of instruments & voices with categories to cater for all ages and standards. We have also selected recognised musicians who will be providing adjudication for all entrants – we all recognise that, alongside the joy of performing for others, this is one of the most valuable aspects of the Festival. To receive expert advice, tips and guidance from specialists in their field is a truly remarkable opportunity that is not to be missed, all in a friendly and co-operative atmosphere.

Once again we are indebted to the volunteers who help to organise and run the event, as well as our sponsors, both old and new, without whose financial support we would simply not be able to run the event. Naturally, we are also very open to new supporters, either with time or cash! If you think there is something you can do to help the Festival continue to thrive, then don't be shy and do get in touch.

Entry processing will be online, as it has been over the past few years, using our dedicated entry management system, as will payments for entries. This year we're also adding a flowchart guide on our website to help you understand what's needed to complete your entry.

This year we will once again include Greenmount United Reformed Church as our venue for choirs, bands and larger ensembles, as this allows us to accommodate the entrants and their supporters

Please also have a think if you have any time to spare to assist as a volunteer on the day. Even a couple of hours can make a big difference to the experience of everyone – just drop me an email on ramsmusicfest@gmail.com if you think you could help.

All that remains for me now is to wish you good luck with your entry – do please send us as many of your pupils as you can if you're reading this as a music teacher – equally do share this syllabus or signpost your friends and colleagues to us as well and, as always, we look forward to putting on a busy, vibrant and friendly Ramsbottom Music Festival in 2026.

Please also keep an eye on our social media pages (Facebook, Instagram and X) for up to date news

Good luck !

*Chris Hopkinson
Secretary*

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- a. All entries must be made online, which must be submitted on our entry website not later than Sunday 18th January 2026. Entries requested later than this are accepted at the Secretary's discretion.
- b. Entries must include fees to be considered as complete – fees cannot be refunded unless due to exceptional circumstances.
- c. The Committee reserves the right to refuse entry.
- d. Pieces may not be changed once the entry has been received.
- e. Every entrant must submit, by the closing date, a printed copy of the piece(s) to be performed for the Adjudicator's use at the time of the festival. The copy must be submitted in good time to the Assistant Secretary (address details are provided on the online entry system). **If a copy is not provided, the Adjudicator will be unable to award any marks.**
- f. If you require an official accompanist at the time of the festival, you must provide an original copy for them to use for the performance
- g. **Use of photocopied or hand-copied music by the performer is illegal and will not be accepted for use.** However, an agreement with the Music Publishers' Association allows a photocopy for Adjudicator's use only, which will be destroyed after the festival by the festival stewards. Bona fide downloaded music copies are permitted.
- h. The official accompanist will charge a fee of £11 for a rehearsal of up to 20 mins for grades 1-5 with the entrant, and for grades 6 & above the fee is £16.50 for a 30 minute session. The fee is payable directly to the accompanist at the time of the rehearsal.
- i. **Age requirement.** In all classes where an age limit is stipulated, each entrant must be within the limit on 1st March 2026.
- j. **Grade requirement.** In all classes where a grade is stipulated, it refers to the Associated Board grade or equivalent (for Electronic Keyboard classes, Trinity College grade or equivalent; for Electric Guitar Classes, RGT@LCM grade or equivalent). The entrant doesn't need to have passed the examination. The music can be chosen from the examination list or can be any other piece(s) of the equivalent grade.
- k. **Grade of pieces played.** It is the responsibility of the entrant/teacher/parent to ensure that the piece(s) chosen are at the correct grade for the class entered. A place cannot be awarded if in breach of this rule, or rule (j). In the interest of fairness, it is expected that entrants will be entered at their current grade.

FESTIVAL RULES

Please read the following rules carefully – especially those who have not been to the festival before. To help the smooth running of the festival, all entrants should make themselves known to a steward when they arrive on the day to perform.

- 1. Late arrivals.** If an entrant arrives after the adjudicator has decided the placings for the class (whether or not the adjudicator has started speaking) then the entrant may perform and receive a written critique but the placings for the class will not be changed. If an entrant arrives before the adjudicator has decided the placings for the class then the entrant may be allowed to participate fully in the class.
- 2. Final decision.** The decision of the Adjudicator is final and speaking to the Adjudicator is not allowed. The decision of the Committee in all questions or disputes arising out of, or not provided for, in these rules and the above conditions shall be final.
- 3. Alteration of Adjudicator or class.** The Committee reserves the right to engage additional adjudicators and to transfer classes from one session / day to another.
- 4. Personnel.** In the event of the unavoidable absence of a member of a duet, trio or group, substitute(s) will be allowed. The organisers must be advised in advance of the class being held.
- 5. Amateur status.** All classes shall be open to amateurs only. For this purpose 'amateur' is defined as follows: Any person whose principal means of livelihood is obtained from non-musical work, even if he or she from time to time accepts a fee, stipend or honorarium for musical or dramatic services rendered.
- 6. Instruments.** Any entrant competing on different instruments in the same class must play different pieces on each instrument.
- 7. Warm up in Piano classes.** A warm up will consist **only** of the playing of, literally, one or two scales or chords.
- 8. Trophies.** Winners of trophies will be required to provide us with contact details and to bear the cost of any engraving. Trophies must be returned to the Trophy Secretary in good condition one month prior to the next Festival.
- 9. Marking system.** Awards may be withheld if, in the opinion of the Adjudicator, sufficient merit is not shown. Otherwise first, second and third place certificates will be awarded in all classes.
- 10. Choral classes.** Competitors in Choral Classes must have been bona fide members of the group for at least two months prior to the Festival.
No Conductor will be allowed to sing with his or her choir.
- 11. School instrumental groups.** School instrumental groups may be conducted by their teacher and the group may be accompanied but only on the piano.
- 12. Performance time.** Entrants whose performance time exceeds the time limit for the class will not be placed.
- 13. Photography.** In line with BIFF recommendations, no unauthorised photography or video recording is allowed at our Festival. Where parents / guardians / carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child / pupil / vulnerable adult is not included in official authorised photos, as well as indicating this choice on the entry system.
- 14. Electronic equipment.** The use of electronic equipment for sound amplification of a performance is not allowed (except in Electronic Keyboard / Electric Guitar classes – for Electric Guitar time will be allocated beforehand for a quick soundcheck/run through with the backing track. Performers must bring all of their own equipment).

ADJUDICATORS

Adjudicators will be announced for the following categories ...

Junior Piano	Ann Priestley Smith
Electronic Keyboard	Philip Dewhurst BA (Hons) PGCE FISM §
Strings	James Clark FRNCM
Woodwind / Brass	Philip Dewhurst BA (Hons) PGCE FISM §
Senior Piano	Ann Priestley Smith
Acoustic Guitar / Electric Guitar	Sam Rodwell ATCL, BMus(Hons), MMus
Choirs & Vocal	Philip Dewhurst BA (Hons) PGCE FISM §

§ will denote BIFF accredited adjudicator

ACCOMPANISTS

Jacqueline Tinniswood GMus QTS [Woodwind/Brass/Strings]

Rachel Britton BMus PGCE [Voice]

The above are our official accompanists, although please note we may amend the accompanists if it becomes necessary. Entrants may bring their own accompanist if they wish.

Our accompanists spend time in preparation and rehearsal, and we ask you to read condition (h) on the Conditions of Entry page, which concerns their fee for this.

To defray the accompanists' expenses on the day of the festival, there is an additional fee of £3 for each class in which an entrant requests an official accompanist; this fee is payable at the time of submitting an entry.

If you request the services of an official accompanist with your entry, he or she will contact you before the festival to discuss a rehearsal. It is important therefore that you provide correct contact phone number and email addresses with your entry so that the accompanist can contact you personally to arrange rehearsal. The contact number / email address should be that of an adult and must **not** be those of the child.

Please remember also to submit a hard copy of the accompanist part along with your copy of the performance piece(s) which the adjudicator will use to mark your entry performance. Please clearly indicate on the copies the performer and class in order for us to process your entry efficiently.

KEY INFORMATION FOR ENTERING THE FESTIVAL

- All entries, including those from schools, must be entered onto the online entry system by Sunday 18th January 2026. Entries after that date may not be considered.
- **Please give performance time rounded up to nearest quarter minute. Ensure that your actual performance time is within the class limit in order to avoid disqualification.**
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The ENTRY CHARGES for entrants are as follows:

£7.00

Novice to grade 3	
Solo vocalists up to age 13	
Grades 4 to 6	£8.00
Solo vocalists aged 14 – 16	
Grades 7 & 8 and Open classes	£9.00
Solo vocalist Open classes	
Duets and Trios	
(instrumental and vocal, including lieder)	£9.00
Ensembles (instrumental and vocal)	£16.00
and Choirs	

- A confirmation email showing time and venue of classes will be sent to entrants prior to the festival date which will also act as proof of entry.

AUDIENCE ADMISSION PRICES (payable on the door)

Adults	£4.00
(inc. Festival Programme)	£1.00
Children 5 – 16 years	
Children under 5 years	FREE
Performers	FREE



This year we'll be offering online registration only - check out www.ramsmusicfest.co.uk for the details.

PIANO CLASSES

**To be held at Greenmount Primary School and Greenmount Church on
Saturday 14th March 2026
(throughout the day)**

PIANO SOLO * * * PLEASE SEE RULE (7) * * *

Class P01	JOHN SELLARS MEMORIAL TROPHY Grade 1 standard. Two pieces, own choice	Time limit 2 minutes
Class P02	SINGLETON TROPHY Grade 2 standard. Two pieces, own choice	Time limit 3 minutes
Class P03	PETER FIELDING TROPHY Grade 3 standard. Two pieces, own choice	Time limit 4 minutes
Class P04	COPE ENGINEERING TROPHY Grade 4 standard. Two pieces, own choice	Time limit 5 minutes
Class P05	NEWTONS OF BURY CUP Grade 5 standard. Two pieces, own choice	Time limit 5 minutes
Class P06	FAITH GREENHALGH MEMORIAL TROPHY Grade 6 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 6 minutes
Class P07	CLOUGH WILLIS SOLICTORS' TROPHY Grade 7 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 8 minutes
Class P08	THE RAMSBOTTOM ROTARY HARRY KELLETT TROPHY Grade 8 ONLY. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 12 minutes

PIANO SOLO CLASSES (cont)

Class P09 *Non competitive class – all entrants will receive a performance medal.*
Novice class. Open to competitors of any age who have taken up the piano in the last 12 months. Time limit 2 minutes

Class P10 *Non competitive class – all entrants will receive a performance medal.*
Preparatory Class. Open to competitors who are pre Grade 1 standard. Time limit 2 mins

Class P11 THE REV. GORDON HORNBLOWER TROPHY
Piano Open Class. Min Grade 6 Associated Board standard required.
Two contrasting pieces or movements. Time limit 12 mins

If you might be interested in joining our team,
please get in touch with us at
ramsmusicfest@gmail.com. A small number of our committee have recently retired and we would welcome enthusiastic people to get involved with RMF and ensure its long term future!

PIANO DUETS and TRIOS

Class P12	THE ANNE LANGSLOW & SYLVIA FORBES MEMORIAL TROPHY Duet. Grade 5 & under standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class P13	DOROTHY GUNTHER TROPHY Duet. Grade 6 & above standard.	Time limit 8 minutes
Class P14	DR CHEONG TROPHY Trio. No Grade requirement.	Time limit 8 minutes

ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD CLASSES

To be held at Greenmount Primary School on Saturday 14th March 2026

Played on the entrant's own Electronic Keyboard.

Class EK01	READ, FRANKLIN & HEYWOOD TROPHY Grade 1 standard.	Time limit 2 minutes
Class EK02	TERENCE McMAHON MEMORIAL TROPHY Grade 2 standard.	Time limit 3 minutes
Class EK03	TROPHY T.B.A. Grade 3 standard.	Time limit 4 minutes
Class EK04	TROPHY T.B.A Grade 4 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class EK05	DONOVAN WHITTON TROPHY Grade 5 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class EK06	EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAYS TROPHY Grade 6 standard.	Time limit 6 minutes
Class EK07	TROPHY T.B.A. Grade 7 standard.	Time limit 8 minutes
Class EK08	REV. JOE RUSSON MEMORIAL TROPHY Grade 8 standard or higher.	Time limit 12 minutes

VOCAL CLASSES

To be held at Greenmount School on Saturday 14th March 2026

CHORAL CLASS

Class C1 RAMSBOTTOM CHORAL SOCIETY TROPHY
Senior Choir. Own choice of two or
more contrasting songs or movements Time limit 10 minutes

STANDARD CLASSICAL and FOLK REPERTOIRE - SOLO

Class V01 ABC TROPHY
Age 11 years and under. Time limit 3 minutes

Class V02 JOHN SPENCER (HAZLEHURST) TROPHY
Age 12 to 13 years. Time limit 3 minutes

Class V03 SB NULTY, M LEA & AJ BATES (Dentist) TROPHY
Age 14 to 16 years. Time limit 4 minutes

Class V04 THE JOHN RODWELL TROPHY
Adult. Age 17 years and over. All voices.
Two contrasting songs or movements (can be both classical, both folk or
one of each), one of which should be unaccompanied. Grade 6 standard
& above
Time limit 10 minutes

DUETS and ENSEMBLES

Class V05 TROPHY TBA
Duet. Age 12 years and under. Time limit 3 minutes

Class V06 HARRIS TROPHY
Duet. Age 16 years and under. Time limit 3 minutes

Class V07 KAY'S OF RAMSBOTTOM TROPHY
Duet. Adult. Age 17 years and over. All voices.
Two contrasting songs or movements.
Grade 6 standard & above Time limit 10 minutes

DUETS and ENSEMBLES (cont)

Class V08 HELENE BEIN MEMORIAL TROPHY

Open Lieder. Two contrasting songs, preferably sung in German. No grade requirement.
Singer and pianist adjudicated. Time limit 10 minutes

Class V09 TROPHY TBA

Ensemble. Own choice of 2 contrasting songs or movements.
No age or grade restrictions. Time limit 10 minutes

POPULAR / LIGHT VOCAL MUSIC

Class LV01 NAN LAKES MEMORIAL SHIELD

Age 11 years and under. Time limit 3 minutes

Class LV02 KENYON TROPHY

Age 12 to 13 years. Time limit 3 minutes

Class LV03 JEANNIE LEE TROPHY

Age 14 to 16 years. Time limit 4 minutes

Class LV04 NAN HEALEY MEMORIAL TROPHY

Adult. Age 17 years and over. All voices.
Own choice of 2 contrasting pieces. Time limit 10 minutes

Class LV05 TROPHY TBA

Ensemble, Duets, Trios, Groups.
Any age, max 8 participants. Time limit 8 minutes

ACOUSTIC GUITAR CLASSES - SOLO

To be held at Greenmount Primary School on Saturday 14th March 2026

Class G01 BILL ROBINSON MEMORIAL SHIELD

Grade 1 standard. Time limit 2 minutes

Class G02 OLD MILL TROPHY

Grade 2 standard. Time limit 3 minutes

ACOUSTIC GUITAR CLASSES – SOLO (cont)

Class G03	PRESENT CORNER TROPHY Grade 3 standard.	Time limit 4 minutes
Class G04	SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RAMSBOTTOM TROPHY Grade 4 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class G05	HIGHBANK PAEDIATRIC REHABILITATION SERVICES SHIELD Grade 5 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class G06	ROGER GREENLEES TROPHY Grade 6 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 6 minutes
Class G07	TROPHY TBA Grade 7 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 8 minutes
Class G08	TROPHY TBA Grade 8 std. or higher Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 12 mins

ACOUSTIC GUITAR CLASSES - DUETS and ENSEMBLES

Class G09	LATIMER LEE SOLICITORS' TROPHY Duet. Up to & including Grade 5 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class G10	TROPHY TBA Duet. Grade 6 & above standard.	Time limit 8 minutes
Class G11	EVELYN WAITE TROPHY Ensemble. Two contrasting pieces or movements. No age or grade requirement.	Time limit 8 minutes
Class G12	<i>Non competitive class – all entrants will receive a performance medal.</i> Novice class. Open to competitors of any age who have taken up the guitar in the last 12 months.	Time limit 2 minutes

ELECTRIC GUITAR CLASSES

To be held at Greenmount Primary School on Saturday 14th March 2026

Class EG1	The Tickle-Online Trophy Electric Guitar Grade 1-3 standard.	Time limit 3 minutes
Class EG2	The Booths Music Trophy Electric Guitar Grade 4-6 standard.	Time limit 6 minutes
Class EG3	Trophy TBA Electric Guitar Grade 7 & above standard. Time limit 9 minutes (two contrasting pieces required)	

STRINGS CLASSES (INCLUDING HARP AND UKULELE)

To be held at Greenmount Primary School on Saturday 14th March 2026

SOLO

Class S01	DUNSCAR TIMBER TROPHY Grade 1 standard.	Time limit 2 minutes
Class S02	ANGELA CAMPBELL TROPHY Grade 2 standard.	Time limit 3 minutes
Class S03	ELISABETH SYKES TROPHY Grade 3 standard.	Time limit 4 minutes
Class S04	GRIMSHAW'S VAUXHALL TROPHY Grade 4 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class S05	MOSLEY AND COMPANY TROPHY Grade 5 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class S06	CLARK CRAFT TROPHY Grade 6 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 6 minutes
Class S07	LIZ CREHAN-ANDERSON MEMORIAL TROPHY Grade 7 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 8 minutes

STRINGS CLASSES (cont)

Class S08	TROPHY TBA Grade 8 std. or higher. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 12 mins
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DUETS and ENSEMBLES

Class S09	FIDLER FAMILY TROPHY Duet. Up to & including Grade 5 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class S10	HOLIDAY FAMILY TROPHY Duet. Grade 6 & above standard.	Time limit 8 minutes
Class S11	TNT (UK) LTD. TROPHY Ensemble. Two contrasting pieces or movements. No age or grade restriction.	Time limit 8 minutes

BRASS CLASSES

To be held at Greenmount Primary School on Saturday 14th March 2026

SOLO

Class B01	TICKLE ONLINE TROPHY Grade 1 standard.	Time limit 2 minutes
Class B02	MEREDITH TROPHY Grade 2 standard.	Time limit 3 minutes
Class B03	D BAILEY MEMORIAL TROPHY Grade 3 standard.	Time limit 4 minutes
Class B04	TROPHY TBA Grade 4 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class B05	M GARDNER (CHEMIST) TROPHY Grade 5 standard.	Time limit 5 minutes
Class B06	TROPHY TBA Grade 6 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.	Time limit 6 minutes

BRASS CLASSES (cont)

Class B07 TROPHY TBA

Grade 7 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.

Time limit 8 minutes

Class B08 TROPHY TBA

Grade 8 std. or higher. Two contrasting pieces or movements.

Time limit 12 mins

BRASS DUETS and ENSEMBLES

Class B09 TROPHY TBA

Duet. Up to & including Grade 5 standard.

Time limit 5 minutes

Class B10 MINSHALL FAMILY TROPHY

Duet. Grade 6 & above standard.

Time limit 8 minutes

Class B11 TROPHY TBA

Ensemble. Two contrasting pieces or movements.

No age or grade restriction.

Time limit 8 minutes

MIXED ENSEMBLES

To be held at Greenmount Primary School on Saturday 14th March 2026

Class E01 TRIPLE 'R' TROPHY

Mixed Duo. NB see Rule 6. No age restriction, up to and including Grade 5 standard. Entrants of any age may perform together. Two contrasting instruments or voices. Own choice of piece(s). Time limit 5 minutes

Class E02 TROPHY TBA

Mixed Duo. NB see Rule 5. No age restriction, Grade 6 & above standard. Entrants of any age may perform together. Two contrasting instruments or voices. Own choice of piece(s). Time limit 8 minutes

Class E03 LAKES-GOOD TROPHY

Mixed Ensemble. NB see Rule 6. No age restriction or grade requirement. Entrants of any age may perform together. Why not enter your family / friends group? Time limit 8 minutes

WOODWIND CLASSES (including Recorder)

To be held at Greenmount Primary School on Saturday 14th March 2026

SOLO

Class W01 HEALD FOURWAYS SHIELD

Grade 1 standard. Time limit 2 minutes

Class W02 WALMSLEY'S (BUTCHERS) TROPHY

Grade 2 standard. Time limit 3 minutes

Class W03 JOHN CALVERLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY

Grade 3 standard. Time limit 4 minutes

Class W04 DENISE SMITH TROPHY

Grade 4 standard. Time limit 5 minutes

Class W05 RAMSBOTTOM RECORDED MUSIC SOCIETY TROPHY

Grade 5 standard. Time limit 5 minutes

WOODWIND CLASSES (cont)

Class W06 B & C GREGORY TROPHY

Grade 6 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.

Time limit 6 minutes

Class W07 SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RAMSBOTTOM SALVER

Grade 7 standard. Two contrasting pieces or movements.

Time limit 8 minutes

Class W08 FLORENCE NUTTALL TROPHY

Grade 8 std. or higher. Two contrasting pieces or movements.

Time limit 12 mins

WOODWIND DUETS and ENSEMBLES

Class W09 COBWEBS TROPHY

Duet. Up to & including Grade 5 standard.

Time limit 5 minutes

Class W10 BURY LIONS SHIELD

Duet. Grade 6 & above standard.

Time limit 8 minutes

Class W11 GREENWOOD COOPE LTD. TROPHY

Ensemble. Two contrasting pieces or movements.

No age restriction or grade requirement.

Time limit 8 minutes

OPEN CLASS FOR ALL PERFORMERS
Greenmount Primary School, Saturday 14th March 2026

Class 001 The Memories Antiques Trophy

Open class for any performer, grade 8 or above. Any instrument.

Time limit 12 mins.

EXHIBITION CLASSES FOR ALL PERFORMERS
Greenmount Primary School, Saturday 14th March 2026

Class E2026 Trophy TBA

Exhibition classes are created every year to include categories of instruments that are not accommodated for elsewhere (eg. Percussion). Please see our online entry website for details of how to enter, and please contact us via email to discuss your requirements.



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