



Saffron Walden Music Festival

**Competition and celebration
of musical performance
for local young people**

**Sunday 20 November and
Saturday 26 November 2022**

Brass, Classical Guitar, Piano, Strings, Voice and Woodwind
plus new for our 10th event – Percussion and Jazz

For more information and entry forms go to
www.swchs.net and search for
'Saffron Walden Music Festival' or scan the code below



Rotary 
in Saffron Walden

Saffron Walden Music Festival

Sunday 20th and Saturday 26th November 2022

2022 will see the 10th Saffron Walden Music Festival and we are celebrating with some amazing new opportunities for young musicians in the area.

First, we are delighted to be able to include Percussion (including drum kit) for the first time as we look for the Festival to evolve and expand. This will be in addition to our current Strings, Woodwind, Voice, Piano, Guitar and Brass Sections.

We are also thrilled to announce the introduction of our brand-new Jazz Section. This will run separately in its own slot with performers able to demonstrate their improvisation skills, accompanied by a live jazz trio .

Also, as it is our 10th Festival, any ensembles entering, in any section, may now have up to 10 performers!

Our core aim remains to provide a performance platform for young musicians, not just those who aspire to careers in music but also those who just love playing or singing and will go on to have their lives enriched by music.

How does it work?

Hosted by Saffron Walden County High School and centred around Saffron Hall, the Saffron Walden Music Festival is open to young musicians of all standards, from pre-Grade 1 to post-Grade 8.

It has an element of competition, in the style of the BBC “Young Musician”. Certificates, medals and trophies are awarded, along with the splendid Festival Cup for the winner, but it is much more than this: it is a joyful celebration of live performance. All participants receive individual written feedback on their performance from our panel of specialist adjudicators.

The instrumental and vocal sections are divided into classes, which means that musicians of a similar standard will be grouped together for their performances. Feedback is given by the adjudicator at the end of each class, both individually and to the class as a whole. Musicians and their parents are encouraged to stay for the whole section to provide a supportive audience: there is also much to learn from watching others perform. The adjudicators decide the overall best performance in each section and these seven musicians are invited to compete in the Finale Concert for the Saffron Walden Music Festival Cup.

How does it work? - Jazz

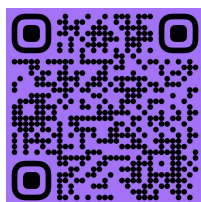
The Jazz Section will run on similar lines but performers on all instruments will play in three broad categories, according to experience, with a trio (piano, drum kit and bass) to support them. Unlike other Festival Sections, all performances will include elements of improvisation. Performers are required to attend the whole session, which will conclude with a short workshop with the adjudicator, Kate Williams. The overall Jazz winner will also be asked to perform in the Finale Concert where they will be presented with the Saffron Walden Music Festival Jazz Trophy.

Finale Concert

The Festival culminates in the Finale Concert which will be held in Saffron Hall at 6pm on Saturday 26th November. In addition to the competition for the Festival Cup, we will celebrate other notable performances from the two days of the Festival, including the winner of the Jazz Trophy. The Finale Concert is free and open to all. We would like to thank Rotary in Saffron Walden for their continued sponsorship to support the Saffron Walden Music Festival. Their contribution helps to make the Festival financially accessible to all. Their continued involvement also provides an amazing additional opportunity for our highest placed instrumental finalist and vocalist to represent the Saffron Walden Music Festival at the regional heats of the Rotary Young Musician Competition, held in the spring.

We are also extremely grateful to Saffron Walden County High School for hosting this event and allowing us access to the excellent facilities of Saffron Hall.

As we look to broaden the reach of the Festival we offer bursaries, to assist with the cost of entry, to students in financial need. For more details about this, or any other aspect of the festival, please visit the website.



[Saffron Walden County High School - Saffron Walden Music Festival \(swchs.net\)](http://swchs.net)

Saffron Walden County High School

The Saffron Walden Music Festival has had an amazing journey since its first event in 2012. From small beginnings in the modest surroundings of the music block with a single adjudicator to seven sections plus a parallel Jazz event and celebratory concerts in Saffron Hall, it has been a joyful adventure and Saffron Walden County High School has been proud to host this wonderful festival of live performance for local young musicians. Playing music nurtures many desirable attributes such as commitment, resilience and determination but it also requires empathy, sensitivity and the ability to communicate. We are fortunate to have excellent opportunities for young musicians in the local area. Here in the town, Saffron Walden County High School has its own Music Academy and hosts the Saffron Centre for Young Musicians on Saturdays. There are numerous other schools, music hubs, societies and ensembles across Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire working hard to nurture, train and provide performance opportunities for their young people. We look forward to them joining us for the 2022 Saffron Walden Music Festival and hope that everyone has a fantastic experience which will take them a step further on their musical journey.

Polly Lankester
Headteacher, Saffron Walden County High School

Saffron Walden Music Festival Committee

Karen Semken
Amy Morrow

Hilary Curtis
Caroline Law

Amanda Shaw
Sophie Stafford

Jacquie Lucas
Kate Llewellyn

Sunday, 20th November - morning

Voice

Adjudicator: Jennifer Witton



Winner of the GSMD Gold Medal, Jennifer Witton studied at Guildhall Opera School. She won first prize at the inaugural 'Opera: By Voice Alone' competition and is the recipient of the ROSL Roderick Lakin Award.

Jennifer has worked extensively at Glyndebourne in various roles and has also worked for the Royal Opera House, English National Opera, Opera North and Wexford Festival Opera. A Britten-Pears Young Artist, Jennifer has performed at the Barbican Hall, Cadogan Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the Oxford Lieder Festival. She has worked with conductors such as Marin Alsop, John Wilson and Martyn Brabbins and has given recitals alongside pianists Simon Lepper, Iain Burnside and Graham Johnson.

Jennifer also has a passion for theatre and debuted with the Royal Shakespeare Company performing Juno in *The Tempest* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Barbican Theatre, London. She later toured with a production of "Like Madness is the Glory of Life" performing poetry, prose and Shakespearean song. She has also played the part of the Narrator in "La boîte à joujoux" (The Toy Box), a ballet score by Debussy touring various venues around the UK.

Jennifer's discography includes "Voices of London" alongside pianist Gavin Roberts and 'Music and Speeches' with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Voice Section Classes

Class	Description
Age 11 and under	Song from a dramatic context - Opera, Operetta, Musical Theatre and Film (Time limit 3 minutes)
Age 11 and under	Art Song in any language or Early and Sacred Song (Time limit 3 minutes)
Age 12 to 14	Song from a dramatic context - Opera, Operetta, Musical Theatre and Film (Time limit 4 minutes)
Age 12 to 14	Art Song in any language or Early and Sacred Song (Time limit 4 minutes)
Age 15 to 16	Song from a dramatic context - Opera, Operetta, Musical Theatre and Film (Time limit 6 minutes)
Age 15 to 16	Art Song in any language or Early and Sacred Song (Time limit 6 minutes)
Age 17 to 18	Song from a dramatic context - Opera, Operetta, Musical Theatre and Film (Time limit 6 minutes)
Age 17 to 18	Art Song in any language or Early and Sacred Song (Time limit 6 minutes)
Challenge Cup	Any song of Grade 7 to 8 standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Ensemble	Any vocal group with up to 10 members (Time limit 6 minutes)



Sunday, 20th November - morning

Percussion

Adjudicator: Daniella Ganeva

Daniella's nomadic upbringing is in no small part responsible for her colourful personal and musical journey. Born in Communist Bulgaria, yet spending her childhood in Cuba, Daniella has made her home in the UK since 1990. Her studies were based upon the Russian School of Music system and were influenced by Eastern European traditions.



Initially trained as an orchestral percussionist, Daniella's interests quickly diverted towards a career predominantly centred on solo percussion and chamber music. From a young age, she was the recipient of multiple performance awards (including the Ian Fleming Trust, YCAT, BBC Young Musician and Park Lane Group Music Trust). Throughout her career, Daniella has regularly commissioned new works for solo percussion, giving world premieres on stages such as the South Bank Centre, Royal Opera House, King's Place and numerous others dotted around the world.

Drawn towards contextual art encompassing movement, narration, multimedia and lighting design, Daniella's passion for percussion and her trademark performing style immediately connects with audiences, engaging them with unique performances often described as "mesmerising". Daniella has performed in more than 30 countries and has toured the USA, Latin America, Central and Northern Europe. She is also much in demand as a recording artist.

Daniella has been recognised as one of the most reputable and influential marimba soloists of our time and was an elected member of the International Percussive Arts Society Keyboard and International committees for over a decade. For many years she has also served as the elected President of the Percussive Arts Society (UK and Ireland). Greatly regarded as an educator and motivator, Daniella is continuously sharing her knowledge and wealth of experience with young and aspiring percussionists. She has given countless masterclasses and directed many percussion events and festivals in the UK and abroad. In 2009, Daniella designed the Advanced Solo Marimba postgraduate course for RCM and she is a visiting professor for RWCMD and Universities in Europe and the USA.

Percussion Section Classes

Class	Description
Percussion Grade 3 standard	To perform any piece up to and including Grade 3 or equivalent standard (Time limit 3 minutes)
Percussion Grade 4 to 6 standard	To perform any piece Grade 4 to 6 or equivalent standard (Time limit 4 minutes)
Kit Grade 3 standard	To perform any piece up to and including Grade 3 or equivalent standard (Time limit 3 minutes)
Kit Grade 4 to 6 standard	To perform any piece Grade 4 to 6 or equivalent standard (Time limit 4 minutes)
Percussion/Kit Challenge Cup	To perform any piece Grade 7 and above or equivalent standard (Time limit 5 minutes)
Ensemble	Any Percussion group with up to 10 members (Time limit 6 minutes)



Sunday, 20th November - afternoon Strings

Adjudicator: Hazel Ross



Hazel studied at the Royal Northern College of Music with Maciej Rakowski and Benedict Holland. She has since built an extensive and diverse portfolio which takes her all over the world. Hazel is in demand as both a soloist in her own right and as a session musician and leader, working across all genres of music. She was delighted to be chosen as a nominee and finalist for the Future Classic Women Awards 2020.

Hazel plays with UK orchestras and in the West End and has also written several independent projects which have led her to tour internationally including her solo show “Tango Tzigane” and violin duo “Elektra”. Hazel wrote both shows to break down barriers in classical music and reach audiences of all tastes, ages and backgrounds.

Passionate about music education and leveraging the power of music for social change, Hazel was selected as a UK representative of the Global Leaders Program 2020 and her work in this field has been recognised in two articles published this year for the World Ensemble.

As well as ongoing work with Curanilahue, Chile, this includes her initiative to empower local teachers around the world to deliver an exceptional music education within their own community through a remote creative teacher development course.

Hazel is currently Head of Instrumental Music and Performances at Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks and combines her playing and teaching with her work as an ABRSM examiner.

Strings Section Classes

Class	Description
Pre-Grade 1 standard	To perform one piece that is pre-Grade 1 standard (Time limit 2 minutes)
Grade 1 to 2 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 1 to 2 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 3 minutes)
Grade 3 to 4 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 3 to 4 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 4 minutes)
Grade 5 to 6 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 5 to 6 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Challenge Cup	To perform one piece from any Grade 7 to 8 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Baroque/Classical	To perform one piece from the Baroque or Classical period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Romantic/Modern	To perform one piece from the Romantic or Modern period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Ensemble	Any String group with up to 10 members (Time limit 6 minutes)



Sunday, 20th November - afternoon

Guitar

Adjudicator: Gary Ryan



The British guitarist Gary Ryan made his London recital debut for the Park Lane Group Young Artists Series on London's South Bank in 1994 and has since pursued a highly varied career as a performer, composer and teacher.

He studied as a junior from the age of eight at the Guildhall School of Music, later winning a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music in 1987. In 1991 he graduated with first class honours, having gained many awards including the Julian Bream Prize and the John Mundy String Prize. He was made an Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 1997.

In 2013 he became the first guitarist since John Williams in 1983 to be awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Music, where he has been Assistant Head of Strings since 2009.

In 2016 Gary Ryan was invited by John Williams to form *6 Hands*, a collaborative guitar trio with the jazz guitarist John Etheridge which has toured the UK extensively.

Guitar Section Classes

Class	Description
Pre-Grade 1 standard	To perform one piece that is pre-Grade 1 standard (Time limit 2 minutes)
Grade 1 to 2 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 1 to 2 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 3 minutes)
Grade 3 to 4 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 3 to 4 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 4 minutes)
Grade 5 to 6 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 5 to 6 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Challenge Cup	To perform one piece from any Grade 7 to 8 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Baroque/Classical	To perform one piece from the Baroque or Classical period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Romantic/Modern	To perform one piece from the Romantic or Modern period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Ensemble	Any Guitar group with up to 10 members (Time limit 6 minutes)



Sunday, 20th November - evening

Jazz

Adjudicator: Kate Williams



Jazz pianist and composer Kate Williams has gained a reputation as both a distinctive writer and performer, summed up by one critic as "crisp, incisive and totally at one with the rhythmic ebb and flow" and having "a quality rare among jazz composers: a musical vocabulary that's all her own."

She has released several CDs, each one to critical acclaim. These include two with her septet: *Made Up* and *Atlas and Vulcana* and *Smoke And Mirrors* with tenor saxophone legend, the late Bobby Wellins.

In 2016 she formed Four Plus Three, an ensemble featuring her jazz piano trio with string quartet. The style of writing and arranging exploits the varied sound palette of both string quartet and jazz trio, creating contrasts between the improvised and the notated, and between sustained textures and strong grooves. The following year, they performed at the 606 Jazz Club in Chelsea with special guest John Williams, Kate's father, on guitar. John also features on Kate's album with vocalist Georgia Mancio: *Finding Home: Kate Williams' Four Plus Three Meets Georgia Mancio*. It won album of the year at the 2020 Parliamentary Jazz Awards.

Kate is also an experienced jazz educator and in 2021 received the *Developing Your Creative Practice* grant from Arts Council England for her *Composer Development: Exploring Sights, Sounds & Movement*. She is currently teaching at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and Middlesex University.

Jazz Classes

All performances must contain an element of improvisation

Class	Description
Grade 3 standard	To perform any piece up to and including Grade 3 or equivalent standard (Time limit 5 minutes)
Grade 4 to 5 standard	To perform any piece Grade 4 to 5 or equivalent standard (Time limit 5 minutes)
Grade 6 standard and above	To perform any piece Grade 6 and above or equivalent standard (Time limit 8 minutes)



Saturday, 26th November - morning

Piano

Adjudicator: Jennifer Walsh

Jennifer Walsh (née Hughes) is a collaborative pianist. Performing across the UK and internationally, she has given recitals at venues including Wigmore Hall, Sala Verdi Milano, Oslo Opera House, Moscow's Rachmaninov Hall and Xinghai Conservatory, China. Jennifer has featured several times on BBC Radio 3, notably the In Tune programme and BBC Proms Plus and is in the process of recording a series of discs profiling British cello and piano repertoire. Her first two discs *Ireland, Delius & Bax: Cello Sonatas* and *British Cello Works* - recorded with leading cellist Lionel Handy - have been released by Lyrita to critical acclaim. A third disc, comprising works of Ethel Smyth, Britten & Delius, is due for release in 2022.



Jennifer was a DfES scholar at Wells Cathedral School, studying under Hilary Coates, and later graduated from the Royal College of Music, studying under John Blakely and Roger Vignoles. During this period she was awarded several prizes for accompaniment, including the Royal Over-Seas League Accompanist Prize.

Jennifer served for several years on the faculty of the Royal College of Music as staff pianist and duo coach, where she specialised in coaching repertoire for piano and strings. She has collaborated with some of the world's most talented young performers, helping them achieve prize-winning performances at international competitions. She has worked as class pianist for Maxim Vengerov in delivering his masterclass series for young violinists at the Royal College, as well as serving on the faculty of Aldeburgh Young Musicians, New Virtuosi International (UK), Festival Quattro Corde (Italy) and Voksenåsen Summer Academy (Norway).

Jennifer currently teaches at The Perse School, Cambridge.

Piano Section Classes

Class	Description
Pre-Grade 1 standard	To perform one piece that is pre-Grade 1 standard (Time limit 2 minutes)
Grade 1 to 2 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 1 to 2 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 3 minutes)
Grade 3 to 4 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 3 to 4 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 4 minutes)
Grade 5 to 6 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 5 to 6 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Challenge Cup	To perform one piece from any Grade 7 to 8 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Baroque/Classical	To perform one piece from the Baroque or Classical period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Romantic/Modern	To perform one piece from the Romantic or Modern period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Duo	To perform one duet of any style (Time limit 6 minutes)



Saturday, 26th November - afternoon

Woodwind

Adjudicator: Joy Farrall



Joy Farrall holds the position of Principal Clarinet with the Britten Sinfonia. She has freelanced with most of the UK's major orchestras and chamber orchestras and as a chamber musician she has appeared at music societies and festivals all over Britain, Europe, America and Australia. Joy is a founder member of the Haffner Wind Ensemble with whom she has broadcast, recorded and toured widely.

Recordings include the Strauss Duet Concertino for EMI, Mozart discs for the Classic FM label, Italian Bel Canto Concertos for ASV. and chamber works for Chandos and Hyperion.

Joy has been Professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama since 1985 and in September 2010 took the post of Senior Tutor of chamber music for the Wind Brass and Percussion department.

In addition to her Professorial duties at the Guildhall, Joy is also Head of Woodwind at the Purcell School for Young Musicians. Joy became a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2014 and a Fellow of the Guildhall School in 2016.

Woodwind Section Classes

Class	Description
Pre-Grade 1 standard	To perform one piece that is pre-Grade 1 standard (Time limit 2 minutes)
Grade 1 to 2 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 1 to 2 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 3 minutes)
Grade 3 to 4 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 3 to 4 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 4 minutes)
Grade 5 to 6 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 5 to 6 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Challenge Cup	To perform one piece from any Grade 7 to 8 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Baroque/Classical	To perform one piece from the Baroque or Classical period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Romantic/Modern	To perform one piece from the Romantic or Modern period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Ensemble	Any Woodwind group with up to 10 members (Time limit 6 minutes)



Saturday, 26th November - afternoon

Brass

Adjudicator: Helen Vollam



Helen Vollam is Principal Trombone of the [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#) and is also a member of the [Chamber Orchestra of Europe](#) and Bones Apart Trombone Quartet. She enjoys a busy and varied career combining orchestral playing, chamber music, solo work and teaching. Helen was appointed Principal Trombone of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in 2004 and is the first woman to be appointed Principal Trombone of a London orchestra. With the BBCSO she performs in their Barbican concert season, studio concerts, recordings and tours, as well as performing around a dozen concerts at the BBC Proms each year, including the legendary “Last Night of the Proms”, which is broadcast worldwide.

Helen went to Saffron Walden County High School and later studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Eric Crees and Simon Wills. She was Principal Trombone of the European Union Youth Orchestra and won the Bronze Medal in the 1995 Shell/LSO Music Scholarship competition. Since graduating, she has performed with most of the UK’s orchestras and ensembles and has toured throughout Europe, South America, United States, Japan, China and Russia. In 2003 she won the Woodwind & Brass Award and Philip Jones Memorial Prize in the final of the Royal Over-Seas League Music Competition. She was the first ever trombone player to reach the competition’s final.

She has given masterclasses and acted as an external examiner at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Academy of Music, Royal College of Music, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Royal Northern College of Music, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Wells Cathedral School and the Purcell School. She was on the faculty for the 2017 Dublin Brass Week and has adjudicated for BBC Young Musician, Royal Over-Seas League, BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Award, British Trombone Society, Swisstone, International Trombone Association and Ian Bousfield International Solo Competitions.

Helen has played on many film soundtrack recordings, including, amongst others, *Star Wars: The Attack of the Clones*, three *Harry Potter* films, and *No Time To Die*. An accomplished arranger, she has published many of her trombone ensemble arrangements. In 2017 she was the recipient of the British Trombone Society’s Sheila Tracy Award for “significant contribution to her field”. She is Visiting Artist in Trombone at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

In 2019 Helen gave the world premiere of Gavin Higgins’ new Trombone Concerto ‘*Book of Miracles*’, written specially for her, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican in London. In December 2019 the ‘*Book of Miracles*’ won Higgins an Ivors Award for Best Orchestral Composition.

Brass Section Classes

Class	Description
Pre-Grade 1 standard	To perform one piece that is pre-Grade 1 standard (Time limit 2 minutes)
Grade 1 to 2 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 1 to 2 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 3 minutes)
Grade 3 to 4 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 3 to 4 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 4 minutes)
Grade 5 to 6 standard	To perform one piece from any Grade 5 to 6 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Challenge Cup	To perform one piece from any Grade 7 to 8 syllabus or a piece of an equivalent standard (Time limit 6 minutes)
Baroque/Classical	To perform one piece from the Baroque or Classical period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Romantic/Modern	To perform one piece from the Romantic or Modern period (Time limit 6 minutes)
Ensemble	Any Brass group with up to 10 members (Time limit 6 minutes)



Finale Concert

Saturday 26th November - 6pm in Saffron Hall - everyone welcome!

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or visit our Saffron Walden Music Festival Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=saffron%20walden%20music%20festival>

