

RTMF Children's Competitions 2023 - Saturday 15th July 9am

ROTHBURY TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS

Songs | Tunes | Dialect Poetry
Solos | Duets | Choirs | Ensembles

Saturday July 15th 9am

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH | ROTHBURY

For details visit www.tinyurl.com/KidsCompsRTMF



Rothbury Traditional Music Festival has a long history of encouraging new and emerging talent and every year runs informal competitions for young musicians, vocalists and dialect poets.

We are passionate about keeping traditional music alive and the **children's competitions** are open to all children aged 4-13, wherever you live and whatever your standard of playing.

They are free to enter and you can sign up on the day itself.

If you fancy joining in, come along to the United Reformed Church in the middle of Rothbury, behind the outdoor stage, **between 9 and 9:30am on Saturday morning to sign up** and warm up your instrument or voice (tinyurl.com/rtmfkidscompslocation).

The **competitions will start at 9:45** - with younger age groups performing first followed by the older groups - and run through to around 12:30 when the pipe band parade kicks off the outdoor performances in the village.

There will be a **piano available** in the venue for accompanists or performers to use.

Summary of Competition Categories

See later in the document for more detail on each category and guidelines for entry.

Solo Singing

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

Solo Instrument

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

Duet/Group Performance (Vocal, Instrumental, Any Combination Thereof)

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

School Choirs

First Schools (Reception to 4)

Middle (& usually Primary) Schools (Years 5 to 8)

Dialect Poetry

Ages 4-13

Children can enter more than one category. Young players and vocalists aged 14 and above are encouraged to enter the novice categories of the adult competitions where they will receive a very warm welcome.

Please contact us at rothburymusicfest@gmail.com (marking your email FAO of Aifionn) if you would like to discuss which category your entry would be most appropriate for or if you have any other queries about the children's competitions at Rothbury Traditional Music Festival.

Step by Step Guide to Entering the Competitions

Step 1 - Choose a Performance Piece

Choose a piece of traditional music or dialect poetry to perform - **your performance should be no more than 3 minutes long**. You may already be learning a suitable piece with your music teacher or you could ask for their help in choosing a piece that suits you and your sound. Consider getting together with a friend or two and entering as a duet or group performance as well.

Remember to read the detailed competition guidelines below before making your choice!

Step 2 - Practise, Practise, Practise

With your teacher/tutor/parent's help (or completely on your own!), learn and practise singing/playing/performing the piece until you can perform it confidently in front of a friendly audience.

Step 3 - Come to Rothbury on Saturday 15th July 2023

Turn up bright and early with your family, friends and possibly music teacher at **9am on Saturday 15th July at the United Reformed Church in Rothbury** (tinyurl.com/rtmfkidscompslocation) **to sign up** for the competition category or categories you would like to enter. You will need a parent/carer/teacher with you to sign you up. Children are expected to have a responsible adult with them in the venue at all times.

You are welcome to stick around after sign-up to use the venue to tune up your instrument or voice before **the competitions start at 9:45**. All the younger age groups perform first and then all the older age groups. As we operate a 'sign up on the day policy' it is impossible to know in advance the exact start time for each category so we ask that performers and their fans as far as possible stay in the venue for all of their age group's performances and categories. No movement will be allowed in and out of the performance room during performances themselves but we will have regular breaks in between categories and there is a comfortable foyer at the venue with glass-walled views onto the performance area.

Step 4 - Perform!

For each category in each age group, performers will take the stage in the order they signed up and will perform in front of an experienced judge and an audience of other performers, their friends/families and potentially other festival-goers too as the competitions are open to all to watch. Remember the **maximum performance length is 3 minutes** and the judge will love it if you introduce yourself first and name the tune/song/poem you will be playing/singing/reciting for them. **Don't forget to smile and look like you're having fun - it makes the music or poem sound even better!**

Step 5 - Judging Process & Prizes

Our experienced judges will watch all the performances, provide written and verbal feedback for every performer and announce the winners on the day. All entrants will receive a reward for entering and there are additional prizes/trophies and medals for winners and placed performers. There may be discretionary additional trophies awarded to the most promising middle school aged performer (9-13) and the best locals.

Competition Categories & Detailed Guidelines

Children are welcome to enter more than one category of the competitions and may perform in more than one duet or group. They may not, however, enter more than one performance into any one solo category.

Solo Singing

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

- *May be unaccompanied or accompanied by an adult or child aged 14+ on any instrument*
- *Where the accompanist is aged 13 or under then the entry would count as a duet/group performance, not a solo*
- *Piano available at venue.*
- *The competition organisers reserve the right to amalgamate the Solo Singing and Solo Instrument categories in either or both age groups if there are low numbers of entrants.*

Solo Instrument

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

- *May be unaccompanied or accompanied by an adult or child aged 14+ on any instrument.*
- *Where an accompanist is aged 13 or under then the entry would count as a duet/group performance, not a solo*
- *Piano available at venue.*
- *The competition organisers reserve the right to amalgamate the Solo Singing and Solo Instrument categories in either or both age groups if there are low numbers of entrants.*

Duet/Group Performance (Vocal, Instrumental, Any Combination Thereof)

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

- *As a general principle, the age of the oldest member determines the entry category but the final decision is at the competition organisers' discretion - please discuss this issue with the organisers when signing up and before the competitions start*
- *Piano available at venue.*

School Choirs

First Schools (Reception to 4)

Middle (& Primary) Schools (Years 5 to 8)

- *Primary school choirs (school years Reception to 6) are also very welcome to enter and are likely to compete in the Middle School category - though this will be at the discretion of the competition organisers on the day - please discuss with the competition organisers during sign up if this issue applies or email rothburymusicfest@gmail.com in advance and mark FAO Aifionn*
- *In the event that very few choirs enter the competition, and at the competition organisers' discretion, school choirs may instead be entered into the Group Performance category.*

Dialect Poetry

Ages 4-13

- *Performers may recite their own work or that of another poet - but please state which on the entry form and prior to performance.*

Competition Category Running Order Starting 9:45

Age 4-8 Solo singing

Age 4-8 Solo instrument

Age 4-8 Duet or group

First school choirs

Dialect Poetry (Age 4-13)

Break

Age 9-13 Solo singing

Age 9-13 Solo instrument

Age 9-13 Duet or group

Middle School Choirs

All performances should be no longer than 3 minutes!

As we operate a 'sign up on the day policy' it is impossible to know in advance the exact start time for each category so we ask that performers sign up between 9am and 9:30 at the United Reformed Church and that they and their fans as far as possible stay in the venue for all of their age group's performances and categories. At the end of the sign up period we should have a rough idea of what time the older age group categories will start their competitions. We encourage performers and their families to watch as many of the competitions as possible and cheer each other on.

Please keep an eye on the festival facebook and website in the next few months for further resources and guidance.