

RTMF Children's Competitions 2022 - Saturday 16th July 9am

Rothbury Traditional Music Festival has a long tradition 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 and dialect poetry 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 behind the outdoor stage in the middle of Rothbury, **between 9 and 9:30am on Saturday morning to sign up** and warm up your instrument or voice.

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 end of document for detailed 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 (& Primary) Schools (Reception to Year 4)

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

Dialect Poetry

Ages 4-13

Children may 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.

Keep an eye on the festival's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/musicfestival.rothbury) and website (www.rothburymusicfestival.co.uk) in the next few weeks for further resources, guidance and inspiration.

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!

There is a library of free traditional music here:

<https://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk/>

And useful Northumbrian dialect poetry inspiration here:

<https://northumbrian-words.com/glossary-of-northumbrian-dialect-words/>

<https://northumbrian-words.com/category/poems-songs/>

<https://poetryarchive.org/poem/wund-wetter-excerpt/>

For further poetry inspiration try looking up books of poems by local Coquetdale authors or search for 'Northumbrian dialect poetry' in YouTube to get an idea how it should sound.

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 16th July 2022 and Sign Up

Turn up in Rothbury bright and early on **Saturday 16th July** and bring your family, friends and maybe your music teacher too! **Come to the United Reformed Church at 9am to sign up** for the competition category or categories you would like to enter. You will need a parent/carer/teacher with you and you are welcome to stick around and use the venue to tune up your instrument or voice.

The competitions themselves will **start at 9:45** with all the younger age categories performing first followed by 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 stay in the venue for all of their age group's performances and categories. No movement will be allowed in and out of the 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 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 you will be playing/singing 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 certificate and there are prizes/trophies and medals in addition for winners and placed performers. There are additional special trophies awarded to the most promising middle-school-aged performer (9-13) and the best locals (see attached map for definition of 'local'). The judge's decisions are final.

Competition Categories & Guidelines

- Children are welcome to enter more than one category of the competitions.
- Children may perform in more than one duet or group.
- Children may not enter more than one performance in any one solo category.
- **Performances should be a maximum of 3 minutes long.**
- No audience movement in and out of the room during performances.
- The judge's decisions are final!

Solo Singing

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

- *May be accompanied by someone aged 14+ on any instrument, or by backing track.*
- *Where the accompanist is aged 13 or under then the entry would count as a duet.*
- *Piano available at venue.*
- *The organisers reserve the right to amalgamate the Solo Singing and Solo Instrument categories in either or both age groups if there are low entrant numbers.*
- **Performance should be no more than 3 minutes long**

Solo Instrument

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

- *May be accompanied by someone aged 14+ on any instrument, or by backing track.*
- *Where the accompanist is aged 13 or under then the entry would count as a duet.*
- *Piano available at venue.*
- *The organisers reserve the right to amalgamate the Solo Singing and Solo Instrument categories in either or both age groups if there are low entrant numbers.*
- **Performance should be no more than 3 minutes long**

School Choirs

First (or Primary) Schools (Reception to 4)

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

- *Primary school choirs (school years Reception to 6) are 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.*
- *In the event of too few entries, school choirs may instead be entered into the Age 4-8 and Age 9-13 Group Performance categories – at the organisers' discretion.*
- **Performance should be no more than 3 minutes long.**

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

Ages 4-8

Ages 9-13

- *Age of oldest member determines entry category.*
- *Piano available at venue.*
- **Performance should be no more than 3 minutes long.**

Northumbrian Dialect Poetry

Ages 4-13

- *Performers may recite their own work or that of another poet - but please state which.*
- **Performance should be no more than 3 minutes long**

Competition Running Order Starting 9:45 in the United Reformed Church, Rothbury

Age 4-8 Solo singing

Age 4-8 Solo instrument

Age 4-8 Duet or group

First school choirs

Dialect Poetry (Age 4-13)

Winners announcement

Break

Age 9-13 Solo singing

Age 9-13 Solo instrument

Age 9-13 Duet or group

Middle school Choirs

Winners announcement

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 better 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 to cheer each other on.**