

INFORMATION PACK

2023-24

**Rotary** **YOUNG**  
**MUSICIAN** **COMPETITION**



[ROTARYGBI.ORG](https://rotarygbi.org)

Hosted by

**Rotary**  
Great Britain & Ireland



# Information Pack for 2023 – 2024

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## Introduction

The Rotary Young Musician Competition is organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GB&I).

There are four stages to the competition, each designed to support and encourage the development of musical talent. Some stages may have more than one round.

The competition is open to all young instrumentalists and vocalists irrespective of their levels, grades and styles including modern genres.

## Aims and Objectives

The competition aims to offer young people:

- the experience of performing on a public stage
- an opportunity to showcase their musical talent
- impartial feedback and assessment of their performance by experienced adjudicators

## Who can take part?

The competition is open to all young people up to the age of 17 on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. They may be an individual or from any group or community organisation including schools and colleges, home educated, other young peoples' community organisations, for example, community RotaKids, community Interact, Scout Groups, Girl Guides, etc. It should be noted that some entrants may be 18 at the time of some or all stages of the competition i.e. a competitor who is 17 on 31<sup>st</sup> August but turns 18 on 1<sup>st</sup> September is allowed to enter.

This competition is for amateur musicians. An amateur is considered to be a person whose main source of income is not made from musical performances, although there may be occasions when the receipt of occasional out of pocket expenses or prizes may be received. It is not open to full time students of music or performing arts, studying for a qualification above A Level or equivalent standard.

The qualifying criteria of all entrants will be checked rigorously; any entrant who does not meet the above conditions will not be allowed to take part.

Entrants should enter the competition organised by the local Rotary club through their respective group or community organisation or individually, as detailed above.

Local Rotary clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org).

Entrants may participate in a competition held by a Rotary club outside of their geographical boundary but may compete in only one club event.

There are two categories in the competition:

- solo instrumental
- solo vocal

## The Four Stages of the Competition

Entrants need to complete an entry form, available from their local Rotary club and submit it to the local organiser, by the date and time specified by them.

### Local Heats

These are organised by local Rotary clubs and are generally between September and December. The winners of each category are entered into a Rotary district competition.

Local Rotary clubs can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org).

### District Finals

These are organised by each Rotary district for the winners of the local heats for each category. They are generally completed by mid-February. In the case of a high number of entrants, it may be necessary to hold preliminary rounds prior to a District Final. Any preliminary rounds must be completed within the same guidelines. The winners of each category in the District Finals are then entered into the Cluster Final.

### Cluster Finals

The Cluster Finals are organised by several Rotary districts together and are generally completed by end March. The winners of each category in the Cluster Finals are then entered into the National Final.

Clubs sponsoring competitors are responsible for assisting competitors with travel costs to the Cluster Final venue.

### National Final

The National Final is organised by Rotary GB&I and only the winning musician per category is entered by each of the Clusters.

The National Final will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024 at Stoller Hall, Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, M3 1SB. <https://chethamsschoolofmusic.com/>.

Rotary GB&I does not fund expenses of the Cluster winners to attend the National Final. Sponsoring clubs are responsible in the first instance.

The dates for local heats, district and cluster finals competitions will be determined locally. Entrants should check dates with their local Rotary club in the first instance. Any entries submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

## Competition Guidelines

### Task

This is a competition at which competitors are judged within the context of a live performance. Competitors perform a work or selection of works of their own choice within a time not exceeding 13 minutes.

Competitors may perform the same pieces/songs in each and/or subsequent stages of the competition.

Competitors may perform from memory or from music at any stage. In the case of vocal candidates, it should be remembered that part of the assessment of the performance concerns communication with the audience and performing from a copy of music may prevent candidates from fully achieving this criterion. Vocalists may not use any form of amplification.

Competitors should be accompanied by a single instrument in sympathy with the performance; vocalists may accompany themselves. In the case of vocal, guitar and percussion candidates only, backing tracks are permissible. However, the backing track must not contain the part being performed by the competitor and if it does the adjudicators will not mark such part/s of the performances. Backing tracks are solely the responsibility of the

competitor who must provide the performing medium (audio player, amplifier etc) and will be permitted to have someone to operate the equipment. This will not be the responsibility of the organiser.

There may be occasions when the context of a performance does not require an accompaniment e.g. in traditional folksongs or music written expressly for solo instrumental performance such as J. S. Bach's 'Cello' Suites or Debussy's 'Syrinx' for solo flute. In such cases, candidates must not 'manufacture' an accompaniment never intended by the composer.

An acoustic piano will be provided for competitors and accompanists at all stages of the competition. The organisers will have established if a grand or upright is most suitable and appropriate for the particular venue. **No other instrument will be provided.** Competitors must provide their own accompanists; no 'official accompanist' will be provided.

It should be noted that competitors offering solo piano do not require an accompaniment and should not have any other instrument playing. This would make the performing ensemble a duo, trio, quartet etc. and would not satisfy the competition criteria of 'solo instrumental performance'.

For any electrical instrument being played the competitor must present an up-to-date Portable Appliance Tested (PAT) certificate to the organiser on the day of the competition. Failure to do so will disqualify the competitor from the competition.

### Adjudicators

The adjudicators will be people with appropriate skills appointed by the organisers at the club, district and cluster levels and will not be Rotarians.

At the National level the adjudicators will be appointed by Rotary GB&I and will also not be Rotarians.

### Judging Criteria

The adjudicators will consider:

- Melodic and rhythmic accuracy
- Intonation
- Tempo and flow
- Tone
- Mood and character
- The appropriateness of the programme
- The holistic view of the performance on the day

The adjudicators will not enter any discussion or correspondence regarding their decision; the decision of the adjudicators will be final and not subject to any appeal.

### Recognition

At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a certificate of participation.

After the adjudicators have determined the result of the competition, they will comment on their observations before announcing the results.

### How to enter

To enter a local heat, contact your local Rotary club which can be found by using the club finder facility in the top left-hand corner of the Home Page of the Rotary GB&I website [www.rotarygbi.org](http://www.rotarygbi.org). In case of difficulty, contact the Rotary Young Musician team by emailing [young-musician@rotarygbi.org](mailto:young-musician@rotarygbi.org) for assistance.

Entrants are required to complete an entry form and submit it along with their photographs, to the stage organiser by the time specified.

## Competition Procedure

### Arrival

Before each competition, the organiser will conduct a ballot to determine the order in which each competitor performs. The order of performance will be notified to competitors either before or at the competition. In unforeseen circumstances, the organisers reserve the right to make adjustments on the day if the need arises.

Three copies of the selected pieces of music must be presented at the registration desk on the day of the competition. Copies should be in a folder and clearly marked with the competitor's name. Competitors failing to do so will be adjudicated but the assessment may be adjusted accordingly. It should be noted that competitors playing guitar must submit copies in staff notation: tablature is not an acceptable alternative, although competitors may play from tablature. Photocopying facilities will not be available at the competition venue.

Photocopies of music published as individual pieces will not be permitted unless competitors can provide written permission from the publishers. Competitors who are part of a school, music or other club should check if photocopying is covered by that club's PRS Licence.

Photocopied copies of music not published as individual pieces but, in an anthology, will be accepted provided the competitor has a copy of the original publication. All photocopies will be retained and destroyed by the organiser immediately after the event.

Cuts to competitors' parts are not permitted. If there are any variations to or extemporisation in the competitors' parts, they must be clearly marked in the copies for the adjudicators.

Cuts to the accompaniment should be avoided. However, cuts are permissible to edit long introductions or long passages in the accompaniment where the competitor is not involved. Any cuts to the music must be clearly marked in the copies for the adjudicators.

### Performance

A master of ceremonies will invite each competitor to perform in order of the ballot.

Competitors must introduce their own programme.

The selection of music should reflect contrasting styles which may be differing movements of the same composition.

It is recommended that performers include some variety of style and musical period in their choice of music. The balance of the programme will be taken into consideration by the adjudicators in the event of a tie.

In the instrumental category, except for percussion, competitors should play only one type of instrument. Percussionists may combine tuned and untuned percussion in their performance, but this is not compulsory.

Vocal competitors should select songs suitable for a family audience, giving due consideration to the appropriateness of the lyrics.

The time for competitors' performance should not exceed 13 minutes. The timing should begin when the competitor first begins to play or sing. If a performance exceeds the stipulated time, that overtime portion will not be adjudicated.

Amplification, although permitted, will not be provided by the organisers. Performers must provide their own and must provide an up-to-date PAT certificate.

During the performances, there will be no photography, videos or audio recordings, other than by those selected by the event organiser. This is to ensure that individuals are not distracted during their performance.

## Results

After the adjudicators have determined the result of the competitions, one or more of them will comment on their observations before announcing the result.

## Rotary Youth Competitions and other opportunities for young people

The Young Musician competition is one of a number of competitions for young people organised by Rotary GB&I. The others are: Young Artist; Young Chef; Youth Speaks: A Debate; Young Environmentalist; Young Filmmaker; Young Photographer; and Young Writer. There are also annual Rotary Young Citizen Awards, a number of clubs organise Technology Tournaments and there are several Rotary specific programmes including RotaKids, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Developing Future Leaders and more. To find out more about these competitions and other opportunities please contact your local Rotary club in the first instance for what is happening locally and also take a look at <https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/>.

## Working with Children

Rotary GB&I has adopted this statement of policy in working with children, vulnerable adults and those with disability:

*The needs and rights of the child, the elderly, the vulnerable and those with disability take priority. It is the duty of every Rotarian to safeguard to the best of their ability, the welfare of and prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect of all children, the elderly, persons with disability or otherwise vulnerable persons with whom they come into contact during their Rotarian duties.*