

ROTHBURY TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS

SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2024
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH | ROTHBURY

REGISTER ONLINE BEFORE
29TH JUNE 2024

SONGS | TUNES
DIALECT POETRY
CHOIRS | SOLOS
DUOS | GROUPS

www.rothburymusicfestival.co.uk



At Rothbury Traditional Music Festival we are passionate about keeping Northumbrian traditions alive and have a long history of encouraging new and emerging talent. Every year we run **friendly, informal competitions for young musicians, vocalists and Northumbrian dialect poets.**

Quick links

[Step by step guide to entry](#)

[Entry forms](#)

[Children's competition guidelines](#)

[Adult competition guidelines \(novice categories are open to young performers\)](#)

[Festival website](#)

[Ticket sales](#)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED
BY AN ADULT (18+) WHILE ATTENDING THE COMPETITIONS AND WILL
REMAIN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THEIR CARER/TEACHER THROUGHOUT**

Who can enter?

- Children in **school years Reception to Year 8 - entry is free.**
- Performers in **Year 9 and above are encouraged to enter the novice categories** of the [adult competitions](#) where they will receive a very warm welcome.
- Players and performers younger than Year 9 may also enter the novice adult comps if that seems more appropriate to their standard of playing.
- You can enter **no matter where you live** and **whatever your standard of playing**
- You can enter as a soloist, a duo or group, or ask a teacher to enter your school choir.

How do I enter?

Step 1 - Fill in an entry form for each category you would like to enter.

- This year we ask that you **register in advance by the 29th June!**
- Click on the relevant [entry form in the table](#) below.
- Performers can enter **more than one category.**
- Consider getting together with a friend or two and entering as a duo or group, or asking your teacher to enter your school choir.
- You can edit or withdraw your entry later on - please let us know if you can no longer make it so we can open your space to someone else.
- There may be spaces for on-the-day sign ups in some categories but we have been very busy in recent years and this cannot be guaranteed! **Please pre-register!**
- Please read the [detailed entry guidelines](#) for more information about each category.

Category & Approx. Running Order	Link to Entry Form	Approx. Start Time
First School Choirs	School Choir Entry Form	09:15
Middle/Primary School Choirs	School Choir Entry Form	
Solo Singer - Reception to Year 4	Soloist Entry Form	
Solo Singer - Year 5 to Year 8	Soloist Entry Form	
Duos & Groups - Reception to Year 4	Duos & Groups Entry Form	Approx 10:30
Duos & Groups - Year 5 to Year 8	Duos & Groups Entry Form	
Dialect Poetry - Reception to Year 8	Dialect Poetry Entry Form	
Solo Instrument: Piano - Reception to Year 4	Soloist Entry Form	Approx 11:00
Solo Instrument: Piano - Year 5 to Year 8	Soloist Entry Form	
Solo Instrument: Fiddle - Reception to Year 4	Soloist Entry Form	
Solo Instrument: Fiddle - Year 5 to Year 8	Soloist Entry Form	
Break for Pipe Band Parade		12:30
Solo Instrument: Misc. - Reception to Year 4	Soloist Entry Form	Approx 13:00
Solo Instrument: Misc. - Year 5 to Year 8	Soloist Entry Form	

- The schedule above is subject to change depending on the number of entries.
- **Start times for each category will be finalised and communicated to registered entrants at the beginning of July**, after registration closes, as well as more widely published via [social media](#) and the [festival website](#).
- The venue will be open from 9am for enquiries and late sign-ups (*if spaces are available*).

Step 2 - Choose a performance piece

- Rothbury Traditional Music Festival exists to celebrate and promote traditional music, song and poetry and we therefore encourage entries of a **traditional tune or song** in the musical categories - *it does not have to be Northumbrian!*
- Most music teachers teach at least one traditional piece as part of their syllabus - or check out the [Traditional Music Library](#) for free sheet music and other resources.
- In the poetry category, either recite your own Northumbrian dialect poem or one by another author - have a look at this [Northumbrian word list](#) for ideas or these [poems](#) by local authors - you do not have to be Northumbrian to enter!
- Remember to read the detailed [entry guidelines](#) for each category before making your choice.
- **ALL PERFORMANCES SHOULD LAST 3 MINUTES OR LESS!**

Step 3 - Practise, Practise, Practise!

- With your teacher or carer's help (or completely on your own!), learn and practise performing your tune, song or poem in front of a friendly audience.
- Practise introducing your performance to the judge and audience - say your name and the name of the tune, song or poem you are going to perform.

Step 4 - Come to Rothbury Music Festival on Saturday 13th July 2024

- Turn up bright and early with your family, friends & fans on **Saturday 13th July 2024** at the [United Reformed Church](#) in the centre of Rothbury, behind the outdoor stage.
- **Start times for each category will be finalised and communicated to registered entrants at the beginning of July**, after registration closes, as well as more widely published via [social media](#) and the [festival website](#).
- The venue will be open from 9am for enquiries and late sign-ups (*if spaces are available*).

Step 5 - Perform

- Remember the **maximum performance length is 3 minutes!**
- There will be an **electric piano in the venue** for performers or accompanists to use.
- The judge will love it if you introduce yourself first and name the tune/song/poem you will be performing for them.
- **Don't forget to smile and look like you're having fun - it makes the music or poem sound even better!**

What else is there to do at the festival?

We recommend you set aside the whole day and have a family day out at the festival!

See the [festival website](#) for more details - there are many free and low cost events:

- Pipe band parade at 12:30 on Saturday
- Free outdoor stage with performances starting at approx. 13:00 on Saturday
- A storyteller and facepainter roaming the village on Saturday
- Free entry for children to the acoustic concert in [All Saints](#) at 6:30 pm on Saturday
- Free Final Fling Ceilidh in the Jubilee Hall from 11am on Sunday morning - no ticket required and refreshments available to purchase.

Tickets for the [festival concerts](#) are available to buy online or from Tully's on Rothbury High Street.

Children's Competition Categories & Detailed Guidelines

All performances should be no longer than 3 minutes!

- **Children are welcome to enter more than one category of the competitions and may perform in more than one duo or group.**
- Children may not, however, enter more than one performance into any one solo category.
- All categories except for Northumbrian Dialect Poetry are usually split into two age groups, according to school year (years Reception to 4 and Years 5-8).
- The competition organisers reserve the right to amalgamate age groups and categories at their discretion if entry numbers are low.
- We encourage performers and their families to watch as many of the competitions as possible and cheer each other on - as space in the venue allows.
- 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.
- For each category, performers will take the stage in the order we received their entry form and will perform in front of an experienced judge and an audience of other performers, their friends/families and potentially other festival-goers too - the competitions are open to all to watch.
- Our experienced judges will watch all the performances, provide verbal feedback and announce the winners on the day.
- All entrants will receive a reward for entering the competitions and there are additional prizes for winners and placed performers.
- Please contact us at rothburymusicfest@gmail.com (marking your email FAO Children's Comps Aifionn) if you would like to discuss which entry category would be most appropriate for your child/students or if you have any other queries about the children's competitions at Rothbury Traditional Music Festival.
- There will be an electric piano and music stands available at the venue for performers/accompanists to use.

Competition Categories

School Choirs

- 'First Schools' (Years Reception to 4)
- 'Middle (& Primary) Schools' (Years 5 to 8)
- Performances should be **no longer than 3 minutes!**
- School choirs should be entered by a teacher and it is the responsibility of that teacher/school to put in place appropriate procedures for the care and behaviour of the children while at the competitions, including whether responsibility is delegated to parents or not.
- Primary school choirs are very welcome to enter and will be entered in the Middle School category
- In the event that very few choirs enter the competition, and at the competition organisers' discretion, age group categories may be amalgamated or choirs may instead be entered into the Duos & Groups category.
- If you would like to discuss entering your school choir with the competition organisers please email rothburymusicfest@gmail.com marking it FAO Kids Comps Aifionn

Solo Singing Categories

- School Years Reception to Year 4
- School Years 5 - 8
- Performances should be **no longer than 3 minutes!**
- May be unaccompanied or accompanied on any instrument by an adult or by a child in school year 9 or above
- Where an accompanist is in school year 8 or below, then the entry would count as a duo/group performance, not a solo - please enter the duo/group category in this case
- Electric piano available at venue.

Duos & Groups (Any Combination of Vocal and/or Instrumental)

- School Years Reception to Year 4
- School Years 5 - 8
- Performances should be **no longer than 3 minutes!**
- 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 enter the school year of all performers on your entry form.
- If you would like to discuss this issue with the organisers please email rothburymusicfest@gmail.com marking it FAO Aifionn
- Electric piano available at venue
- There are separate competition categories for school choirs.

Solo Instrument: Piano or Keyboard

- School Years Reception to Year 4
- School Years 5 - 8

- *Performances should be **no longer than 3 minutes!***
- *Electric piano available at venue.*
- *The competition organisers reserve the right to amalgamate Solo Instrument categories in either or both age groups if there are low numbers of entrants.*

Solo Instrument: Fiddle/Violin/Viola

- School Years Reception to Year 4
- School Years 5 - 8

- *Performances should be **no longer than 3 minutes!***
- *May be unaccompanied or accompanied on any instrument by an adult or by a child in school year 9 or above*
- *Where the accompanist is in school year 8 or below, then the entry would count as a duo/group performance, not a solo - please enter the duo/group category in this case*
- *Electric piano available at venue.*
- *The competition organisers reserve the right to amalgamate Solo Instrument categories in either or both age groups if there are low numbers of entrants.*

Solo Instrument: Miscellaneous

- School Years Reception to Year 4
- School Years 5 - 8

- *Performances should be **no longer than 3 minutes!***
- *May be unaccompanied or accompanied on any instrument by an adult or by a child in school year 9 or above*
- *Where the accompanist is in school year 8 or below, then the entry would count as a duo/group performance, not a solo - please enter the duo/group category in this case*
- *Electric piano available at venue.*
- *The competition organisers reserve the right to amalgamate Solo Instrument categories in either or both age groups if there are low numbers of entrants.*

Northumbrian Dialect Poetry

- School Years: Reception - Year 8

- *Performances should be **no longer than 3 minutes!***
- *Performers may recite their own work or that of another Northumbrian dialect poet, if they have sought the appropriate permission to do so*
- *Please see below for a list of poems for which we have arranged prior permission for performance by any entrant to the children's competitions*
- *Please state whether the performer is reciting their own poem on the entry form and/or prior to performance.*

Suggested Poems for Northumbrian Dialect Poetry Category

You could write your own dialect poem to recite - there is a [list of Northumbrian words](#) and other resources available at the [Northumbrian Language Society](#).

Or you could **perform one of the poems below, kindly supplied by local poets [James Tait](#) and [Andrew Charleton](#)**, or seek permission to recite a dialect poem by another author.

Sammy the Slug **By James Tait**

A' have a pet caaled Sammy,
He's slithery, slimey and smaal.
He comes oot every night
From yon hole in the living room waal.

He rests beneath the cooker
To see if tha's owt gan'
A've tried 'im wi' some dockin' leaves
But he doesn't seem syec a fan.

A' hear their good for warts
Darsay A'll try 'im on me corn
But he's away ahind the freezer noo,
So it'll hadda be the morn.

Aye, A've grown quite fond o' Sammy
Since A've lived here in this hoose.
He guards the kitchen aal night lang
But he' couldn't catch a moose.

A'll mebbe try some clover,
But he'll probably not want that
He's an akwad little fella
How on orth did 'e get sae fat!

A' divent knar what 'e wants,
But, by gum it's every night without fail
Slitherin' ower that carpet
Leavin' a muckle slimy trail.

He should gan 'n chaw the tetty leaves
Like any normal pest.
Tha's any amoont o' cabbages
Or beetroot to infest.

But, no, he'll hadda be in me kitchen
'Aalways in the bloomin' road,
Aye, Sammy, yer a right pain tornin'
But am pleased yer not a toad!

The Herron

By Andrew Charleton

Ye'll niver see owt si a clip as me, when your wanderin boot yor streets
Wi me gright lang legs and ramly neck, i'm the queerest sowl ye'll meet

I bide two lowps from Pepperhaff, and for that ah gi ma thanks,
There's a few a knaa would turf ma hyem from the bonny Coquet's banks.

I have this special gift ye knaa, its a skill ye aa'll shud see,
Nay sowl for miles can catch yon troot with the ease and grace of me,

Maa razor beak and muckle wings are precision tools se fine,
Ah need nee greet lang wadi'n byuts and miles of rod and line.

But ah ownly tyek the fish ah need.....and a few for the bairns and the wife,
So fetch yor powks, ya rods and cleeks, but gi me nee mair strife.

There's a bird ye folks call the Kingfisher, a pretender! ah say to the croon,
Ye shud aa'll knaa by noo wees king oh yon fish.....Or this owld Herron will show ye gee
soon!

The Spider
By James Tait

"Yes! I am a spider!
And what's yer business here?
Inside your coat I'll plant me flag,
And then ye'll cringe in fear!
I knar ye like surprises,
So a thought a'd say "hallow."
I'm the darkest bit of aal ye hate
And A'll torn up then and now.

I smile when yer blood freezes,
Aye! that's my victory.
Yer not sae big now, are ye?
Not like when roond yon flee.

I've watched ye from yon dark place
And I've chose me moment weel,
Owled Nick himsell could not invoke
The terror that ye feel.

So what's your next manoeuvre?
A can see I've spoiled your fun,
If a was haf as big as 'ee,
Just think how fast I'd run.

I might jump three inch forward,
And watch your colour drain,
Aye, a'll catch ye when a think
Ye've got iz nearly oot yer brain.

Long live the land of shadows,
That feeds off fear's putrid stench.
And next time divent forget me,
Or I'll claim yer kitchen bench".

The Christmas Visitor

By James Tait

With Parson's words and babbies screams
Both in full flow stage centre
That wind inside the Church did blow
Yon famous bird of winter.

"Twas warmer oot! The mite surmised,
As for the tree it headed
And nestled 'mangst baubles and such
Same spot where folk are wedded.

And falter not, did Parson's speech,
At such rare animation
For such a treat, did well befit
Fifty years since ordination

Nae mair did he gesticulate
When stranger's wings did flutter
Though several eyes dashed to and fro,
When 'good' things he did mutter.

"What bord ist?" whispered dear Bessie
Softly to her neighbour
While Pastor Bob crescendoed
As for spotlight he did labour

A bird well-versed in etiquette though
For his beak not once did whistle
Through Bob's sincere oration
On St Paul's famous epistle.

Aye, content amang the needles
Sat wor friend, aal minutes ten
And made his quiet exit,
When the pastor said "Amen."