

Rothbury Traditional Music festival

Adult (age 14+) open competitions Guidelines 2024

PLEASE SEE SEPARATE DOCUMENT FOR CHILDREN'S COMPETITIONS RULES
Young performers of 14+ years are encouraged to enter the (novice) adult classes.

General information:

How to enter:

Please fill in an entry form for each competition category + class you want to enter.

Download the form here

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HJiSscGyz_AbLI841UDBQIESEIZgpS8D/view?usp=drive_link

, print and fill it in and bring it to the venue on the day.

You can also fill in a form on the day at the venue. Please arrive in time to do so; entering is no longer possible once the competitions have started.

Competitors can enter more than one category and / or class and perform in more than one duo or group. See guidelines for each particular category.

Performance:

Competitors will perform in the order we received the entry forms, for an audience of other performers and festival-goers.

Judging & Prizes:

The judges will watch the performances, provide written and verbal feedback for every performer and announce the winners on the day. For most categories / classes there are trophies to be won.

PLEASE NOTE: Trophy winners need to hand back their (engraved) trophy before next year's festival and will be asked to leave their contact details.

Which class to choose:

Novice class: Competitors of beginners' level who are entering for the first time or who have not won a novice class in their particular category anywhere else before. Please consider entering Intermediate or Open if you are a novice performing at intermediate level or higher.

Intermediate: Competitors of intermediate level who have not won the intermediate class in their particular category at the Rothbury Music Festival before.

Open: Competitors of intermediate level and higher who have won the intermediate class in their particular category at the Rothbury Music Festival.

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

Competitions Schedule 2024:

CATHOLIC CHURCH: from 11.30am to 1.45pm

Running order:

Lowland Pipes

Northumbrian Pipes
New Tune for Northumbrian Pipes
Piping Pairs

THE JUBILEE HALL: from 12.00pm
Fiddle 12.00pm
Accordion 12.45pm
Duo or Band 1.30pm

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH: from 12.00pm
Traditional Singing 12.00pm
Original Composition Song 1.00pm
Miscellaneous Instruments 1.30 pm
Original Composition Tune 2.15pm
Northumbrian Dialect Poetry 2.45pm

OUTDOOR STAGE: from approx 4.45pm, at end of outdoor stage concert.

Running order:

Snare Drumming
Highland Pipes
Piping pairs

Competition Rules:

LOWLAND PIPES SOLO

(Part of piping competitions from 11.30pm in the Catholic church)

- Additional award for best competitor 16 years and under.

Open Class (one class)

- Selection of traditional tunes.
- Please plan your performance to last up to around 6 minutes.

NORTHUMBRIAN SMALLPIPES SOLO

(Part of piping competitions from 11.30pm in the Catholic church)

Competitors entering more than one class must play different tunes in each class.

- The Judge will pay particular attention to the following points: tuning (chanter & drones) rhythm, fluency, accuracy, choice of programme, overall effect.
- Additional Awards for 16 and under and best local competitor.

Novice Class

- One slow tune and one fast tune twice through, each tune with repeats if appropriate.

Intermediate Class

- One slow tune and one fast tune twice through, each tune with repeats if appropriate.

Open Class

- Slow air plus any two of march, hornpipe, jig, rant or reel; one of the tunes to have variations.
- Please plan your performance to last no longer than 6 minutes.

NORTHUMBRIAN SMALLPIPES NEW TUNE

(Part of piping competitions from 11.30pm in the Catholic church)

Competitors are restricted to a maximum of two entries

- Additional award for best competitor 16 years and under.

Open (One Class)

- An original composition for Northumbrian Pipes.
- To be played on the Northumbrian Pipes by the composer or their nominee.

PIPING PAIRS: LOWLAND, NORTHUMBRIAN AND SCOTTISH SMALLPIPES

(Part of piping competitions from 11.30pm in the Catholic church)

- A duet of any of the following combination: Lowland, Northumbrian & Scottish small pipes.
- Additional award for best competitor 16 years and under.

Open (One Class)

- Selection of tunes in the traditional style lasting no longer than 6 minutes.

FIDDLE SOLO

12pm in the Jubilee Hall

- The committee encourages the inclusion of local tunes, in particular Northumbrian & Border tunes.
- Competitors entering more than one class must play different tunes in each class.
- The Judge will pay particular attention to the following points: intonation, rhythm, style, appropriate tempo and choice of programme.
- Awards for 16 and under and best local competitor.
- Winner will be asked if they would like to perform their winning entry (up to 5 minutes) during the Afternoon Acoustic Concert 6.30-8pm in All Saints Church.

Novice Class

- Two tunes; one slow and one faster, each to be played twice through with repeats (if appropriate).

Intermediate Class

- Two tunes; one slow and one faster, each to be played twice through with repeats (if appropriate).

Open Class

- Three tunes, one slow (compulsory) and two faster tunes.

ACCORDION SOLO

12.45pm in the Jubilee Hall

- Competitors entering more than one class must play different tunes in each class.
- The Judge will pay particular attention to the following points: accuracy, base change, rhythm and bellows control.
- Awards for 16 and under and best local competitor

Novice Class

- Two tunes twice through with repeats (AA:BB); one slow tune and one fast tune.

Intermediate Class

- Two tunes twice through with repeats (AA:BB); one slow tune and one fast tune.

Open Class

- Three tunes: a slow tune twice through (compulsory) and two faster tunes of the competitor's choice.

BAND OR DUO

from 1.30pm in Jubilee Hall

- **Ensemble performance with two or more performers (including larger bands), playing acoustic instruments or voice.**
- **Can be either for listening or dancing (ceilidh).**
- **Judge will consider your ability to play together nicely as an ensemble, performance skills, choice of repertoire and arrangements.**
- **Local traditional repertoire is encouraged, as with all our competitions.**
- **Performance to last up to approx. 8 minutes.**
- Duos or ensembles wishing to enter this class more than once with exactly the same combination of people must play different instruments for each entry.
- An individual may enter the class more than once playing the same instrument, as long as they are in a different duo or ensemble combination each time.
- Additional award for 16 years and under.
- Any band wishing to use electric/amplified instruments must be responsible for providing all necessary equipment.

- Please note that no extra time is allowed for setting up/sound checks during the competition. However, you may be able to set up earlier in the day – ask at the festival office.

Open (One Class)

- Ensemble performance on two or more acoustic instruments. Selection of tunes to last no more than 8 minutes for groups and no longer than 4 minutes for duos.

TRADITIONAL SOLO SINGING

12pm All Saints Church

- Men and women judged separately.
- To be sung unaccompanied.
- Additional Awards for 16 years and under, and Best Local Competitor.
- Winner will be asked if they would like to perform their winning entry (up to 5 minutes) during the Saturday Afternoon Acoustic Concert 6.30-8pm in All Saints Church.

Open (one class)

- One traditional song from the British Isles, to last no more than five minutes.

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION – SONG

1pm All Saints Church

- To be performed by the composer or their nominee.
- New lyrics to an existing tune are not allowed.
- Competitors restricted to a maximum of two entries.
- Additional Awards for 16 years and under and for Best Local Competitor.

Open (One Class)

- New original song composition (music and lyric) in the traditional style.

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENTS SOLO

1.30pm In All Saints Church

- Additional award for best competitor 16 years and under.
- Open to any acoustic instrument not represented in any other solo, including flute, whistle and recorder.

Open (One class)

- One slow and one fast tune.
- A solo performance on any instrument lasting no more than 10 minutes.

ORIGINAL COMPOSITION – TUNE

2.15pm All Saints Church

- To be played by the composer or their nominee.

- Competitors restricted to a maximum of two entries.
- The same tune cannot be entered in the New Tune Northumbrian Pipes Competition.
- Additional award for best competitor 16 years and under.

Open (One Class)

- An original instrumental piece in the traditional idiom.

NORTHUMBRIAN DIALECT POETRY & VERSE

2.45pm All Saints Church

NOTE: if you have previously won a novice class in another event/festival competition at Rothbury or elsewhere, you will need to enter Open class.

- The Judge will pay particular attention to the following points: originality and musicality of the text, expressive use of dialect, quality of reading.
- Additional Awards for 16 years and under and for Best Local Competitor.
- Winner will be asked if they would like to perform their winning entry (up to five minutes) during the Saturday Afternoon Acoustic Concert 6.30-8pm in All Saints Church.

Novice Class & Open Class

- Original poem(s) or recitation(s) in verse, to be read by the author and to last not more than 5 minutes.

HIGHLAND PIPES SOLO

from approx 4.45pm on Outdoor Stage.

NOTE: if you have previously won a novice in another event/festival competition at Rothbury or elsewhere, you will need to enter Open class.

- Additional award for best competitor 16 years and under.

Novice Class

- A march of your own choice.

Open Class

- Your own selection of pipe tunes to last no more than 6 minutes.

PIPE BAND SNARE DRUMMING

from approx 4.45pm onwards on Outdoor Stage

NOTE: if you have previously won a novice in another event/festival competition at Rothbury or elsewhere, you will need to enter Open class.

- Additional award for best competitor 16 years and under.

Novice Class

- One March.

Open Class

- One march, a strathspey and a reel.

HIGHLAND PIPING PAIRS

from approx 4:45pm on Outdoor Stage

- Additional award for best competitor 16 years and under.

Open (One Class)

- A selection of traditional pipe tunes lasting no more than 6 minutes.

Additional trophies:

SEAN MCGUIRE TROPHY

The Sean McGuire Trophy will be awarded to the competitor from any musical competition or class (including children's) that demonstrates the most outstanding and innovative performance in traditional music.

MARY BATHGATE SHIELD

The Mary Bathgate Shield will be awarded to the best overall novice in any of the adults' musical competition classes.