



ISA YOUNG MUSICIAN COMPETITION

Open to KS2 - KS5

Final: Tuesday 9 March 2027

St Hilda's College, JdP Music Building, University of Oxford, OX4 1DY



SCAN HERE

DEADLINE

Wednesday 2 December 2026

isaschools.org.uk | isaarts@isaschools.org.uk
Competition open to ISA Members Schools only

The long-standing ISA Young Musician Competition celebrates the talent and passion for music performance that exists within our members' schools. This competition offers an exciting opportunity for students to perform and watch their peers at a live music concert.

Year Groups and Eligibility

Only schools whose Head is a Member with ISA are eligible to enter ISA competitions. Any pupils competing must be on the main school's admissions register, on the date of the event.

Our year groups follow the UK National Curriculum. For guidance on selecting the correct year group for your student(s), please refer to the UK system [here](#). When completing your application, please enter students according to the UK year group, even if your school uses a different age or stage structure.

Access and Inclusion

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities as accessible as possible. We warmly welcome applications from all students, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities.

If a student (including those with an EHCP or on the SEND register) is working at a level that does not align with their chronological year group, or if your school prioritises developmental stages, skills, or personalised progression rather than fixed year groups, please do get in touch with us at the following email address hannah.lovegrove.campion@isaschools.org.uk. We are happy to discuss individual circumstances and advise on the most appropriate way to apply.

Accessible Formats

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please let us know as early as possible if you require this, so we can provide the information in a format that works for you.

Competition Format

The first stage of this competition consists of an online qualification round. Successful entries will be invited to the final on **Tuesday 9 March 2027, St Hilda's College, JdP Music Building, University of Oxford, OX4 1DY**.

Late cancellations cause considerable inconvenience to the organisers and prevent other schools from taking part. All entries received will be regarded as a definite commitment to attend the final if successful.

We understand that travel is a factor, but we encourage teachers, family and friends to come along for the whole day to support the musicians and watch the performances.

Judging criteria

- Pitch
- Time
- Tone
- Shape
- Performance

If you have any questions, please contact isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be submitted via the online form on the ISA website [here](#) by **Wednesday 2 December 2026** at the latest. Please note you will need to be logged in to your account to access the entry form.

- For individual video entries, **students must say their name and school at the beginning of the recording**. The time limit will start from the beginning of the performance, not at the start of the recording.
- **A working URL link must be given** for the video and accessible for at least 3 months, without a required password. ISA will not accept any files to download or links via SharePoint. Please ensure to check the sharing permissions with your school:
 - YouTube videos will need to be **unlisted**
 - Vimeo videos will need to be **unlisted** and **age rated**
 - Google Drive will need to be set to **anyone with the link**
 - OneDrive needs to be set with a **share link to anyone**

The videos are only for judging purposes and will not be shared elsewhere

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Schools can submit a **maximum of 4 entries per age category (Junior, Middle & Senior)**. Therefore, all schools can submit **12 entries in total**.

We encourage schools to run a competition in house and submit their best entries.

Junior (Year 3 to 6)

Middle (Year 7 to 9)

Senior (Year 10 to 13)

Rules

- The maximum duration for each entry is **5 minutes**.
- This competition does not include vocal entries.
- Solo performances only are allowed in this competition; no group entries.
- Students can play either from memory or with music.
- A piano will be provided for pianists and accompanists, as well as music stands if required. Students may have a piano to accompany them if needed (no other accompaniment is allowed).
- You must provide your own accompanist and page turners if required.
- No backing tracks allowed.
- Please note the instrument of choice must be acoustic. Guitarists must play classical guitar.
- Students may not compose their own piece of music.
- Students must perform the same piece in both rounds.
- Each student can enter only once, not several instruments in the competition.
- Entries previously submitted to ISA Arts Competitions will not be accepted.
- **Maximum of 4 entries per age category – 12 entries in total.**