



More information about the Chamber Music Festival for Schools

Pro Corda's Chamber Music Festival for Schools is the only National festival to exclusively promote and celebrate Chamber music within Schools. The CMF is available to all instrumental ensembles between three to nine players. The festival is an annual celebration of Chamber Music education in the UK.

Each group will be invited to perform at a qualifying round where they will receive a public masterclass and written report from one of Pro Corda's International Chamber Music coaches. Successful groups will be invited to perform at a semi-final round where they will receive an additional masterclass. The Final is adjudicated by a distinguished world-class musician. The 2018 Festival was adjudicated by Matthew Jones, Director of Chamber Music at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The 2019 Chamber Music Festival for Schools finals will be held on Sunday 10 March at St George's Church in Hanover Square.

All finalist groups receive certificates and five ensembles are selected to be Chamber Champions. These groups will be offered a public performance opportunity in the beautiful surroundings of Pro Corda's home at Leiston Abbey. In addition to the Chamber Champions trophies are awarded to Schools for outstanding performance and outstanding contribution to Chamber Music Education.

The festival is organised into different age categories; under 12s, under 14s, under 16s and under 19s. It has become a prestigious event with many schools being eager to be involved. The 2018 saw over 150 entries from over 30 schools throughout the country.

For more information and entry forms please check the Chamber Music Festival page on the Pro Corda website www.procorda.com

Information for Host Schools

The CMF is held in February and March each year and tours schools around the country through qualifying and regional semi final rounds, culminating in a finals day at a prodigious performance venue. Each group receives individual coaching with a skilled adjudicator during each round, so the further they progress through the competition the more coaching and experience they receive. The Final always has a special guest adjudicator and is a celebratory day of chamber music which allows the students the opportunity to play for, and meet, their peers in other schools from around the country.

Below is some information about hosting, based on questions we are most asked by schools:

- We will give you a choice of dates in February and March for you to host and you just need to let us know when is convenient for your school. We aim to get these dates in the schedule before the end of summer term in the year before the festival.

- We organise the schedule for the days that the other schools come to you and take care of all the administration.
- For the rounds, one of our adjudicators will attend and offer coaching to help improve their performance.
- When we send out the entry forms we also publish the list of the host schools on our website. The other schools then choose where they would like to attend, depending on location and convenience. We would know the exact schools attending once the entry forms are back and will provide you with full information.
- A typical day lasts from around 10am to around 4pm, depending on the number of entrants. We will provide you with a full timetable and a list of students and staff attending prior to their arrival.
- Depending on the number of entries and the length of the day, we will normally send one adjudicator. The other schools attending will need to send their own staff to accompany their children. Again, we will tell you nearer the time exactly who is coming.
- Each day usually requires one large performance space with a tuned concert piano and one warm up room.
- The number of children on your school site will depend on the amount and size of the groups. Probably around 30 visiting children in a day. They wouldn't all necessarily stay all day.
- Your school would not be expected to provide lunch for the visiting schools.
- Parking for visiting schools would be an advantage. Again, we can tell you in advance who would be attending and provide number plate information, if needed.
- Whilst there is no overall winner, 5 ensembles are selected at the national finals to become Chamber Champions by the adjudicator. These Champions are then given the opportunity to perform at a public concert in the future.
- There are also two trophies: The Founders Award for an outstanding semi-final performance and a Special School award for outstanding contribution to chamber music.