

**Chester Music Society** is pleased to announce the Chester Young Musicians of the Year competition for 2024, open to instrumentalists and singers up to and including age 18.

**Date and Time:** Sunday 17 November 2024.

**Venue:** The competition will be held at Abbey Gate College, Saughton Grange, Saughton, Chester CH3 6EN

**Classes:** the competition will be open to singers and instrumentalists in three classes:

- Class 1: entrants up to and including age 12 who have achieved minimum grade 3 or equivalent
- Class 2: age 13 to 15, minimum grade 6 or equivalent
- Class 3: age 16 to 18; minimum grade 8 or equivalent

Entrants may enter for any instrument of their choice (other than the organ).

**Eligibility:** Entrants must be resident within a 40-mile radius of Chester and have achieved the age stated on the date of the competition.

**Recommendation:** Entrants must be recommended by their music teacher, whose details must appear on the application form.

**Competition Format:** Each entrant will be required to perform a varied programme of their own choice, of which one piece must be performed from memory.

**Performance Duration:** Class 3: 15 minutes; Classes 1 and 2 approximately 10 minutes.

**Awards** will be made as follows:

For the winner of each class: A cash prize of £100.

For the overall winner and Young Musician of the Year: An additional cash prize of £250, and a trophy (to be retained for twelve months).

For the winner and the runner up of each class: A public performance, organised by Chester Music Society at St Mary's Creative Space, Chester on 29 January 2025 (participation in this concert is obligatory).

**Bursaries.** Winners and runners-up in Class 3, and the overall Young Musician, will be invited to apply for one of the two Music Society Bursaries, each worth £500. These will be awarded at the Society's discretion to applicants who show outstanding promise and undertake to use them to advance their musical education.

The winner in each of the three classes will be further judged for the title of ***Chester Young Musician of the Year 2024.***

**Adjudication:** The competition will be judged by John Gough who is Chester born and has enjoyed a busy & varied career as a soloist, accompanist and chamber music player performing both in this country and abroad. He has an extensive and wide-ranging repertoire and has been broadcast on radio on many occasions. John has also found time to be a tutor at the RNCM, examiner for the ABRSM and regular adjudicator at music competitions.

The Adjudicator's decision shall be final. The organisers will not enter into correspondence concerning the outcome of the competition.

**Music:** Copies (which may include photocopies) of music to be performed shall be supplied by the entrants free of charge for the use of the adjudicator.

**Accompanists:** Entrants are expected to provide their own accompanist (if required). If you do not have an accompanist, Lauren Turner, an experienced pianist, will be available on the day. Please contact her in good time to arrange rehearsal, fees and repertoire: 07742 587373; [laurenacturner@hotmail.com](mailto:laurenacturner@hotmail.com)

**Registration** from 09.30. Competition to begin at 10.00.

Entrants may express a preference for a morning or afternoon performance: we will try and meet your preferences but cannot guarantee it. Entrants will be advised of their start time in advance.

**Closing Date for entries:** Friday 25 October 2024. Entrants must also submit no later than Friday 8 November– either by post or email – a brief biography and a list of the music to be performed. (Copies of the actual scores for the use of the adjudicator may be brought on the day of the competition.)

- A non-refundable application fee of £10 shall be submitted on application.
- If the competition is over-subscribed your name may be added to the waiting list and you will be advised if a place becomes available.

**Data Protection.** Information and photographs of applicants are kept for the purpose of administration and publicity of this competition and in our database of potential performers in Society events. You have the right to see the information we hold on you, and the right to amend or request deletion of such data on application to the organiser below.

**Public Admission:** The competition on 17 November 2024 will be open to the public (including competitors' family and supporters). Admission: £5

Admission for the public performance at St Mary's Creative Space on 29 January 2025 will be £8 (Students £3)

For further help & information contact Claire Hallett-Rorke [claire.hr59@gmail.com](mailto:claire.hr59@gmail.com) or telephone 07947 743535