

CHESTER YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2025

Chester Music Society is pleased to announce the Chester Young Musician of the Year competition for 2025, open to instrumentalists and singers up to and including age 18.

Date and Time: Sunday 16 November 2025.

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

Venue: The competition will be held at Abbey Gate College, Saighton Grange, Saighton, 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:

- £100 for the winner of each category
- The winner in each of the three classes will be further judged for the title of ***Chester Young Musician of the Year 2025***, who receives an additional £250, and is awarded the prestigious David Woods Trophy, retained for 12 months.
- The Lila Hallett Award is presented to the most promising musician from the Under 12s and 13-15 age groups who isn't a category winner

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.

Adjudication: The competition will be judged by Adam Swayne, Deputy Dean of School of Keyboard Studies and Professor of Piano at the Royal Northern College of Music. 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; laurenturner@hotmail.com

Closing Date for entries: Friday 24 October 2025.

Entrants must also submit no later than Friday 7 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 Sunday 16 November 2025 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 1 March 2026 will be £10 (Under 18s free)

Online entry form & information may be found by visiting our website: [Chester Young Musician of the Year Competition - Chester Music Society](#)

For further help & information contact Claire Hallett-Rorke claire.hr59@gmail.com or telephone 07947 743535



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YEAR COMPETITION 2025**