



The Western Solo & Ensemble Competition 2024

supported by

RIAM

Royal Irish
Academy of Music

INFORMATION AND RULES

Omagh Academy
Dublin Road, Omagh

Saturday 23rd March 2024

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

Saturday 24th February 2024

It will be at the discretion of the Brass Bands NI Executive Committee as to whether any entries received after this date will be accepted.

SENIOR SECTION

A Solo (Open Technical Class) <i>Time limit not exceeding 12½ minutes</i>	Own Choice	£5.00
B Solo (Technical Class) <i>Time limit not exceeding 12½ minutes</i> <i>Restricted to players aged 20 and over</i>	Own Choice	£5.00
C Solo (Technical Class) <i>Time limit not exceeding 12½ minutes</i> <i>Restricted to players from the 3rd section and below</i>	Own Choice	£5.00
19 and Under Solos (Technical Class) <i>For players Grade 5 standard and above</i>	Own Choice	£5.00
Slow Melody (Open)	Own Choice	£5.00
Quartet (Open) <i>Prize for 1st place and then prize for the highest placed quartet in each band section (Championship, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and non-member bands)</i>	Own Choice	£7.00
Senior Ensemble (Open) <i>2-10 players, excluding quartets</i> <i>Prize for 1st place and then prize for the highest placed ensemble in each band section (Championship, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and non-member bands)</i>	Own Choice	£7.00

Competitors in the Ensembles class may play in a duet or trio and one other larger ensemble (five to ten players)

Solo competitors may only enter ONE of the technical classes AND the Slow Melody class.

All competitors are permitted to play only one piece.

YOUTH SECTION

18 and Under Solo	Own Choice	£4.50
15 and Under Solo	Selected Book	£4.50
12 and Under Solo	Selected Book	£4.50
10 and Under Solo	Selected Book	£4.50
18 and Under Ensemble <i>Up to 12 players</i>	Own Choice	£6.50
12 and Under Ensemble <i>Up to 12 players</i>	Own Choice	£6.50
Youth Band (players aged 18 and under)	Own Choice	£7.50

Note: Players aged 18 and Under may enter ONE SOLO CLASS ONLY in the Youth Section, BUT MAY ALSO enter the A or C or 19 and Under solo class and the Slow Melody class in the Senior Section.

All competitors are permitted to play only one piece.

YOUTH SOLOS - SELECTED BOOKS

10, 12 and 15 and Under Solo

The Young Soloist Volume One
Publisher: Studio Music

The Young Soloist Volume Two
Publisher: Studio Music

The Young Soloist Volume Three
Publisher: Studio Music

Winner Scores All (Peter Lawrance)
Publisher: Brass Wind

15 and Under Solo only

Great Winners (Peter Lawrance)
Publisher: Brass Wind

Please also note the following:

- In order to reduce processing effort and possibility of error, the preferred method of submitting entries is via the supplied Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. If Excel is not available, a google sheet can be provided on request which can be used on PCs and mobile phones without requiring additional software. A paper entry may **only** be submitted using the supplied form (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) if other options have been exhausted.
- Entries must be received by the 24th February 2024.
- Entries **may** be accepted after this date at the discretion of the BBNI Executive
- With regards to the entry form please ensure that you double-check names are spelt correctly and that players are eligible to compete in the selected class. Please check thoroughly before submitting the entry.
- Entries will be accepted from unaffiliated bands and individuals at a double entry fee.
- An accompanist will be provided for all youth players in the **10, 12 and 15** and under classes. All players in those classes must use the provided accompanist or play unaccompanied.
- BBNI will not provide an accompanist for soloists other than those competing in the 10, 12 or 15 and Under classes. To assist bands, a list of suggested accompanists is available on the BBNI website. It is the responsibility of each performer to engage their own accompanist.
- Competitors in Youth Section solo classes will each receive a certificate to indicate the standard of their performance on the day. The Levels are Gold, Silver and Bronze. Prizes will continue to be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places as usual.
- The Youth Solos Classes will have the following format: Brendan providing each performer with detailed feedback that they will be able to take with them back to the band/school room. He will be running breakout sessions throughout the day offering performance tips and advice to help build each young person's confidence when taking to the stage.
- In sections where age is relevant, proof of age must be provided, and competitors must have been within the age limit on the 1st February 2024.
- All youth classes will be subject to open adjudication. All competitors in the 10, 12, 15 and Under solo classes must use the books specified in the syllabus. Repeats are optional.
- BBNI would like to highlight that percussion players are also welcome within any of the appropriate classes.

ADJUDICATOR

Brendan Breslin

All correspondence/payments to:

Amber MacLennan
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Email: secretary@brassbandsni.org
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DATES TO NOTE 2024

YOUTH LEADER'S WORKSHOP: YOUTH BAND GOVERNANCE 1

Friday 9th February
Downshire Brass Rehearsals Rooms, Belvoir

SOLOS AND ENSEMBLES

Saturday 10th February
Malone Presbyterian Church Halls, Belfast

BRASS IN CONCERT

Friday and Saturday 1st and 2nd March
The Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown

YOUTH LEADER'S WORKSHOP: YOUTH BAND GOVERNANCE 2

Friday 22nd March
Strabane Brass Rehearsal Rooms

SPRING FESTIVAL

Saturday 11th May
The Strule Arts Theatre, Omagh