BRASS BANDS
NORTHERN IRELAND

Solo & Ensemble Competition 2026

INFORMATION AND RULES

Wallace High School
Lisburn

Saturday 7th February 2026

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

Saturday 24th January 2026

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) *Time limit not exceeding 12½ minutes*	Own Choice	£10.00
B Solo (Technical Class) *Time limit not exceeding 12½ minutes* *Restricted to players aged 20 and over*	Own Choice	£10.00
C Solo (Technical Class) *Time limit not exceeding 12½ minutes* *Restricted to players from the 3rd section and below*	Own Choice	£10.00
19 and Under Solos (Technical Class) *For players Grade 5 standard and above*	Own Choice	£10.00
Slow Melody (Open)	Own Choice	£10.00
Slow Melody B (Open) *Restricted to players from the 3rd section and below*	Own Choice	£10.00
Quartet (Open) *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)*	Own Choice	£15.00
Senior Ensemble (Open) *2-10 players, excluding quartets* *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)*	Own Choice	£15.00

Competitors in the Senior Ensemble class may play in a duet or trio and one other larger ensemble (five to ten players). They may also play once in the Quartet class.

Solo competitors may only enter ONE of the technical classes and one of the Slow Melody classes.

All competitors are permitted to play only one piece.

YOUTH SECTION

18 and Under Solo	Own Choice	£7.00
15 and Under Solo	Selected Book	£7.00
12 and Under Solo	Selected Book	£7.00
10 and Under Solo	Selected Book	£7.00
18 and Under Ensemble *Up to 12 players*	Own Choice	£15.00
12 and Under Ensemble *Up to 12 players*	Own Choice	£15.00
Youth Band (players aged 18 and under)	Own Choice	£15.00

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 one of the Slow Melody classes in the Senior Section.

All competitors are permitted to play only one piece.

YOUTH SOLOS - SELECTED BOOKS

10 and Under Solo

The Young Soloist Volumes One, Two and Three
Publisher: Studio Music

Winner Scores All (Peter Lawrance)
Publisher: Brass Wind

Easy Winners (Peter Lawrance)
Publisher: Brass Wind

12 and Under Solo

As 10 and Under Solo

and Supplementary Studies
Paperback Bunko / R. M. Endresen

15 and Under Solo

As 12 and under Solo

and Polished Brass
Lizzie Davis

and Great Winners (Peter Lawrance)
Publisher: Brass Wind

18 and Under Solo

Own Choice / Open Class

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.

- Closing date for entries is **24th January 2025**.

- 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 are welcomed from unaffiliated bands and organisations / individuals not specifically connected to Brass Bands.

- An accompanist will be provided for youth players in the **10**, **12** and **15** and under classes. All players in those classes must use the provided accompanist or play unaccompanied. If choosing to play accompanied, the name of the piece should be specified in the relevant box on the entry form.

- 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 a similar format to previous events: The adjudicator will provide each performer with detailed feedback that they will be able to take with them back to the band/school room. He will be run 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 may be requested. Competitors must have been within the age limit on 1st February 2026.

- 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. Please be aware that the youth syllabus has been extended for 2026, this was done in consultation with bands and BBNI believe the changes offer a wider choice of music for young players.

- BBNI would like to highlight that percussion players are also welcome within any of the appropriate classes.

In order to allow inspection and any necessary repairs to be carried out, **ALL PERPETUAL TROPHIES** must be returned to a member of the BBNI Executive on or before **24th January 2025**. It is the responsibility of the band holding any of the trophies to ensure that they are returned in a timely manner. **Any bands that still hold trophies after this date will be fined £20 per trophy.**

SENIOR SECTION ADJUDICATOR

Christopher Bond

YOUTH SECTION ADJUDICATOR

Les Neish

All correspondence/payments to:

Paul Kirk
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DATES TO NOTE 2026

BRASS IN CONCERT
Friday 27th February and Saturday 28th February
The Valley Hotel, Fivemiletown

THE NATIONAL YOUTH BRASS BAND OF NORTHERN IRELAND
FINALE CONCERT
Saturday 21st March
The Strule Arts Theatre, Omagh

SPRING FESTIVAL
Saturday 18th April
The Strule Arts Theatre, Omagh