



Performing Arts Competition Since 1908

27 September 2020

Dear Supporter of Hastings Musical Festival

Given the continued uncertainty about Covid-19 and the restrictions that may still be in place next March, we have decided to make the 2021 Hastings Musical Festival a completely virtual festival. We wish to give some certainty to teachers, competitors and supporters about the form of the 2021 Festival to allow you, and the Festival committee, to plan for the Festival with confidence. While it is disappointing that we will not be able to offer the experience of live performances, we are excited that with the aid of technology we will be able to offer much of the excitement and benefits from Hastings Musical Festival through a virtual Festival.

While there have been a number of smaller festivals operating virtually this year, as far as we are aware we are the largest and most diverse festival to attempt to go virtual, so we are pioneers. However, this is obviously all new to us and we will be learning as we go along, so please bear with us! We have been working closely with our Festival software providers, Play and Perform, to prepare the necessary technical infrastructure to operate virtually, and have adapted our usual syllabus to take into account the challenges of performing under the current circumstances. We have posted details of the syllabus and how to make entries to the Festival on our website [www.hastingsmusicalfestival.org.uk], but here is a summary of how the 2021 Festival will be run.

What will be the same as your usual Hastings Festival?

- Extensive range of classes for dancing, singing, instrumental and speech and drama for all ages and abilities
- Professional adjudicators providing critiques of each performance
- The prestigious Hastings Musical Festival medal classes for singing, instrumental, and speech and drama
- The opportunity to watch and learn from other competitors in your class
- Certificates and comments for the adjudicator will be provided electronically to all competitors, indicating marks and whether placed
- Adjudications and announcement of results in March

What will be different this year?

- Recordings of entries will be submitted to be judged by the adjudicators, rather than face to face (see www.hastingsmusicalfestival.org.uk or [playandperform](#)) for details of how entries should be submitted, important details about safeguarding and tips for recording performances.
- Some of the usual classes will not be feasible this year due to the covid restrictions (see www.hastingsmusicalfestival.org.uk for details of how each section has adapted its syllabus for the virtual festival)
- Dance classes will be limited to a maximum of 25 entries.
- Entries can be made at any time between 1 October 2020 and 31 January 2021, at which time the entry fee must be paid. Recordings of performances can be uploaded at that time, or any subsequent time up to 31 January 2021.
- Reduced entry fees for this year
- For safeguarding reasons, it will not be possible for a general audience to be able to watch the recordings of performances, but the performances within each class will be able to be viewed by entrants and their teachers. If an entrant does not wish to share their performance this will be removed after the adjudicator has seen it.
- Due to logistics difficulties, we will not be awarding trophies this year. Instead, there will be Festival awards of 1st, 2nd and 3rd presented to prize winners for each class which winners can keep.
- There will not be a highlights concert at the White Rock Theatre at the conclusion of the Festival. However, we hope to be able to organise a live concert later in 2021, if (hopefully) the covid- related restrictions are lifted

We hope you are as excited about our 2021 Virtual Festival as we are. We are determined to make this Festival a success, in difficult circumstances, to ensure that covid does not prevent the opportunity to compete in the Festival, and for the Festival and charity to continue to support local performers. We hope that you will continue to support us and will encourage entries to the Festival.

As I am sure you are aware, the finances of the Festival this year will be challenging and uncertain. While we are aware that there will not be the same opportunities as usual for friends and family, and season ticket holders, to watch the festival, we do value (and need) your support, and I hope you will still support us through this difficult year by either retaining your membership, or donating to the Festival.

We look forward to welcoming you to an unusual, but hopefully exciting and successful 2021 Hastings Musical Festival!

Lesley Moore

Chair, Hastings Musical Festival Management Committee