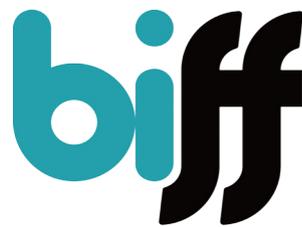


Blackburn Festival of Speech, Music and Dance

Speech Syllabus 2023



PERFORM | EDUCATE | INSPIRE

Blackburn Festival is affiliated to
The British and International Federation of Festivals
for Music, Dance and Speech



www.blackburnfestival.com



[Blackburn Festival of Speech Music and Dance](https://www.facebook.com/blackburnfest)



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Registered Charity No: 222789



Blackburn Festival of Speech, Music and Dance

We are affiliated to The British and International Federation of Festivals



To enable participation in the Performing Arts

Blackburn Festival gives the opportunity for amateurs to form an appreciation of artistic standards; to perform in a state of the art venue, before a different type of audience; to participate in workshops and master classes; to be assessed, encouraged and inspired by active professional adjudicators they would not meet in any other way.

Every skill gained in preparing for and giving a performance is a valuable skill which will be used at job interviews, in the workplace, in leisure activities and interpersonal relationships throughout life.

Our Festival is entirely organised and run by volunteers, not just the Festival Committee, but also those who give up their weekends throughout the Festival days to ensure our performers have a good experience. Few realise the enormous amount of detailed planning which lies behind the Festival itself. Anyone who can take responsibility for organising a particular element of Blackburn Festival is most welcome.

Adjudicators educate and inspire greater appreciation of the work being performed both for the performer and the audience alike. We employ BIFF affiliated adjudicators to ensure high standards are maintained just as the founders of Blackburn Festival intended 78 years ago.

Our Aims

Enjoy

To celebrate and enjoy the performance of Speech, Music and Dance shown by all who take part in our festival;

Nurture

To encourage and nurture all participants regardless of ability or background to ensure that they enjoy a warm and welcoming experience to help them grow in self confidence;

Achieve

To highlight excellence and celebrate achievement by organising a public Festival to which professional adjudicators bring expertise, guidance and an educational aspect to the performers and audience;

Serve

To develop long lasting relationships with our greatly appreciated Patrons, Sponsors, Teachers, Schools, the Local Community and Friends of the Festival;

Endure

To continue in the footsteps of committees since 1945 to ensure that Blackburn Festival endures for many more years.

Festival Dates and Venue 2023

Dates

Saturday 25th March and Sunday 26th March

Closing date for entries: 17th February 2023

Venue

The Croston Theatre at Westholme School

Meins Road, Blackburn BB2 6QU

Entries

Entry forms can be found on the website: www.blackburnfestival.com

You can either download them and return as an Excel file (preferred), or print them off and either email or post them.

Then send appropriate payment for the total entry by BACs.

Fees

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Solos 18 and under | £6 per class |
| Solos Open | £8 per class |
| Duologues | £8 per class |
| Group Speaking and Acting | £2 per child |

Banking Details

Sort Code: 01-00-85
Account Number: 50223089
Please include name and discipline thus:
Speech - <name of performer or teacher/
school>
E.g. Speech – Charlie Smith

The Speech Secretary

Debbie Northin

speech.blackburnfestival@gmail.com

Entries by post to:
Blackburn Festival
8 Hippings Way,
Clitheroe
BB7 2PQ

Adjudicators

Vanessa Edkins



Vanessa has been a performer in speech, drama, music and dance from a very early age. She first gained a passion for the spoken word through taking LAMDA examinations, later gaining her LAMDA teaching diploma. As a teacher, she has her own theatre school with students ranging from nursery to adults where youth theatre is an integral part of her school programme. She also tutors professional interview technique and conducts master classes and workshops as well as individual teaching for those with speech difficulties and special needs. As a director, producer and actress, Vanessa 'trod the boards' performing as the Fairy in Pantomime for eight seasons. She has worked on TV productions including –

Hollyoaks, Courtroom Drama, Emmerdale, River Steel Blues, Heartbeat, The Royal, and Dead Man Weds. Vanessa currently directs for 'Walk On' Touring Theatre Company and owns her own production company, 'High Flying Theatre Productions.'

Vanessa's passion is adjudicating at Stage festivals, she enjoys encouraging the performers of the future.

Vanessa is also a LAMDA examiner, and is extremely proud to be working with this prestigious organisation.

Vanessa also promotes an anti-bullying campaign, she provides assemblies and workshops to schools on anti-bullying. She also runs courses on internet safe guarding. Since 2009 she has spoken regularly at the palace of Westminster to politicians. Vanessa has presented on Teachers TV and given seminars at the Education shows.

Jean-Marc Perret



Jean-Marc trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and prior to that at Elmhurst Ballet School and Performing Arts. Main Theatre credits include: Royal Shakespeare Company, Birmingham Rep, Derby Playhouse and West Yorkshire Playhouse. Numerous TV & Film appearances incl. playing Prince Caspian in the successful BBC Bafta nominated series *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and *Revelation* (Romulus Films) with Terence Stamp and Ron Moody. Jean-Marc made appearances in *This Is Us* (Season 2) for NBC as well as the US series *American Woman* (Warner Bros). Whilst working in Los Angeles, Jean-Marc was fortunate

to attend the Oscars 2017 ceremony at The Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Jean-Marc has run numerous workshops in many leading universities and performing institutions around the world and his examining experience within the UK includes London College of Music in Drama / Communication / Musical Theatre subjects (5yrs) LAMDA (10yrs) and Trinity College, London (2yrs). He gained a Licenciate Acting/Teaching diploma in 1996 and is presently a Guest Adjudicator for The British International Federation of Festivals (BIFF).

Alongside these commitments, Jean-Marc trained as a certified British Academy of Dramatic Combat fight instructor helping to choreograph and perform in sword fights for projects such as Disney's blockbuster film *Cinderella* (2015). He played D'Artagnan for the London red carpet film premiere event for *The Three Musketeers* (2011) which starred Orlando Bloom and Christoph Waltz. Jean-Marc was also the guest performer at a World Cup and Commonwealth Fencing Champions Exhibition event in preparation for the Tokyo Olympics 2020 held at the prestigious King's School, Canterbury.

Festival Regulations

All entries must be sent to the relevant Secretary on or before the closing date.

The committee reserves the right to refuse any entry, to combine or withdraw any class deemed to have insufficient entries, or to divide any class with a large number of entries.

The Festival is open to amateurs only, and the following definitions apply:

Amateur: any person whose livelihood is derived from services other than teaching and performing music, speech and dance.

Novice: any competitor who has never achieved 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in any recognised Festival.

Student Teacher: any competitor who does not derive their sole income from teaching.

Any protest must be in writing, duly signed, stating the cause, and must be delivered to the Secretary on the day of the competition together with a fee of £5 which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.

The order of competing in all classes will be decided by ballot and performers will be informed of class timings.

The starting times of the classes are approximate and classes may start before or after the times stated. Performers should arrive in good time for their classes.

In classes where special conditions are laid down, failure to observe said conditions will lead to disqualification.

Entry fees include the Adjudicator's remarks which will be available at the end of each class or session. No entry fee will be returnable.

The Festival Committee shall have the power to decide all other matters connected with the conduct of the Festival not provided for in these regulations.

All communications must be addressed to the relevant Secretary.

Communications with the Adjudicator concerning any matter relating to the Festival by competitors, teachers or other interested parties prior to or during the competitions is prohibited.

Video recording, photography and audio recording during any performance is prohibited.

Finals, Championships and Group trophies will be held for one year. Dance Trophies may be returned to the Trophy Secretary at the Festival.

Trophies must be returned polished and in a clean state ready to be presented.

Any damage should be repaired by the competitor, and engraving on the trophy is at the winner's expense and should be carried out by the time of return.

Speech Specific Regulations

Where an age limit is mentioned, the age must be reckoned as on the opening date of the Speech Festival (25th March 2023). Performers may be asked to provide a Birth Certificate.

Own Choice – for copyright purposes, the Work, Title, Author, Time and Publisher should be stated on the entry form, changes will not be permitted after the closing entry date 10th February 2023.

Time limits should be strictly adhered to, over running will be penalised, a report will be given but no mark or place.

The content of own choice pieces should be suitable for an audience from 4 years and upwards. Please let us know on your entry if you intend to use adult language or content which is unsuitable for a young audience. Any performer presenting unsuitable material without warning may be stopped and the performance not adjudicated.

Backing/audio tracks may only be used in Musical Theatre and no other classes.

Copies for the Adjudicator **must** be brought to the competition.

Speech Syllabus Changes

Class 152 – a reading from any Harry Potter book written by J K Rowling.

Bible Reading classes 153, 154, 155 and 156 have been combined into Spiritual Reading, Classes 157 and 158.

Own Poem writing is on the theme of Royalty, Kings and Queens, Princes and Princesses, and the Coronation.

High Scoring performers and Section Trophy winners may be invited to perform at a Blackburn Festival Celebration Evening on Saturday May 13th 2023 at The Croston Theatre, Westholme School.

Verse Speaking Classes

Please give a copy of your own choice verse to the adjudicator's steward when you are asked to perform

Group Verse Speaking

Groups must not be conducted. A suggestion of movement is allowed where relevant.

100. 12 years and under Small Group, 2 - 4 performers.

Own Choice of Verse - Time limit 2 minutes

101. 12 years and over Small Group, 2 - 4 performers.

Own Choice of one piece of Verse - Time limit 2 minutes

102. 9 years and under, 6 or more performers

Animal's Actions – Daphne Lister and Own Choice of one piece of Verse - Time limit 2 minutes

103. 12 years and under, 6 or more performers

The Song the Train Sang – Neil Adams and Own Choice of one piece of verse – Time limit 2 minutes

104. 12 years and over, 6 or more performers

Own Choice of two contrasting pieces - Total time limit 6 minutes

Nursery Rhyme

105. 4 years and under – Own Choice speaking one nursery rhyme

106. 6 years and under – Own Choice speaking two nursery rhymes

Set Verse

107. 6 years and under

A Circle of Sun – Rebecca Kai Dotlich
OR My Brother's Secrets – John Foster

108. 7 years and under

The Poem I'd like to Write – Clive
Sansom OR The Small Ghostie –
Barbara Ireson

109. 8 years and under

A Small Dragon – Brian Potter OR The
Hippopotamus's Birthday – Emile Victor
Rieu

110. 9 years and under

A Place without Footprints - Daphne
Kitching OR Since Hannah Moved
Away – Judith Viorst

111. 10 years and under

Roots – Steve Turner OR Stopping by
the Woods on a Snowy Evening -
Robert Frost

112. 11 years and under

Max – John Hegley OR The Owl and
The Pussycat – Edward Lear

113. 12 years and under

The Closed School – Raymond Wilson
OR To a Butterfly – William Wordsworth

114. 14 years and under

The Shoes – John Mole OR Wasp Nest
– John Fuller

Own Choice Verse

115. 6 years and under - Time limit 2
minutes

116. 7 years and under - Time limit 2
minutes

117. 9 years and under - Time limit 2
minutes

118. 12 years and under - Time limit 2
minutes

119. 15 years and under - Time limit 3
minutes

120. 16 years and over - Time limit 3
minutes

Comic Verse

123. 12 years and under - Time limit 2
minutes

124. 15 years and under - Time limit 3
minutes

125. 16 years and over - Time limit 5
minutes

GCSE Set Anthology Poetry

Any piece of poetry set in a current GCSE anthology
To be READ or RECITED.

126. 13 years and over - Time limit 4 minutes

Acting and Sight Reading Classes

Time limits include an introduction

Full costume must not be worn, but suitable skirts, jackets, hats, shawls etc. may be worn

Small props to be arranged by the competitor within the time limit

No additional marks will be awarded for costume

Solo Shakespeare

127a. 12 years and under - Time limit 3 minutes

128. 16 years and over - Time limit 6 minutes

127b. 15 years and under - Time limit 4 minutes

Solo

Any speech from a play other than Shakespeare or any adaptation from literature

129. 9 years and under - Time limit 3 minutes

131. 15 years and under - Time limit 4 minutes

130. 12 years and under - Time limit 4 minutes

132. 16 years and over - Time limit 6 minutes

Duologues

133. 9 years and under - Time limit 3 minutes

135. 15 years and under - Time limit 4 minutes

134. 12 years and under - Time limit 4 minutes

136. 16 years and over - Time limit 6 minutes

Group Acting

Any scene from a play or any adaptation from literature.

137. Acted Scene - 15 years and under - Time limit 8 minutes

Musical Theatre - Acting through Song

Please bring your own accompanist or equipment and backing track. A suggestion of costume and small props is allowed. Please introduce your selection, explaining its context briefly, a short piece of dialogue to be included. Time limits include the introduction. Marks will be awarded for characterisation.

Solo, duo or trio performance

138. 12 years and under - Time limit 6 minutes

140. 16 years and over - Time limit 10 minutes

139. 15 years and under - Time limit 7 minutes

Sight Reading

A passage of prose will be selected by the adjudicator and a minute given for each reader to study the passage.

141. 9 years and under

142. 12 years and under

143. 15 years and under

144. 16 years and over

Prepared Prose

Own Choice readings should be read from the original text

Time limits include an introduction

Ladybird Prose Reading

145. 7 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

Beatrix Potter Prose Reading

146. 9 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

Own Choice Prose Reading

147. 9 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

148. 12 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

149. 14 years and under

Time limit 3 minutes

150. 16 years and under

Time limit 3 minutes

151. 17 years and over

Time limit 3 minutes

Own Choice Prose Reading Set Author

Any reading from a Harry Potter book by J K Rowling

152. 12 years and under - Time limit 2 minutes

Other Classes

Spiritual Reading

A reading from the Bible or any spiritual or religious text used in a place of worship.

157. 12 year and under

Time limit 2 minutes

158. 13 years and over

Time limit 3 minutes

Public Speaking

A speech on any subject to be prepared but not learned by heart.

Notes and visual aids may be used.

159. 12 years and under

Time limit 3 minutes

160. 13 years and over

Time limit 5 minutes

Own Poem Composition

Theme to link with the Coronation of King Charles III: Royalty, Kings and Queens, Princes and Princesses, and/or The Coronation.

To be read by the author. Marks will be awarded for both the composition and the performance. A copy of the poem must be sent with the entry.

161. 12 years and under

Time limit 3 minutes

162. 13 years and over

Time limit 3 minutes

Accent and Dialect

From a book, play or poem.

163. Any age - Time limit 3 minutes

Improvisation

Acted Scene

Three titles will be given by the adjudicator; performers will choose one and act it out as a scene. Three minutes will be given for preparation and 2 minutes for performance. Solo or Group.

164. 12 years and under

165. 13 years and over

Impromptu Storytelling

Three objects or words will be given to the performers by the adjudicator at the start of the class. Devise and tell a story that includes the objects or words.

166. 12 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

167. 13 years and over

Time limit 3 minutes

Use of Recorded Music, Poetry & Prose for Solo Dramatic Items

We are affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals (BIFF) and participate in its group licence to cover payment of fees for the use of recorded music at its events. Performers using music from commercial recordings are advised they should seek permission to re-record from the record companies concerned as the Festival cannot take responsibility for this.

Blackburn Festival has entered, through BIFF, into an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that entrants do not have to obtain copyright permission for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items performed at the Festival to a time limit of ten minutes. Solo dramatic pieces must be announced with the Title and Author at the time of performance to qualify for copyright indemnity and the performer must not change the words or gender of the character. Duologues and Groups are not covered by this agreement, and copyright for these items must be sought at the time of entry. The Festival Committee accepts these entries on the basis that appropriate copyright permission has been sought. Queries should be addressed to:

British and International Federation of Festivals, Festivals House, 198 Park Lane, Macclesfield SK11 6UD 01625 428297 info@federationoffestivals.org.uk

The Committee and Contacts

President Margaret Wilson
Vice President Lorna Slinger

The Trustees

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Chair | Debbie Northin | chair.blackburnfestival@gmail.com |
| General Secretary | Anne Collingridge | gensec.blackburnfestival@gmail.com |
| Treasurer and Vice Chair | Neill Oldham | treasurer.blackburnfestival@gmail.com |

The Discipline Secretaries

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Speech Secretary | Debbie Northin | speech.blackburnfestival@gmail.com |
| Music Secretaries | Suzanne Lowe and Suganya Reddy | music.blackburnfestival@gmail.com |
| Dance Secretary | Anne Collingridge | dance.blackburnfestival@gmail.com |

The Trophy Secretaries

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--|
| Speech and Music | Mari Prescott-Jones | trophies.blackburnfestival@gmail.com |
| Dance | Louise Kellington | |
| Web | Hannah Collingridge | web.blackburnfestival@gmail.com |

Committee Members

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Peggy Taylor | Carole Lindberg |
| Ros Simpson | Susan Johnson |