

# Blackburn Festival of Speech, Music and Dance

## Speech Syllabus 2024



PERFORM | EDUCATE | INSPIRE

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



[www.blackburnfestival.com](http://www.blackburnfestival.com)



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



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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 nearly 80 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 2024

## Dates

Saturday 23rd March and Sunday 24th March

Closing date for entries: 13th January 2024

## Venue

The Croston Theatre at Westholme School

Meins Road, Blackburn BB2 6QU

## Entries

Entry forms can be found on the website: [www.blackburnfestival.com](http://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

Choral Speaking £15 per group

### 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

Suganya Reddy

[speech.blackburnfestival@gmail.com](mailto:speech.blackburnfestival@gmail.com)

Entries by post to:  
Blackburn Festival  
15, The Drive  
Brockhall Village  
Blackburn  
BB6 8BJ

# Adjudicators

## Christopher Marlow

BA, MA, PhD, PGCE, PGDip, LLCM, FVCM



Chris trained at the universities of Manchester and Oxford, winning as an undergraduate, The John Osborne Award. A member of Equity and the Society of Teachers of Speech & Drama (STSD), he is also a life member of the Oxford Union, the eminent university debating society.

A freelance teacher of speech and drama, and a working professional with television, radio and theatre experience, Chris's credits include 'Born and Bred' (BBC One), Granada Reports (ITV), BBC Radio Lancashire, BBC Radio Merseyside and 'The Sound of Music' (UK theatre tour). However, teaching remains his passion and Chris's

students can be found in most of the major UK and USA drama schools including RADA, LAMDA, Guildhall, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Stella Adler etc. and thereafter on stage and screen

He is an adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals and has extensive experience as an examiner for the Central School of Speech & Drama, Guildhall, LAMDA and TCL. He now examines for the London College of Music, assessing speech, drama and musical theatre performances worldwide.

## Jenny Thornton

AGSM (Teaching), ALAM (Acting, Public Speaking), CertEd, CDE, LISTD (Dance)



Jenny trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, gaining awards for Character Acting and Most Promising Teacher.

Jenny has led the Performing Arts Teams in a large comprehensive school, been an Assistant Principal for Edexcel, LAMDA examiner and now enjoys running her own Performance Centre with ages from 4 years to adults delivering drama, dance and musical theatre and also writing.

Her play called "Gone" gained a Commended when performed at The Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond as did her most recent play "Young Love". She was delighted when LAMDA chose two of her pieces for their new acting anthology.

Her most recent teaching experience is working in a state school as a peripatetic teacher as part of her "Outreach" programme.

"Drama is a life skill that changed me from a stuttering introvert to a confident individual. We can give our children no better opportunity."

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

# Speech Specific Regulations

Where an age limit is mentioned, the age must be reckoned as on the opening date of the Speech Festival (23rd March 2024). 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 13th January 2024.

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.

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

## Verse Speaking Classes

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

### Nursery Rhyme

100. 4 years and under – Own Choice speaking one nursery rhyme

101. 6 years and under – Own Choice speaking two nursery rhymes

### Set Verse

The set verses for each age group are available as a downloadable PDF from our website.

*Time limit: 2 minutes*

102. 6 years and under

Three Bears - Julia Donaldson *or* Cabbage - Jeanne Willis

103. 7 years and under

I Did Not Eat the Goldfish - Roger Stevens *or* Fly in my Soup - Debra Bertulis

104. 8 years and under

Santa Claws - Julia Donaldson *or* Sleepover Gran - Debra Bertulis

105. 9 years and under

How NOT to impersonate your Mum on the telephone - Debra Bertulis *or* I'm Disgusted with my Brother - Jack Prelutsky

106. 10 years and under

Favouritism - Trevor Harvey *or* I Opened a Book - Julia Donaldson

107. 11 years and under

Mother Doesn't Want a Dog - Judith Viorst *or* Reading Round The Class - Gervaise Phinn

108. 12 years and under

Elephant - Roger McGough *or* The Day that Summer Died - Vernon Scannel

*Time limit: 3 minutes*

109. 13 years and under

On a Night of Snow - Elizabeth Coatsworth *or* Something told the Wild Geese - Rachel Field

110. 14 years and under

Tich Miller - Wendy Cope *or* Geography Lesson - Brian Patten

### Own Choice Verse

111: 15-18 years

Time limit: 3 minutes

## Comic Verse

112. 12 years and under - time limit 2 minutes

114. 15-18 years - time limit 5 minutes

113. 14 years and under - time limit 3 minutes

## Acting and Sight Reading Classes

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.

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

115. 12 years and under - time limit 3 minutes

116. 14 years and under - time limit 4 minutes

117. 15-18 years - time limit 6 minutes

## Sight Reading

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

118. 9 years and under

119. 12 years and under

## Prepared Prose

### Ladybird Prose Reading

120. 7 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

### Beatrix Potter Prose Reading

121. 9 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

### Own Choice Prose Reading

122. 9 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

124. 14 years and under

Time limit 3 minutes

123. 12 years and under

Time limit 2 minutes

125. 15-18 years

Time limit 3 minutes

## Other Classes

### Public Speaking

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

Notes and visual aids may be used.

126. 12 years and under

Time limit 3 minutes

127. 13 years and over

Time limit 5 minutes

### Choral Speaking

128. Primary Years - time limit 3 minutes

129. Secondary Years - time limit 5 minutes

### Prayer Book Society

The Prayer Book Society was founded to spread knowledge of the Book of Common Prayer and ensure its continued use in Church.

The Cranmer Awards offer an annual opportunity for school pupils between the ages of 11 to 18 from all over the country to speak Archbishop Cranmer's unsurpassed words.

Candidates from the Blackburn Diocese may enter as individuals through two classes, and, sponsored by The Prayer Book Society, there is no entry fee for these classes. The winners go through to a National Final early in 2025 where the prizes in each group will be:

1st - £300 2nd - £200 3rd - £100

Expenses for travel and overnight accommodation can be claimed for the candidate and one accompanying adult.

Adjudicators will take into consideration diction and clarity, pace and phrasing and intelligent communication of the meaning. (Any deviation from the text of the 1662 Book of Common Prayer such as adding phrases such as 'This is the Gospel of Christ' at the end of a reading will be penalised).

130. 11 – 14 years - Time limit 5 minutes

131. 15 – 18 years - Time limit 5 minutes

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

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. 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.

Speech Own Choice – for copyright purposes the name of the work, the title, author, time and publisher should be stated on the entry form and changes are not permitted after the closing date for entry (13<sup>th</sup> January 2024).

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](mailto:info@federationoffestivals.org.uk)



# The Committee and Contacts

President            Margaret Wilson  
Vice President    Lorna Slinger

## The Trustees

Chair	Debbie Northin	<a href="mailto:chair.blackburnfestival@gmail.com">chair.blackburnfestival@gmail.com</a>
General Secretary	Anne Collingridge	<a href="mailto:gensec.blackburnfestival@gmail.com">gensec.blackburnfestival@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer and Vice Chair	Neill Oldham	<a href="mailto:treasurer.blackburnfestival@gmail.com">treasurer.blackburnfestival@gmail.com</a>

## The Discipline Secretaries

Speech Secretary	Suganya Reddy	<a href="mailto:speech.blackburnfestival@gmail.com">speech.blackburnfestival@gmail.com</a>
Music Secretaries	Suganya Reddy and Suzanne Lowe	<a href="mailto:music.blackburnfestival@gmail.com">music.blackburnfestival@gmail.com</a>
Dance Secretary	Anne Collingridge	<a href="mailto:dance.blackburnfestival@gmail.com">dance.blackburnfestival@gmail.com</a>

## The Trophy Secretaries

Speech and Music	Susan Johnson and Carole Lindberg
Dance	Louise Kellington

Web	Hannah Collingridge	<a href="mailto:web.blackburnfestival@gmail.com">web.blackburnfestival@gmail.com</a>
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## Committee Members

Peggy Taylor  
Ros Simpson  
Mari Prescott-Jones