

# STRINGS

Adjudicator: Kay Tucker AGSM,ARCM,LTCL,PGCA,PGCE



Kay was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire and began studies on the cello at the age of 12, continuing studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Her portfolio career has combined teaching and adjudicating with performing as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. Since 1998, Kay has been in popular demand as an Adjudicator throughout the UK, having worked at well over 200 festivals including the National Festival of Music for Youth. 'Encouragement' is a key word in all aspects of Kay's work and she has great joy in working alongside musicians of all ages, particularly the very young. Kay's passion for teaching led her to develop an early years strings & general musicianship system known as 'Stringbabies'. Since its inception in 2004, 'Stringbabies' has become well established and accepted as a leading approach in strings teaching (surprisingly to all ages!) and is being delivered throughout the UK and abroad in individual teaching practices, schools and music services. In 2016, Musicbabies for Recorder was published, being the first adaptation of Stringbabies for a non-stringed instrument. Kay works in partnership with Victoria College Examinations in delivering a bespoke Stringbabies Award for beginner string players and also with Charanga, who are publishing the violin and cello Stringbabies books on their e-learning platform. In 2013 and 2014, Stringbabies was shortlisted for the Inaugural Rhinegold Music Teachers Awards for Excellence in music education. In 2014 Kay was also a finalist in the BBC Community Heroes Awards in Education in respect of her work in developing 'Stringbabies'. Over recent years, Kay worked as a consultant to Trinity Guildhall, selecting and co-selecting repertoire for graded exams and diplomas. Kay was a Trustee and member of the Executive council of the European String Teacher's Association (ESTA). In 2018 she was presented with the ESTA award for exceptional services, in recognition of her work in initiating the Post Graduate Certificate in string teaching accredited by Chichester University. In 2009, Kay co-founded Horsham Performers Platform and for 10 years served as Chair, continuing as Co-Chair from 2019. Kay became an Adjudicator Member of the British and International Federation of Festivals in 1997 and undertook the Post-graduate Certificate in Adjudication in 1999/2000.

**Head of Section: Catherine Ward**

**The Gordon Cawthorne Memorial Trophy** will be presented to the performer aged 14 years and under who makes the greatest impression on the adjudicator.

**The Portsmouth Chorus Challenge Cup** will be presented for the best performance by a performer aged between 15 and 21 years in any class.

**The Wendy Towell Cup** will be presented to the most promising intermediate level cellist.

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Menuhin Room, Central Library, Guildhall Walk, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX

9:30	<b>Class St18</b> Time limit 8 mins <i>Recital Pre-grade - Grade 1</i>	<b>Frederick Alexander Cup</b>
	<b>Class St1</b> Time limit 2 mins <i>Own choice of one piece or movement for bowed strings Pre-grade - Grade 1</i>	<b>Vincent Cup</b>
	<b>Class St2</b> Time limit 4 mins <i>Own choice of one piece or movement for bowed strings Grades 2 - 3</i>	<b>John Durrant Junior Cup</b>
	<b>Class St3</b> Time limit 7 mins <i>Own choice of one piece or movement for bowed strings Grades 4 - 6</i>	<b>G W Wall Cup</b>
	<b>Class St20</b> Time limit 15 mins <i>Recital Class Grades 4-5</i>	<b>Leonard Velde Cup</b>
10:55	<b>Break</b>	
11:15	<b>Class St8</b> Time limit 10 mins <i>Own choice of one piece or movement for harps Grades 6-8+</i>	<b>Marcus Cup</b>
	<b>Class St12</b> Time limit 8 mins <i>Unaccompanied Solo Grade 6+</i>	<b>Evans Cup</b>
	<b>Class St26</b> Time limit 10 mins <i>DUETS - Own choice of one or two pieces</i>	<b>Viva Chatterton-Allison Cup</b>
	<b>Class St22</b> Time limit 25 mins <i>Recital Class Grades 8-8+</i>	<b>Warfield Beauchamp Cup</b>
	<b>Class St17</b> Time limit 4 mins <i>Concerto / Concertino post-Grade 8</i>	<b>Gary Cup</b>

**Class St29** Time limit 12 mins  
*Solo Class - Open - Own choice of pieces or movements.*

**K R Velde Cup**

1:15

Lunch

2:30 **Class St30** Time limit 25 mins  
*Recital Class - Open*

**Warfield No.2 Cup**

**Class St37** Time limit 15 mins  
*Family & Friends Ensemble*

**Benny Freedman Cup**

4:00

Presentation of Awards

End of Strings Section



SOLENT  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA  
in  
Concert

**St Thomas' Cathedral, Old Portsmouth**  
**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Programme to include:

**Bach (arr Holst) - Fugue a la Gigue**

**Rachmaninov - Piano Concerto No. 2**

Soloist - Harry Dixon, Winner of the 2025 Portsmouth Festival of Performing Arts  
Concerto Prize

**Britten - A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra**