



Brentwood International Music Competition

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I find out more about Brentwood School?

A: For more information about Brentwood School, please visit [our website](#). We would love to hear from you, so feel free to contact us at any time.

If you would like to speak with someone in Admissions, please call +44 1277 243 314. For inquiries related to the Music Department, please call the main school number at +44 1277 243 243, and we will connect you with the appropriate colleague.

Our dedicated team is here to help you. We can arrange online meetings, in-person tours, and answer any questions you may have about music or Brentwood School in general.

Preliminary Round – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Which instruments can apply?

A: Applications are open to performances on the following orchestral instruments...

- Strings: Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Double Bass, Harp
- Woodwind: Flute (and piccolo), Oboe (and cor anglais), Clarinet, Bassoon, Saxophone
- Brass: Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, and Tuba
- Orchestral Percussion

... as well as piano, classical guitar, and classical solo singing.

Q: Is there a minimum standard of entry?

A: This competition is for young musicians who are seriously considering a career in professional music and, as such, have already reached a very high standard of performance (UK equivalent: Grade 8+)

Q: What sort of repertoire should I perform?

A: There is no set requirement for repertoire. Our suggestion is that you perform pieces that you are comfortable performing and that best demonstrate your technical ability and your musicality.

Q: How do I upload my video to YouTube and share the link?

A: Once you have the video, you will need to create a YouTube account. You can then upload your video file and change the privacy settings to 'Private'. You will then be able to copy and paste the URL to the application form. Alternatively, videos can be uploaded to suitable alternative streaming or cloud-based platforms with similar privacy settings.

Q: What level of recording equipment do I need?

A: The panel will not be judging the audio or video quality of the recording, but the musical performance. As long as we can clearly see and hear your performance, it can be recorded on hand-held devices such as phones or tablets.

We would advise all participants to check the balance in their videos so that we can clearly hear the performer, and applicants are reminded that their entries should be recorded in one continuous shot with no video editing.

Q: Who will the videos be shared with?

A: The videos will only be viewed by members of the panel and the music department of Brentwood School. They will not be shared more widely. The video remains the property of the sender, and the permission to view can be removed by the sender at any time. Should it be necessary, Brentwood School will ask permission from the sender before downloading and using the video for any other purpose, and it will be processed in accordance with our [Privacy Notice](#).

Q: Should I upload the pieces as one recording or as separate takes?

A: Entries **must** be submitted as one continuous take, with minimal breaks between pieces. Pieces which are submitted individually will not be judged.

Q: Is there a penalty if I go over or under the time requirements?

A: There is no penalty, although we would ask you to try and keep to the time requirements as much as possible. There is no guarantee that submissions over the time limit will be listened to in full by the panel.

Q: What do I say in my spoken introduction?

A: We would like you to introduce yourself (name, age, instrument, and country of study) and the chosen repertoire. We consider this part of the performance and is an opportunity for the panel to hear a bit about you and get a better understanding of you as an individual.

Q: I am unable to have a live accompanist for my first-round entry. Can I use a backing track instead?

A: We would recommend using a real accompanist wherever possible. If this is not possible, please do contact us to ask for specific advice.

Q: Can I perform an unaccompanied piece?

A: Orchestral instrumentalists may include **one** unaccompanied piece as part of their application.

Q: Is there a dress code for the video submissions and the in-person final?

A: We would expect dress codes for both rounds to reflect the professionalism and seriousness of the musical performance.

Final Round – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will I know if I reach the final?

A: You will receive emailed confirmation by the 19th January 2026 from the panel, letting you know of the outcome of your submission.

Q: Will I be contacted even if I do not reach the final?

A: Applicants who do not successfully progress to the final will receive written confirmation.

Q: Can I bring my own accompanist?

A: We are more than happy for applicants to bring their own accompanists (at their own expense) for the final round; a rehearsal room and piano will be provided on the day. However, an official competition accompanist will be provided at no cost.

Q: How much rehearsal time will I have with my accompanist?

A: Each finalist will be allotted a one-hour rehearsal with their pianist prior to the final performance.

Q: Will I need a parent or guardian to attend the final round with me?

A: Finalists are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If this is not possible, please communicate this to the committee when the finalists are announced.

Q: Will financial assistance be available for the in-person final round to cover travel and accommodation expenses?

A: Selected finalists will be able to apply for reasonable travel expenses so they can attend the final in person.