



Brentwood International Music Competition

Rules and Regulations

Preliminary Round

Online video submission

1. Applicants must perform at least **2 contrasting pieces** with a combined total length of no more than 15 minutes and no less than 8 minutes. The repertoire choices should demonstrate your technical aptitude and musical expressivity.

- a. Applicants may include **one** unaccompanied piece as part of their entry (excluding pianists, guitarists, harpists and percussionists), but this is not a requirement.
- b. Breaks between pieces must be kept to a minimum; the total length of submission should not exceed 18 minutes.
- c. All piano works must be performed from memory, all other instrumentalists must perform from memory with the exception of Sonatas with piano.

2. Submissions must be uploaded to a YouTube channel with the video privacy settings set to 'private', with the link to watch entered in the corresponding place on the application form. Alternatively, videos can be uploaded to suitable alternative streaming or cloud-based platforms.

- a. Submissions must be one continuous take, filmed from a single camera, with a clear view of both the performer and accompanist.
- b. Pianists should position their camera so their hands can be clearly seen.
- c. No video or audio editing of any kind is permitted; the competition committee reserves the right to disqualify applicants who are believed to have digitally manipulated their entry.
- d. Submissions should begin with a brief spoken introduction by the entrant which includes their name, age, school and country of study, and the names and composers of their pieces.
- e. Submissions also require a fully completed application form, including the following additional details:
 - i. A personal statement (500 words or less summarising the main reasons that you are entering this competition, your musical achievements to date, and any other relevant information that you would like the panel to be aware of.
 - ii. A letter of reference (optional) from a teacher or other individual qualified to speak to your level of musicianship and suitability for the competition.

3. Preliminary round submissions will be judged by members of the panel alongside a review of the entrant's application form. Results will be communicated via email to the applicant's contact listed on their application form no later than 19th January 2026. Any decisions made regarding progressing further in the competition are final. In the case that an applicant does not successfully progress, no feedback will be provided at this stage.

4. Prospective finalists will be invited for an online interview with members of the panel to assess their suitability for enrolment at the School. Details regarding the date, time, and format of this interview will be communicated following the 1st round.

- a. Any applicants **not** invited to the Grand Final following their interview will receive written feedback shortly after.
- b. Applicants who have not made the Grand Final may also be invited to attend an online feedback session at the panel's discretion.

Pre-screening Round

Online interview

Online interviews will be conducted with any applicants who are successful in reaching the final round and have expressed an interest in studying at Brentwood School on their application form. This process will be used to ascertain each applicant's academic suitability for enrolment at the School.

If you have further questions regarding what this will involve, please contact the committee at specialistmusic@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

Final Round

Memorial Hall, Brentwood School

The final will be held in the Memorial Hall at Brentwood School on the 27th February 2026 and all finalists are expected to attend in person. Selected finalists will be able to apply for reasonable travel expenses so they can attend the final in person.

1. Applicants must perform a varied recital with a **combined total length of no more than 20 minutes in length and no less than 15 minutes**. The repertoire choices should demonstrate your technical virtuosity and a considered approach to concert programming.

- a. Finalists may include **one** piece from their Preliminary Round submission.
- b. Finalists may include **one** unaccompanied piece as part of their programme (excluding pianists, guitarists, harpists and percussionists).
- c. All piano works must be performed from memory, all other instrumentalists must perform from memory with the exception of Sonatas with piano.

2. Finalists will be provided with an official competition accompanist, although applicants are permitted to bring their own accompanist if they prefer.

- a. All finalists will be allocated a one-hour slot in which to rehearse with their accompanist on the school site.

3. Finalists **must** be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian unless prior arrangements have been made with the permission of the School and parent/guardian.

4. The final will be adjudicated by a panel of specialist judges. The decision of the jury is final. Written feedback will be available upon request after the final round.

5. The final round and adjudications will be open to the public and wider school community.

6. The following prizes will be presented by the chair of the committee, Lord Guy Black, following adjudication:

1st Place: £1000

2nd Place: £500

3rd Place: £300

7. After the final, the following prize may also be awarded at the discretion of Brentwood School and the competition committee:

Grand Prize:

- A Brentwood School Headmaster's Award up to the value of a full-boarding bursary (£60,000 per annum)
- A place on Brentwood School's Specialist Music Programme

8. Further to the above prizes, the panel and Brentwood School reserve the right to offer any finalists the Headmaster's Award for musical excellence for entry into Brentwood School. All finalists who are successful in securing a place at Brentwood School following the competition will be enrolled in the Specialist Music Programme.

Preliminary round submissions will be judged by a selection of adjudicators from the panel in conjunction with a review of the entrant's application form. Results will be communicated via email to the applicant's contact listed on their application form no later than 19th January 2026. Any decisions made regarding progressing further in the competition are final. In the case that an applicant does not successfully progress, no feedback will be provided at this stage.