



The Queenswood and
Hertfordshire Festival of Music
Choral Competition
2023/24



The Queenswood and Hertfordshire Festival of Music Choral Competition 2023/24

Calling all Hertfordshire Junior and Prep Schools! Send us your entries for an exciting new choral competition

Queenswood School, in association with the Hertfordshire Festival of Music, is delighted to announce the launch of a new choral competition for junior and preparatory schools. As part of Queenswood's sponsorship of the Hertfordshire Festival of Music, this inaugural competition seeks to encourage and recognise great choral music-making by young people across Hertfordshire.

The competition is open to school choirs for ages 6–13. Entrants are eligible from girls only, boys only and co-educational junior and prep schools in Hertfordshire. Judges will include Queenswood Director of Music, Elle Jackson, and the Artistic Director of the Hertfordshire Festival of Music and acclaimed composer, James Francis Brown.

There will be two age categories:

- up to and including 11 years of age
- up to and including 13 years of age

First round

To enter the competition please submit a recording (or recordings if submitting two separate files) of your choir singing two pieces of their choice.

- The combined length of pieces must not exceed 8 minutes.
- The two pieces can be sent as one file or two separate files.
- The recording(s) must be new and specifically made for this competition.
- The deadline for receipt of entries is **Friday 1st March 2024**.
- Entries received after the closing date will not be considered.
- Entry is free.

Submitting your first round entry

The format for submitting your entry can be either video or audio.

- If submitting video please send via the free file-sharing platform Wetransfer to Queenswood's Director of Music Mrs Elle Jackson at elle.jackson@queenswood.org.
- If submitting an audio file (or files) please send MP3 or WAV via email or Wetransfer to elle.jackson@queenswood.org.
- If submitting a DVD or CD, please send via post to the address below. Recordings, which are non-returnable, should be clearly marked and sent to:
Queenswood/HFoM Choral Competition
Mrs E Jackson
Director of Music
Queenswood School
Shepherd's Way
Brookmans Park
Hatfield
Hertfordshire
AL9 6NS
- Please make sure your entry is clearly marked with the choir's name and age category. Please complete: title of song 1, composer's name, title of song 2, composer's name.
- Choirs will be informed by **Friday 15th March 2024** if they have made it through to the final round.

Competition final

Winning choirs from the first round will be invited to take part in the final round, which will be held in person at Queenswood School on **Friday 26 April 2024**.

There will be one winning choir from each category and an overall winner. The overall winning choir will be invited to perform as part of the Hertfordshire Festival of Music during their 2024 Festival.

What the winners will receive

All finalists will receive a certificate of commendation.

The winning choir of each age category will receive a trophy.

The choir winning the overall category will receive a trophy and an invitation to sing their winning pieces during the Hertfordshire Festival of Music 2024.

Any questions?

Please direct any questions regarding this competition to Elle Jackson at elle.jackson@queenswood.org.

Competition rules

Each choir should sing two contrasting pieces of their choice for the first round. The requirements for what may be sung for the Final will be communicated to those choirs that progress to the Final.

- The conductor must not sing with the choir.
- The suitability of the pieces chosen will be taken into consideration by the judges.
- Choirs may sing along to a pre-recorded accompaniment. However, the accompaniment must be purely instrumental and must not contain any vocals.
- Choirs must provide their own accompanist if they wish to use the piano provided during the Final.
- By entering the competition, participating choirs agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the competition.
- Performances on the recorded submissions for the first round and of the finalists will be judged on criteria that include the following: intonation, tone quality, diction, ensemble, balance, blend, interpretation of music and text, dynamics, phrasing and communication.
- The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the results.
- No correspondence will be entered into on comments or rules and regulations by either the judges or the organisers.
- There will be one winning choir from each age category as well as an overall winning choir.
- The overall winning choir will be invited to perform their winning pieces as part of the Hertfordshire Festival of Music 2024 programme in June 2024.



HERTFORDSHIRE
FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

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