

Newry Musical Feis

Established 1928

AFFILIATED TO

THE BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF FESTIVALS
FOR MUSIC, DANCE AND SPEECH



2026 Traditional Music Syllabus

Sunday 19th April 2026

Teachers and performers are advised to check closely all policies and procedures and byelaw information provided

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES

Sunday 22nd February 2026

All entries must be submitted by recognised teachers of
Traditional Irish Music
online at:
www.newrymusicalfeis.com

If you have not already registered as a teacher on our website
please do so as entries may only be made via our online entry
facility.

Payment can be made online via Pay Pal
or by cheque* made payable to *Newry Musical Feis*.
and posted to
Traditional Music 2026,
14 Windsor Hill,
Newry, BT34 1ER

*All entry fees must be in **STERLING**

All general enquiries to info@newrymusicalfeis.com

All Section-specific enquiries to
Rosie Ferguson (Section Secretary)
Tel: 07840503513
Email: rosieferguson@hotmail.co.uk

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**AUDIO RECORDING:
VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT
INCLUDING MOBILE TELEPHONES**

No unauthorized photography, audio or video recording is allowed at the Feis including all competition halls, backstage and dressing-room areas.

MOBILE PHONES

All mobiles phones should be turned off and put away in the Competition Halls.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EACH COMPETITOR PERFORMS IN THE ORDER AND NAME THEY APPEAR IN THE PROGRAMME AND WHEN THE NUMBER IS ANNOUNCED ON STAGE

NEWRY MUSICAL FEIS

Privacy Notice June 2025 Next Review Due: June 2027

The Newry Musical Feis takes great care to preserve your privacy and safeguard any personal data you provide to us. This Privacy Notice explains how we will collect and use your personal data.

We may change this Privacy Notice from time to time so please check regularly to ensure that you are happy with any changes.

1. Who we are

We are the Newry Musical Feis. We are engaged in the application process for registration with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Our registered address is 14 Windsor Hill, Newry, BT34 1ER

2. What personal data do we collect?

We may collect personal data from you such as:

- Your name
- Your address
- Your telephone number
- Your email address

If you are a teacher, we will collect, through you:

- Names of your performers
- Dates of birth of your performers
- Name of school attended by your performers (only in those Sections where this information is needed to assist in programme planning)

3. How do we use your personal data?

We will use your personal data in a number of ways which may include:

- (a) Processing your entry form to take part in the festival.
- (b) Keeping you updated about your entry to the festival.
- (c) Sending you copies of our syllabus.
- (d) Keeping you updated about future festivals
- (e) Including your name in our printed programme.
- (f) Including the names of your performers in our printed programme.
- (g) Processing your application to be involved in our governance such as becoming a member of our Committee or Voluntary Helper group.

- (h) Responding to a general enquiry made to us.
- (i) Dealing with a complaint or concern raised to us
- (j) Including your photo or name on our website or social media.

4. Who do you share my personal data with?

We will only ever use your personal data to manage your festival involvement with us including keeping you up-to-date with any festival news.

If you are not involved in the festival, then we will only use your personal data to deal with the issue or enquiry that you have raised directly with us.

We will never sell your details to any third party and we do not buy any personal data.

We may share or disclose your personal data if we are required to do so by any law or court order.

5. What is the legal basis for processing my information?

In some cases, we will only process your personal data where we have your specific consent to do so e.g. to include your name in our programme / to use your photo on our website/ to stay in touch with you about our next festival.

We may also process your personal data because there is a legitimate interest for us to do so as part of our work, and it is reasonable to expect that your information would need to be processed by us to complete this work. For example, it is reasonable for us to collect your name, address and contact details to be able to process your festival entry and you would reasonably expect this to happen for your festival entry to proceed.

Whenever we process your personal data under the legitimate interest lawful basis, we make sure that we consider your rights and interests and will not process your personal data if we feel that there is an imbalance, or you would not reasonably expect your data to be processed in this way.

6. How do you keep my information secure?

We have implemented appropriate physical, technical and organizational measures to protect the personal data from improper access, use, alteration, destruction and loss.

Our website may contain links to other sites. While we try to link only to sites that share our high standards and respect for privacy, we are not responsible for the content or the privacy practices employed by other sites. Please be aware that websites that have links on our site may collect personally identifiable information about you. This privacy statement does not cover the information practices of those websites.

Those websites may have their own privacy policies and we encourage you to look at those policies or contact the website operators directly to understand how your personal data is used.

We may send communications to you by email. Email is not a fully secure means of communication, and whilst we do our utmost to keep our systems and communications protected we cannot guarantee this.

7. How do you use cookies on your website?

A cookie is a small file that we store on your browser or the hard drive of your computer if you agree. Cookies contain information that is transferred to your computer's hard drive.

We use the following cookies:

- **Strictly necessary cookies.** These are cookies that are required for the operation of our website.
- **Analytical/performance cookies.** They allow us to recognise and count the number of visitors and to see how visitors move around our website when they are using it. This helps us to improve the way our website works, for example, by ensuring that users are finding what they are looking for easily.

Please note that third parties including, for example, advertising networks and providers of external services like web traffic analysis services may also use cookies, over which we have no control. These cookies are likely to be analytical/performance cookies or targeting cookies.

You block cookies by activating the setting on your browser that allows you to refuse the setting of all or some cookies. However, if you use your browser settings to block all cookies (including essential cookies) you may not be able to access all or parts of our site.

8. Your rights

You have various rights in respect of the personal data we hold about you. These rights are set out in more detail below:

- a. The right to be informed about the collection and use of your personal data;
- b. The right to have access to your personal information;
- c. The right to object to processing of your personal information;
- d. The right to restrict the processing of your personal information;
- e. The right to personal data portability;
- f. The right to rectify your personal information;
- g. The right to erase your personal information;
- h. Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

If you make a request relating to any of the rights listed above, we will consider each request in accordance with all applicable data protection laws and regulations. No administration fee will be charged for considering and/or complying with such a request unless the request is deemed to be excessive in nature.

Upon successful verification of your identity you are entitled to obtain the following information about your own personal information:

- a. The purposes of the collection, processing, use and storage of your personal data.

- b. The categories of personal data stored about you.
- c. The recipients or categories of recipients to whom your personal data has been or may be transmitted, along with the location of those recipients.
- d. The envisaged period of storage for your personal data or the rationale for determining the storage period.
- e. The use of any automated decision-making and/or profiling.

If you want to exercise any of these rights, wish to lodge a complaint, or require further information, please email info@newrymusicalfeis.com or write to:

The Data Manager

Newry Musical Feis,

14 Windsor Hill, Newry,

BT34 1ER

You can also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office and the contact details and further information about how to do this can be found at: <https://ico.org.uk/>

In certain circumstances we might not be able to provide you with access to some of your personal information, but where appropriate, we will notify you of the reasons for this.

10. How long do you keep my information?

Your personal data will not be retained by the festival for longer than necessary in relation to the purposes for which it was originally collected, or for which it was further processed, subject to certain legal obligations mentioned below. We will retain personal data in accordance with our data retention policy set out below. We review our data retention periods for personal data on a regular basis.

We will hold personal data relating to:

- **Your festival entry** for [9 months] following the end the festival. Trophy winners' details will be retained until the trophies are returned safely to the festival.
- **Volunteering** with the festival for [2 years] following the end of the volunteering period.
- **Legacies or donations** for [2 years] after to legacy or donation is received

We are legally required to hold some personal data to fulfil statutory obligations, for example, to support certain financial transactions.

The law allows you to withdraw your consent to any usage of your data at any time without needing to specify a reason. You can withdraw your consent by emailing us at info@newrymusicalfeis.com

Newry Musical Feis - Child Protection Policy 2023-24

The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech
work for amateur festivals everywhere to help create thousands of educational performance opportunities for children and young people each year.

The Federation, and our member Festivals, are committed to ensuring safe environments for children and young people and believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children and young people, by a commitment to recommend best practice which protects them.

This policy applies to our Board of Trustees, paid staff, Adjudicator, members, volunteers, students or anyone working on behalf of the Federation and our member Festivals.

We recognise that:

- * the welfare of the child/young person is paramount.
- * all children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- * working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

The purpose of the policy:

- * to provide protection for the children and young people who participate in our festivals, including the children of festival members.
- * to provide staff and volunteers with guidance on procedures they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or young person may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.

We will seek to safeguard children and young people by:

- * valuing them, listening to and respecting them
- * adopting child protection guidelines through procedures and safe working practice for staff and volunteers
- * recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- * sharing information about child protection and safe working practice with children, parents, staff and volunteers
- * sharing information about concerns with agencies who need to know, and involving parents and children appropriately
- * providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training.

The Federation will review this policy each year in November in line with Safe Network guidance or sooner in light of any changes in legislation or guidance. All changes will be communicated to our member in time for the start of the new Festival year.

Creating a Safer Feis for Everyone

The Federation and its member Festivals use the following policies and procedures to create **Safer Festivals** for everyone:

1. A single, definitive Child Protection Policy adopted by all Federation Festivals.
2. One or more designated Festival Safeguarding Officers (FSO) appointed for each Federation Festival. (Newry Musical Feis FSO Dr Mary Goss, phone: 028 3026 2849)
3. Best practice advice in the form of **Safe Working Practice** and **Festival Child Protection leaflets**, with support and training for all Feis staff and volunteers. Including clear reporting procedures for anyone with a concern about a child.
4. Appropriate recruitment and induction procedures for all new Feis staff and volunteers responsible for providing safe environments for everyone attending / performing at a Federation Festival.
5. All our stewards wear a Feis identity badge. All teachers/parents/guardians/carers are asked to report all incidents of any nature to anyone wearing a Feis identity badge. All reported incidents will be handled in accordance with the **Safe Working Practice** and **Festival Child Protection** best practice advice. In addition we will ensure the availability of a quiet area / room where concerns can be expressed in private.
6. For the duration of the Feis all teachers/parents/guardians/carers are responsible for the continuous care and supervision of their own children/pupils/vulnerable adults. If they are unable to attend personally, they must delegate their responsibilities to an identified adult and ensure that their children/pupils/vulnerable adults are aware of the identity and name of the person responsible for their care. This includes supervision throughout all Feis venues, performance, backstage and dressing room areas that may be provided.
7. Parents, or the responsible adult delegated by parents, should be satisfied that all children or members of vulnerable groups in their care are adequately supervised throughout their time in performance and dressing room areas and make themselves known to a Feis official on entering the vicinity of the dressing room area. All unauthorized adults in these areas will be challenged.
8. No unauthorised photography, audio or video recording is allowed at the Feis including all competition halls, backstage and dressing-room areas. Where parents/guardians/carers do not wish photos to be taken at all, then the responsible adult attending should ensure that their child/pupil/vulnerable adult is not included in official authorised photos.
9. Some children and vulnerable adults may have specific needs in order to take part. If this is the case we ask the responsible teachers/parents/guardians/carers to contact the Feis prior to arrival. The Feis actively seeks wherever possible to meet these needs, but must know beforehand in order to prepare support - or to advise that help cannot be provided on this occasion.
10. The Feis's Child Protection Policy and approach to Creating a Safer Feis for Everyone is published explicitly in our Syllabus, Programme and on our website. By completing and signing the entry form (or ticking the appropriate box for online entries) all parents / guardians / carers and teachers of entrants under 18 (or vulnerable adults of any age) confirm that they give (or have obtained) the necessary consents for the entrants to take part in the Feis, Without consent the entry to the Feis cannot be accepted.

NEWRY MUSICAL FEIS

GENERAL COMPETITION BYLAWS (2024 REVISION)

These must be read in conjunction with any current bylaws prepared by each of our Sections

1. Entries must be submitted via the electronic system accessed through www.newrymusicalfeis.com – where a Section is not using the electronic entry system, the appropriate fee (in sterling) must accompany performers' entries.
2. An Own Choice must not be a selection designated as a test piece in the current syllabus.
3. Performers will be admitted free only to the session/s in which they are taking part.
4. Only performers officially submitted for entry in the programme will be allowed to perform.
5. Performers will follow, as far as possible, the order set out in the programme.
6. Teachers are requested to adhere to the time limits as set out in the syllabus.
7. (a) Prizes will be withheld if sufficient merit is not shown
(b) Awards may be made to single entries when recommended by the adjudicator.
(c) In all Classes prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the adjudicator.
(d) The adjudicator is empowered to terminate a performance at their discretion.
(e) The adjudicator's decision will be final.
8. (a) Proof of age must be produced if required, and performers must be under the age stated on 1st January in the year in which the Festival is taking place or as stated in the relevant Class. e.g. "under 12" means that the 12th birthday of the entrant will not occur on or before 1st January in the Festival Year "over 12" means that the entrant will have reached the age of 12 before that date.
(b) Where participation is for adult performers only, the term 'adult' refers to any individual who is over 16. This means that the entrant will have reached the age of 16 on or before 1 January in the year in which the Festival is taking place. [N.B. The Music Section has subdivisions within adult Classes]
9. While complaints may be expressed in a variety of ways – verbal and written – we require formal complaints to be presented in writing and submitted by email to info@newrymusicalfeis.com for the attention of the Administrator, within four weeks of the issue arising; this will facilitate fair, consistent, sensitive, and timely handling of the complaint.
10. The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry.
11. All Challenge Trophies must be returned to the Trophy Secretary of the appropriate Section in good order and condition at least 4 weeks before the opening of the Section to which they belong.
12. Only amateurs shall be eligible to perform [see also point 14].
13. Performers must provide copies of Own Choice pieces for the adjudicator; original copies only may be claimed at the end of the session at which they have been used. In Sections where details of sources used to select Own Choice material must be provided in order for a performance to take place, performers and their teachers must ensure that the guidance provided by the relevant Section Leaders is adhered to strictly so that upset and disappointment can be avoided on the day of the performance.
14. Teachers and professional performers may not compete in their professional subject. For the purposes of this bylaw, those for whom the presentation of their subject is their sole source of income shall be designated as professional performers. Performers who receive an occasional stipend shall not be regarded as professional performers.
15. No unauthorized photography, audio or video recording is allowed at the Feis including all performance spaces, backstage and dressing-room areas. Information about authorization of photography will be provided by Section Leaders in attendance and referenced to our current Child Protection Policy where relevant.
16. The decision of the Executive Committee in all questions arising out of, or not provided for in these bylaws, shall be final, and entries for Classes in all of our Sections are accepted subject to these byelaws.

Newry Musical Feis

Competition Rules

Traditional Irish Music

This must be read in conjunction with the

GENERAL COMPETITION BYELAWS of Newry Musical Feis

1. Entries can be accepted only from recognised teachers of Irish Traditional Music
2. Competitors, whose ages shall be reckoned from 1st January in the year in which the competitions take place, may be entered only in their correct age group.
3. Only amateurs may compete. (see General Competition Byelaws, point 12)
4. All entries must be submitted through the Feis website: www.newrymusicalfeis.com
5. The decision of the Committee shall be final in all matters.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC SECTION

Sunday 19th April 2026

N.B. CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2026

The Henry Savage Perpetual Cup will be awarded to the **MOST PROMISING/BEST** fiddle player.

The Matthews Cup will be awarded to the **MOST PROMISING/BEST** tin whistle player.

Class 121	TRADITIONAL TIN WHISTLE SOLO (Under 9 years)	£5.00
	<i>ONE piece of own choice</i>	
Class 122	TRADITIONAL TIN WHISTLE SOLO (Under 12 years)	£5.00
	<i>One dance piece of own choice</i>	
Class 123	TRADITIONAL TIN WHISTLE SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 123A	TRADITIONAL TIN WHISTLE SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 124	TRADITIONAL FIDDLE SOLO (Under 9 years)	£5.00
	<i>ONE piece of own choice</i>	
Class 125	TRADITIONAL FIDDLE SOLO (Under 12 years)	£5.00
	<i>ONE piece of own choice</i>	
Class 126	TRADITIONAL FIDDLE SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 127	TRADITIONAL FIDDLE SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 127A	TRADITIONAL BANJO SOLO (Under 12 years)	£5.00
	<i>ONE piece of own choice</i>	
Class 127B	TRADITIONAL BANJO SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	

Class 127C	TRADITIONAL BANJO SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 128A	TRADITIONAL ACCORDION SOLO (Under 12 years)	£5.00
	<i>ONE piece of own choice</i>	
Class 128B	TRADITIONAL ACCORDION SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 128C	TRADITIONAL ACCORDION SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 129	TRADITIONAL FLUTE SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 129A	TRADITIONAL FLUTE SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 133	IRISH TRADITIONAL ACCOMPANIMENT SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 133A	IRISH TRADITIONAL ACCOMPANIMENT SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 134	TRADITIONAL IRISH HARP SOLO (Under 12 years)	£5.00
	<i>ONE piece of own choice</i>	
Class 134A	TRADITIONAL IRISH HARP SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO pieces of own choice</i>	
Class 134B	TRADITIONAL IRISH HARP SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO pieces of own choice</i>	
Class 135	TRADITIONAL BODHRAN SOLO (Under 12 years)	£5.00
	<i>ONE piece of own choice</i>	
Class 135A	TRADITIONAL BODHRAN SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 135B	TRADITIONAL BODHRAN SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	

N.B. MISCELLANEOUS COMPETITIONS WILL INCLUDE ANY INSTRUMENTS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SOLO COMPETITIONS.

Class 136	MISCELLANEOUS SOLO (Under 12 years)	£5.00
	<i>ONE piece of own choice</i>	
Class 136A	MISCELLANEOUS SOLO (Under 15 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 136B	MISCELLANEOUS SOLO (Under 18 years)	£5.00
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
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Class 130	TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTAL TRIO (Under 12 years)	£8.00
	The Sands Family Shield	
	<i>ONE dance piece of contrasting rhythm.</i>	
Class 131	TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTAL TRIO (Under 15 years)	£8.00
	The Gorman and Magee Group Trophy, Mayobridge	
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm.</i>	
Class 132	TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTAL TRIO (Under 18 years)	£8.00
	The Murphy Cup	
	<i>TWO dance pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
Class 132A	IRISH TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTAL GROUP	£10.00
	The Kevin Devlin Memorial Cup	
	(Open to Schools ONLY)	
	<i>TWO or more pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
	<i>Time Limit: 10 minutes</i>	
Class 132B	IRISH TRADITIONAL INSTRUMENTAL OPEN GROUP	£10.00
	(Open to Primary Schools ONLY)	
	<i>TWO pieces of contrasting rhythm</i>	
	<i>Time Limit: 8 minutes maximum</i>	
Class 132C	IRISH TRADITIONAL GROUP (OPEN)	£10.00
	The Ferguson Cup	
	<i>TWO pieces or more of contrasting rhythm</i>	
	<i>Time Limit: 10 minutes</i>	

KEY DEADLINES:

CLOSING DATES FOR ALL ENTRIES: Sunday 22nd February 2026
COMPETITION DATE Sunday 19th April 2026

NEW CLASS FOR 2026 FEIS

Class 140

NEWRY FEIS YOUNG TRAD MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2026

Overview

The Newry Feis Young Trad Musician of the Year Competition seeks to discover and support the most promising students intending to pursue career opportunities as instrumentalists/ singers. This competition consists of two stages: a video application and a final round of those who have been shortlisted. Winners will receive a monetary prize to fund a recording studio booking in Red Box Recording Studios Belfast. This prize will entitle the winner to one full day recording and further time for the sound engineer to mix and master the recording. It is anticipated that the winner should be able to record a short EP style recording for use to enhance future gig opportunities and promotion. The winner can do this recording by themselves or with up to 4 other musicians of their choosing.

Important Dates

Applications Open Monday 15th December 2025 and the application deadline is Sunday 22nd February 2026. Video Deadline Sunday 8th March 2026. The final round of this competition will be held on Sunday 18th April 2026.

Eligibility Criteria

Open to students aged between 17–28 years. Applicants must intend to pursue professional performance opportunities in music (eg gigs/ sessions/ concerts.)

Application Requirements

1. Completed online entry via newrymusicalfeis.com with a non-refundable application fee of £15
2. Artist bio (max 250 words) emailed to info@newrymusicalfeis.com after entry.

Video Submission

A short performance of your own choice. Time limit 5-7 minutes.

Video Submission Guidelines • Videos must be unedited, recorded in one take per piece • All performances must be live – no studio effects or enhancements • Performer (and instrument) must be clearly visible at all times • Acceptable formats: MP4, MOV, AVI • Submit videos via the link by: Deadline: 8th March 2026 – 11:59 PM. The link will be emailed to all performers after entries close on 22nd February.

Once shortlisted, the selected performers will compete in a final round. Final Round Programme Duration: 15 minutes. Spoken introduction required to introduce your programme. Own accompanist can be provided if you so wish. Feedback will be provided to all finalists.