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Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock

2026

Rotary **YOUNG** **MUSICIAN** COMPETITION



INFORMATION PACK

Closing Date for competition is Friday 6th November 2026

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Information Pack for 2026 - 2027

Introduction

The Rotary Young Musician Competition is a successful national competition promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (Rotary GBI). There are four stages of this competition, and the vocal and instrumental winners of our Thurrock Competition will be expected to enter the next stage of this national competition.

The Thurrock competition is open to all levels, grades and styles of young instrumentalists and vocalists. We would particularly welcome entries from modern genres.

Aims and Objectives

The competition aims to offer young people:

- the experience of performing on a public stage in front of a live audience
- an opportunity to showcase their musical talent
- constructive, impartial feedback and assessment by experienced adjudicators

Who can take part?

The competition is open to all young people up to the age of 17 on 31st August 2026. Students attending schools and community organisations in the Borough of Thurrock, or who live in the Borough of Thurrock, are invited to enter the competition organised by the 'Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock', through their family or respective group by completing the entry form at the end of this document. It should be noted that some entrants may be 18 at the time of some or all stages of the competition i.e. a competitor who is 17 on 31st August but turns 18 on 1st September is allowed to enter

Please note: This competition is intended for **amateurs**, and for the purpose of the competition, an amateur is considered to be a person whose main source of income is not made from musical performances, although there may be occasions when the receipt of occasional out of pocket expenses or prizes may be received. The competition is **not open to full time students of music or performing arts**, studying for a qualification above A Level or equivalent.

There are two categories in the competition:

- solo instrumental
- solo vocal

Competition

The competition is organised by the Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock in partnership with Thurrock Music Services and the Gateway Learning Community Trust. **It will be held at The Gateway Academy, Marshfoot Road, Tilbury, Grays RM16 4LU on Saturday 21st November 2026.**

Competition Guidelines

Competitors are judged within the context of a live performance of their own choice.

A competitor may enter a **maximum** of three performances, namely, one vocal and two different instrumental pieces. **A separate entry form must be provided for each piece.** However, it is expected that the majority of competitors will enter one piece.

Competitors will place themselves in one of the following classes on the entry form(s):

Beginner:	Grade 0 – Grade 3 standard
Intermediate:	Grade 4 – Grade 5 standard
Advanced:	Grade 5 – Diploma standard

Please note: *Competitors do not need to have passed a grade exam to enter but they do need to indicate the standard at which they are playing. Their music teacher can offer advice on this.*

Each piece of music (instrumental or vocal) must be no longer than 5 minutes. Competitors may perform from memory or from sheet music at any stage. In the case of vocal candidates, it should be noted that part of the assessment of the performance concerns communication with the audience and performing from a copy of music may prevent candidates from achieving this to the fullest extent. Vocalists may not use any form of amplification.

Instrumentalists can choose to play an accompanied piece (with piano) or an unaccompanied piece. Competitors can be accompanied by a single instrument in sympathy with the performance; vocalists may accompany themselves. **In the case of vocal, guitar and percussion candidates only, backing tracks are permissible, but entrants must supply the track on a device of their own that will link to the provided speaker via Bluetooth.** However, **backing tracks must not contain the part being performed by the competitor. The judges will not mark performances where the backing track does contain the part being performed by the competitor.** It is not the responsibility of the organiser to source backing tracks.

The organisers have also arranged for an accompanist on an electric piano to be available. **Competitors wishing to be accompanied on this piano must provide published music sheets on the day. Photocopies of music published as individual pieces will be disqualified unless competitors can provide written permission from the publishers. Photocopies of music not published as individual pieces but in an anthology, will be accepted provided the competitor has a copy of the original publication. All photocopies will need to be retained and destroyed by the organiser immediately after the event.**

If there are any variations to, or extemporisation in the competitors' parts, they must be clearly marked in the copies for the adjudicators. Any extemporisation of 20% or more is likely to affect the adjudicators' assessment.

Cuts to the accompaniment should be avoided. However, cuts are permissible to edit long introductions or long passages in the accompaniment where the competitor is not involved. Any cuts to the music must be clearly marked in the copies for the adjudicators.

There may be occasions when the context of a performance does not require an accompaniment. For example, in the context of traditional folksongs or music written expressly for solo instrumental performance such as J. S. Bach's Cello Suites or Debussy's 'Syrinx' for solo flute. In such cases, candidates would not be expected to 'manufacture' an accompaniment never intended by the composer.

It should be noted that **competitors offering solo piano pieces should not have any other instrument playing.** This would make the performing ensemble a duo, trio, quartet etc. and would not satisfy the competition criteria of 'solo instrumental performance'.

Adjudicator(s)

Adjudicator(s) with the appropriate skills will be appointed by the Thurrock Music Service.

The adjudicator(s) will judge each performance according to:

- Melodic & rhythmic accuracy
- Intonation
- Tempo & flow
- Tone
- Mood and character
- The appropriateness of the programme
- The holistic view of the performance on the day

The adjudicator(s) will not enter into any discussion or correspondence regarding their decision. Their decision will be final and not subject to any appeal.

Prizes

After the judges have determined the result of the competition, the judge will comment on their observations before announcing the results.

At all stages of the competition, competitors will receive a Certificate of Participation.

There will also be an 'instrumental' and a 'vocal' winner for each class (Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced) and a trophy will be awarded to those winners.

At the end of this event a 'Thurrock Rotary Musician of the Year Award', along with a £50 Amazon Voucher, will be presented to the most outstanding Instrumentalist and the most outstanding Vocalist in the competition.

How to enter this local heat

Entrants need to complete an entry form for **each piece** they wish to perform (*included at the end of this document*) and submit it via email to: youngmusician@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk

Competitors must supply their own piano accompaniment sheet music if required. Any pre-recorded backing tracks for guitar, vocal and drum performances, must be supplied in MP3 format on a device that is Bluetooth enabled.

The closing date for submission is midnight Friday 6th November 2026

Competition Procedure

Arrival

Competitors will be emailed with the time of their class(es) before the day of the competition. All competitors should arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the competition. The organisers reserve the right to make adjustments on the day if the need arises.

Performance

The Master of Ceremonies will invite each competitor to come to the front to perform their piece.

All competitors must introduce their performance piece to the audience.

Vocal competitors should select a song suitable for a family audience, giving due consideration to the appropriateness of the lyrics.

The competitors' performance should not exceed 5 minutes. The timing should begin when the competitor first begins to play. The adjudicators will not judge that part of the performance after five minutes..

Photographs must not be taken, and audio and video recordings must not be made by anyone other than those nominated by the organiser.

After the adjudicators have determined the result of the competitions, the judge will comment on their observations before announcing the result. The competition and results will be published on the 'Rotary Club of Gray's Thurrock' web site <https://www.graysthurrockrotary.org.uk>

Working with Children

Rotary GBI has adopted a statement of policy in working with children, the vulnerable and those with disability, and this can be found online at [Rotary GB&I Safeguarding Policy](#).

Other competitions organised by Grays Thurrock Rotary Club

The Young Musician competition is one of several youth activities and competitions for young people in the Borough of Thurrock organised by the Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock. These are: Young Chef, , Youth Speaks: A Debate, Young Artist, Young Photographer, Young Writer, the Technology Tournaments, Leadership and Management NVQ and Primary Athletics.

To find out more go to www.graysthurrockrotary.org.uk

Entry Form 2026 - 2027

Please read the Rotary Young Musician Information Pack before completing a form for each piece. By signing the front of this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Privacy Notices in respect of the use of personal information for yourself (and your child, where applicable).

Don't forget the closing date for entries is Friday 6th November 2026

Entrant's Name (PRINT IN CAPITALS)	Age on 31 st August 2026
School/College/Organisation	
Circle category being entered: Instrumental Vocal	Circle class being entered: Beginner Intermediate Advanced
Title & Composer of piece being performed.	Instrument:
Length of performance in minutes.	Do you need the organisers to provide a piano accompanist? YES NO (Circle answer)

Parent/Guardian Contact Details (To be completed by Parent/Guardian in Capitals)

Parent/Guardian Email: (PRINT IN CAPITALS)	Parent/Guardian Tel/No:
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Rotary Details

Sponsored by: The Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock	Rotary District: 1240
Rotarian Contact name: Paul Smith	Email: youngmusician@rotaryclubofgraysthurrock.co.uk

Entrants under the age of 18 must get a parent/guardian signature to give permission for the following: -

- For the named Entrant to take part and be identified in the competition.
- For the information on this form to be used and shared in accordance with the Privacy Notice with appropriate competition organisers at each stage.
- For Rotary, District or Club Public Relations Officers to make contact with the parent/guardian/entrant (if over 18 years of age) to discuss public relations opportunities.

By signing this form, you are also acknowledging that you have read and agree to the Privacy Notices referred to below in respect of the use of personal information. In addition, you agree that photographic/video records can be taken and used by the Rotary Club of Gray's Thurrock and Thurrock Music Services for publicity purposes in printed, electronic, and online formats.

*Parent/Guardian's name and address: PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITALS	**Signature & Date
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**Delete as appropriate*

***Entrant may only sign this form if they are 18 years of age on the date the Entry Form is signed*

Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions

[For the purpose of this privacy notice, Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland (RIBI) also includes Rotary clubs and districts and their members. The use of the term 'you', 'your' also means that of your child where the competition Entrant is a minor, i.e. under the age of 18 years].

Members of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland ("we") value the trust you put in us to process your personal information and will always be open and honest about the information we collect and how we will use it. We will never do anything with your personal information that you wouldn't reasonably expect us to in relation to the Youth Competitions and we will always take every effort to protect your privacy.

The RIBI Privacy Notice is available on our website, www.graysthurrockrotary.org.uk, and explains how we collect, process and share personal information. This 'Privacy Notice – Youth Competitions' is supplementary to the general RIBI Privacy Notice and explains in more detail how you can expect your personal information to be specifically used in relation to the Youth Competition events.

How we use your personal information for Youth Competitions

1. We are collecting your personal information (and that of your child if a minor) for the organisation and administration of the youth competitions only, it will not be used for any other purpose.
2. Club, District or Rotary Public Relations Officers may use your personal information to contact you to discuss public relation opportunities and will gain your specific consent at that time for the use of your information, such as photographs/interviews for newspaper articles, club or district websites etc. Where the entrant is a minor only the parent/guardian will be contacted.

Providing your personal information to others for Youth Competitions

3. The personal information will only be shared with others that require it for their role/the services they provide for the organisation and administration of the youth competition events. Initially, this will be at club level competitions.
4. Depending on the Youth Competition, it may be necessary to share some of your information with third parties such as providers of venue hire and catering services. Under such circumstances only the minimum amount of information for the third-party service will be provided, i.e. for caterers, only the name and allergy/special dietary requirement will be disclosed, no other information.
5. Those individuals and organisations that have access to the personal information are also bound by the RIBI Privacy Notice.

Retaining and deleting your personal information

6. All reasonable steps will be taken by those concerned to ensure the personal information they have access to is kept securely and will not be shared with anyone who does not have a legitimate reason to have access to it in relation to the organisation and administration of the competitions.
7. For all youth competitions, personal information will be kept on file for 3 months after the date of the National Final for that specific competition. After this date, the information will be securely destroyed (either by shredding, incineration or deletion from electronic devices) at club, district and national level. This timeframe is necessary to allow for any disputes to be settled before the personal information is destroyed.