

## CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The competition is open to singers and instrumentalists (not organists due to the lack of a suitable instrument). Only one entry is permitted per person each year.
2. Entrants must have their home address in Essex, attend school or college in Essex, or have been born in Essex. For the purposes of the competition, any town or village that was part of Essex prior to 1965 will be accepted as qualified for this competition. This also includes villages or towns which straddle the Essex border and which have an Essex-based postcode. In case of uncertainty, please contact the administrator. Proof of eligibility is required.
3. Entrants must be 28 or under on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024
4. An entry fee of £45 is payable. This is only refundable in exceptional circumstances.
5. Entrants should be of at least Grade 7–8 standard or equivalent and must submit signed and dated testimonials from two music professionals written specifically for this year's competition. Under-18 applicants may submit one of these from their school's Head Teacher/Head of Music. The references must be sent DIRECTLY to the administrator.
6. The last date for receiving entries is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. Validated entries will be accepted in order of submission.
7. Previous First Prize winners of the competition are not eligible to enter.
8. Timings and complete descriptions (including opus or catalogue numbers) of all works to be played MUST be fully and accurately stated on the entry form. Individual extracts, movements, arias or songs should clearly show from which work or opera they are taken. The competition reserves the right to request re-submission of a competitor's programme if this requirement is not observed.
9. Strict timekeeping will be enforced in all stages of the competition, and competitors who are not ready to perform at their appointed time in the competition programme may be disqualified.
10. Candidates are expected to dress smartly for all stages of the competition – jeans are not acceptable. Finalists and their accompanying pianist will be required to wear evening dress. If gentlemen do not have access to a dinner suit, they must wear a smart suit/jacket and tie.  
Please ask the administrator should there be any difficulties or doubt as to what this means.
11. Candidates must perform at least one complete piece or movement from memory during the

Final Round of the competition.

12. The competition cannot legally allow anyone to perform from photocopies or computer printouts. The administrator will have no option but to disqualify a performer if they or their accompanying pianist do so unless, before the performance day, they submit written evidence to the administrator showing that the publisher's agreement has been sought and granted.

Performances from iPads and other electronic devices will not be allowed in ANY circumstances.

13. Competitors must provide the judges with complete scores of all music to be played – not just an instrumental or vocal line. These should be brought with you. For this purpose only, photocopies can be legally accepted, but these will be retained after the competition and destroyed by the administrator.
14. An official pianist will be available for all rounds of the competition, if required. There will be a fee of £35 for the preliminary round which is payable with the entry fee by the competition closing date. This will be requested during your application.

A fee of £45 will be charged for the Semifinal Round and a fee of £55 is charged for the Final Round. For the Final Round, a preparation fee of £25 is payable in advance. If proceeding to the Semifinal, these fees must be paid by 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Should the candidate be successful in reaching the Final, the balance of £30 will be payable by the 10<sup>th</sup> July. In all cases these fees include a brief rehearsal immediately before the performance.

If additional rehearsal time is arranged with the official pianist prior to the day of the competition, a fee must be negotiated with and paid directly to the official pianist.

15. The use of recording equipment, either audio or video, during performances is illegal and strictly prohibited. Candidates should ensure that their family and friends in the audience are aware of this.
16. The judges reserve the right to withhold the award of any prizes. In all matters relating to the competition, the decision of the Judging Panel and the competition administrator is final.

### ESSEX YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR • 2005

**Suzie Thorn** · Principal Oboe, RTÉ Concert Orchestra

"The competition provided me with an amazing opportunity to explore repertoire, and develop the skills needed to perform in front of an audience. Winning the title gave me the confidence and experience to embark on a career in music which has taken me to many countries all around the world."



Appropriate safeguarding protocols will be observed during all stages of the competition. Please see the website.

For any enquiries or advice, please write to:  
administrator@ongarmusicclub.org.uk

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# The John Lill Awards for the ESSEX YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2024

## 40<sup>th</sup> Competition

## incorporating THE ESSEX MUSIC SCHOLAR OF THE YEAR AWARD for performers under nineteen

## Sundays 30<sup>th</sup> June & 7<sup>th</sup> July

The winner will receive £1,000, the Essex Young Musician of the Year trophy and offers of paid engagements. There will be other cash prizes including four prizes for under-nineteen performers. These include The Essex Music Scholar of the Year Award – the winner receiving a trophy and £200 for the advancement of their musical studies.

Entry is open to instrumentalists\* and singers aged 28 or under on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024 who have their home address, attend school or were born in Essex. See qualifying details inside.

\* unfortunately, not organists

## PROSPECTUS

# ESSEX YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR • 2024

## AIMS

The Essex Young Musician of the Year Competition was established in 1984 through the enthusiasm of key members of Ongar Music Club. It aims to support and encourage young Essex musicians of talent and potential who will enjoy competing and performing in a welcoming and pleasant environment. Past prizewinners have gone on to enjoy successful professional careers.

## THE JOHN LILL AWARDS

THE ESSEX YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR TROPHY and £1,000 will be awarded to the winner along with offers of various paid recital engagements.

THE ESSEX MUSIC SCHOLAR OF THE YEAR AWARD for performers under nineteen. The winner will receive a trophy and £200 for the advancement of their musical studies. Entrants cannot receive both this and the Essex Young Musician of the Year award. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible this year.

Other generous cash prizes will be awarded.

Further prizes will be awarded to candidates under-19, not already prizewinners in the current competition, who have given outstanding performances. Full details of the prizes and jury will be announced in due course.

Many of the prizes have been bequeathed or donated by long-standing supporters of this competition and Ongar Music Club.

## THE COMPETITION

The competition will be in three sections:

1. **Preliminary Round:** Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 2:00 pm.

2. **Semifinal Round:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 2:00 pm.

PLEASE NOTE – this round may need to start earlier, depending on the requirements of the competition. Competitors should be available to perform from late morning if required.

Four candidates will proceed to the final.

3. **Grand Final:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 6:30 pm.

All rounds will be held in the Ballroom of the Budworth Hall in Ongar where a Bechstein 'B' piano will be available.

If, due to exceptional circumstances, it should prove impractical to hold a preliminary round, we will notify candidates in good time.

For all rounds, a room with a piano or keyboard will be available for rehearsal purposes immediately prior to the competitor's performance and for a strict period of time.

Solo pianists will be allocated a short time on the competition piano prior to the start of each round.

## PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

### • Preliminary Round: 10–15 minutes

Competitors will perform a programme to include at least TWO pieces of contrasting styles. These will be chosen from different musical periods.

### • Semifinal Round: 15–20 minutes

Competitors will perform a programme to include at least TWO pieces of contrasting styles. These will be chosen from different musical periods.

Under-19s may include one work previously played.

### • Final Round: 20–25 minutes

Competitors will perform a recital programme to include at least TWO pieces of contrasting styles.

These will be chosen from different musical periods.

Under-19s may include one work previously played.

**In all rounds, the jury will take into account the choice, variety of musical styles, and programme balance.**

*For the Final Round, candidates MUST perform at least one complete piece or movement from memory.*

**Please note that performance times are inclusive from the start of the first piece and MUST include time for tuning, introductions, and breaks between works. Candidates whose performance is under or over the time allowed may be penalised. Candidates who significantly exceed the time allowed and risk upsetting the schedule will likely be stopped.**

The administrator will NOT permit alterations to the programme content once submitted. All competitors will receive a written report after the competition.

## APPLYING FOR ENTRY

Applications will be made online by following this link [www.ongarmusicclub.org.uk/essex\\_young\\_musician.php](http://www.ongarmusicclub.org.uk/essex_young_musician.php). All supporting documents will be submitted by email.

If you experience any difficulties or concerns, you can request help by using the email address below.

**Documents or enquiries should be emailed to:**  
[administrator@ongarmusicclub.org.uk](mailto:administrator@ongarmusicclub.org.uk)

Please note that the entry form and ALL supporting documents must reach the administrator by the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024, or your entry will NOT be accepted.

*Be sure to keep a copy of the submitted details.*

**Please also ensure that the Programme Requirements and competition support files on the website are thoroughly understood before submitting an entry.**

## ALL ENTRIES MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY:

1. Testimonials from two music professionals, written specifically for this year's competition. Under-19 applicants may submit one of their testimonials from their school's Head Teacher or Head of Music. References must be sent **DIRECTLY** from the referee to the administrator at the email address below.

2. Proof of eligibility is required if not at present living in Essex. For example, a photocopy of the candidate's birth certificate or passport if born in Essex. See the Conditions of Entry for full details.

This may be scanned and sent via email. All scans will be destroyed after the competition.

3. A fee of £45, payable to Ongar Music Club. This can be paid by cheque or, preferably, online via BACS to the following account:

Account: Barclays Bank · Ongar Music Club  
Sort Code: 20-29-86 · Account number: 43830934

Use the BACS reference: **EYMY plus your surname**  
eg EYMY SMITH

4. A head and shoulders photograph, facing the camera, that clearly identifies the candidate.

**This should be emailed to:**  
[administrator@ongarmusicclub.org.uk](mailto:administrator@ongarmusicclub.org.uk)

When sending a photograph by email, please ensure that the scan has a resolution of at least 300dpi or a file size of no less than 500kB. If in doubt, please ask.

If using regular mail, please send documents to:  
The Administrator – EYMY, Fernside,  
Great Burches Road, Benfleet, Essex SS7 3NA

**Last date of entry: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

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Follow the Essex Young Musician of the Year competition on Facebook and Twitter:

[www.facebook.com/OngarMusicClub](http://www.facebook.com/OngarMusicClub)  
[twitter.com/ongarmusicclub](https://twitter.com/ongarmusicclub)

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Ongar Music Club reserves the right to make a video recording of the Final Round of the competition for deferred online transmission. The administration also reserves the right to make any changes that may be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. This includes the right to cancel the competition should unforeseen circumstances arise.

**[www.ongarmusicclub.org.uk](http://www.ongarmusicclub.org.uk)**