



The launch of the 2014 Competitive Music Festival syllabus

Competitive Music Festival firmly ensconced in calendar

FARNHAM Competitive Music Festival, now in its 36th year, is firmly established in Farnham's cultural calendar.

The syllabus for 2014, in print and online, was launched on September 1. It has been revised and updated to provide new classes, awards and performance opportunities which are of real value to musicians in the modern world, at all stages of their development.

For example, the new 'Play2' class in piano and strings is aimed at providing a transition for younger entrants before they are ready to give a full recital programme.

For the more advanced player, the new piano sec-

tion 'Performers' Platform' is the ideal preparation for exams and auditions. The festival will take place in November at Frensham Heights School.

The classes at the festival are grouped into four sections: singing (November 9 and 11), woodwind and brass (November 9 and 14), strings (November 14 and 16) and piano (November 15 and 16).

Ensemble playing is also encouraged, and classes are arranged to take place during the strings, woodwind and brass classes. The Festival Concert will take place on Sunday, December 7.

Participants of all ages

and abilities are welcomed at the festival, giving them the opportunity to perform in superb conditions and to receive guidance in competitive classes and some non-competitive classes from professional and experienced adjudicators.

This year the distinguished adjudicators are Jonathan Willcocks (singing), Phillip Scott (woodwind and brass), Christopher Hiron (strings) and Ann Martin-Davis (piano).

In addition to the many financial awards kindly sponsored by local charitable organisations and individual supporters of the festival, a new award for choirs has been created by

the festival committee.

This will be the first year of the Mary Joynes Memorial Choral Award. Mary Joynes was the founder of Farnham Girls' Choir in 1947.

As well as extensive performances in the UK, the choir travelled to Europe and the USA. Mary Joynes passed away in August 2012 in her 96th year. The award of £100 will be made to a choir selected by the adjudicator of the singing section classes.

The festival syllabus describes the classes offered, with the entry fees for each class, advice on how to enter and details of awards.

It is available on the festival's website, www.farnhammusicfestival.org.uk, together with an online entry facility.

It is also published in booklet form, which is sent to regular participants and also to schools, libraries, music teachers and music bookshops. A paper entry form can be downloaded, which can be posted to section secretaries for those who prefer this method.

Completed entry forms should be sent to section secretaries, to arrive by Monday, October 13.

The festival's general secretary, Jia Doulton, is happy to respond to further enquiries via email: jia-doulton@btconnect.com.