



# Solo & Ensemble Competition 2020

Dear Secretary,

Please find enclosed details for our upcoming Solo & Ensemble Competition.

In light of recent feedback received, the following changes are being trialled this year in the Youth Section:

- An accompanist will be provided for all youth players in the **10, 12** and **15** and under classes. All players in those classes must use the provided accompanist or play unaccompanied.
- Great Winners by Peter Lawrance has been added to the syllabus for the **15** and under solos class.
- Competitors in Youth Section solo classes will each receive a certificate to indicate the standard of their performance on the day. The Levels are Gold, Silver and Bronze. Prizes will continue to be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places as usual.

The changes implemented to the Senior Solo and Ensemble classes in 2019 will be maintained for another year. As a reminder please see below for the amendments made:

## Senior Solo Classes

- The introduction of a 19 and Under Solo class. This class is for players of Grade 5 standard and above who are aged 19 and Under.
- The B Solo class will now be restricted to players aged 20 and over.
- The A Solo class and Slow Melody class will remain open classes.
- Players aged 17 and Under may enter ONE SOLO CLASS ONLY in the Youth Section, BUT MAY ALSO enter the A or C or 19 and Under solo class and the Slow Melody class in the Senior Section.
- A, B, C and 19 and Under Solo classes carry a time limit of 12 ½ minutes.

## Senior Ensemble Classes

- The 10 Piece A and B classes are being retired and incorporated into three Senior Ensemble classes: Senior Ensemble A class, Senior Ensemble B class and Senior Ensemble C class.
- All Senior Ensemble classes will be for groups of 2 to 10 players, excluding quartets.
- The Senior Ensemble A class will remain as an open class.
- The Senior Ensemble B class will be for 2<sup>nd</sup> Section Bands and below only.
- The Senior Ensemble C class will be for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Section Bands only.
- As previous, competitors may play in a duet or trio and one other larger ensemble (five to ten players).

**Please also note the following:**

- In order to reduce processing effort and possibility of error, the preferred method of submitting entries is via the supplied Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. If Excel is not available, a google sheet can be provided on request which can be used on PCs and mobile phones without requiring additional software. A paper entry may **only** be submitted using the supplied form (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) if other options have been exhausted.
- Entries must be received by the closing date stated in the syllabus.
- Late entries will be accepted for one week after this date with payment of a double entry fee. No entries will be accepted after this date or on the day of the competition.
- With regards to the entry form please ensure that you double-check names are spelt correctly and that players are eligible to compete in the selected class (particularly junior classes where age limits apply). Please check thoroughly before submitting the entry.
- All competitors are requested to play only one piece.
- All youth classes will be subject to open adjudication. All competitors in the 10, 12, 15 and Under solo classes must use the books specified in the syllabus. Repeats are optional.
- Youth players may not play down in an age class but may play up in any age classes if they so desire.
- Entries will be accepted from unaffiliated bands and individuals at a double entry fee.
- In sections where age is relevant, proof of age must be provided, and competitors must have been within the age limit on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.
- The BBL will not provide an accompanist for soloists other than those competing in the 10, 12 or 15 and Under classes. To assist bands, a list of suggested accompanists is available on the BBL website. It is the responsibility of each performer to engage their own accompanist.
- The BBL would like to highlight that percussion players are also welcome within any of the appropriate classes.

In order to allow inspection and any necessary repairs to be carried out, **ALL PERPETUAL TROPHIES** must be returned to a member of the BBL Executive on or before the February council meeting, held in the Laganvale Bandroom, Wansbeck Street, Stranmillis, Belfast @ 3.00PM. It is the responsibility of the band holding any of the trophies to ensure that they are returned in a timely manner.