

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT COMPETITION ENTRY PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This document gives general information about RCMJD competitions - full details of individual competition entry requirements and eligibility can be found on the competitions page of the RCMJD website:
<https://www.rcm.ac.uk/junior/rcmjdcurrentstudents/competitions/>

Notices giving full details of each competition will also be posted on the JD Saturday noticeboards several weeks in advance of each entry deadline.

ENTRY PROCEDURE FOR COMPETITIONS

RCMJD competition entries are via a two/three-stage process:

1. An online form submitted by student or parent/guardian

An email giving the link to the relevant competition application form will be sent to the parents/guardians and JD teachers of eligible students at least a fortnight before the online form submission deadline, which will be the end of the Wednesday immediately prior to the overall competition deadline. Please note that if a student has a midweek/external first study teacher, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that they pass on competition entry/eligibility details to their child's teacher.

The online entry form can be completed by the student, or by the parent/guardian on the student's behalf. Accuracy is crucial throughout all parts of the form – the information submitted will be used to arrange rehearsals, as well as the running order and programme for the competition itself.

2. Teacher approval/agreement

Once the student's online entry form has been submitted, a copy will be emailed to the student's teacher for electronic approval/agreement – this approval must be received via a (very short) online form by 5pm on the day of the entry deadline, so it is vital that the online form is completed by the student (or parent/guardian) sufficiently in advance of the deadline to give the teacher reasonable time to submit their agreement.

3. Submission of piano accompaniment(s) (for performance competitions only)

Unless a student is arranging their own accompanist (see competition regulations section 6 below) or is playing entirely unaccompanied repertoire, piano part(s) for their repertoire must also be handed in to the JD admin team by 5pm on the day of the entry deadline (see competition regulations section 7).

In summary, for the student's entry to be accepted, the completed online form, teacher agreement/permission and piano accompaniment(s) must all be received by 5pm on the day of the entry deadline. Late/incomplete entries cannot be accepted.

Competition regulations are overleaf

GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS

1. JD competitions are entered via online forms. Piano accompaniments for any accompanied repertoire must then be marked clearly with the student's full name and handed into the JD administrative team by 5pm on the day of the deadline. Details of works to be performed must include opus numbers, keys, movement numbers and tempi/titles (where applicable) with accurate timings. Incomplete and late entries cannot be accepted, and repertoire cannot be changed once the deadline has passed.
2. The entry form requires a parent/guardian email address, which should be the one to which all other correspondence from the JD office is sent, and also the email address for the teacher of the instrument/study on which the competition is being entered – this should be the teacher's RCM email address where they have one. The entry details that have been submitted will then be emailed to the student's teacher; the teacher must confirm their agreement to the student's entry by 5pm on the day of the deadline.
3. Where a competition is open to all instruments, students are normally permitted to enter on one instrument only, which will usually be their first study. Permission to enter on another instrument/study must be granted in advance of the competition deadline by the Head of Junior Programmes (contact via jd@rcm.ac.uk).
4. There is a time limit for competitors, to include getting on/off the platform and tuning – it must be adhered to strictly. Students who go over their allotted time may be stopped or penalised.
5. Choice of music will be taken into consideration; students are encouraged to perform from memory if they feel comfortable doing so. As a guide, most students perform one or two pieces, though more can be included as long as the competition's platform time limit is not exceeded. Unless entering one of our two concerto competitions, pianists must present solo repertoire.
6. Accompanists are usually only provided for those students whose lessons are with a JD teacher on Saturdays. Those with mid-week or external lesson arrangements are by default expected to find and use their own accompanist. Students with mid-week or external lessons who wish to use a JD accompanist must request this via their online entry form. If arranging an external accompanist, this should not be the student's parent or other relation, or their own teacher; if a student wishes to be accompanied in a competition by another current student, it is at their own risk and written agreement must be given by the Head of Junior Programmes before the entry deadline. To contact the Head of Junior Programmes, email jd@rcm.ac.uk.
7. Students playing accompanied repertoire must provide their piano accompaniments to the JD office by 5pm on the day of the day of the deadline. As an institution, the RCM must adhere to copyright law regarding the use of photocopies. We strongly encourage the use of published original piano parts regardless of copyright status, but if the music/edition being performed is out of copyright then ring-bound or securely taped print-outs/copies may be acceptable in certain circumstances – to request agreement for this before the entry deadline, email jd@rcm.ac.uk.
8. We will send your piano part(s) to your RCMJD-allocated accompanist as soon as the deadline has passed, and they will keep them until the end of the competition; if you need them for something else between the competition deadline and the competition itself, you should either purchase a further copy, or borrow it from a local music library or from the RCM library. Copies of accompaniments for practice purposes (if required) must be made outside RCM beforehand – it is not possible to photocopy music for competitions on campus.
9. Rehearsals with accompanists (30 minutes each) will take place on the two teaching Saturdays before the competition, and there will usually be the opportunity for a short warm-up immediately before each competitor plays (please note that this is a warm-up and not another rehearsal, and competitors must be ready to move to the stage as directed by the competition steward).

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9. Presentation is crucial; competitors are expected to dress smartly. Options are as follows:
- Suit or dark trousers/plain shirt/tie (waistcoat/jacket optional)
 - Smart long dress or long skirt/trousers and blouse/shirt
 - RCMJD concert dress (www.rcm.ac.uk/junior/rcmjdcurentstudents/ensembleschoirs/)
- NB jeans, trainers, shorter skirts/trousers/dresses are not acceptable; midriffs/shoulders/upper arms must be covered. We strongly advise that you are attired appropriately; you are likely to be penalised by the adjudicator(s) if you are not.
10. The winner of each competition is ineligible to enter for the same competition again (except the Joan Weller Composition Competition after a gap of one year, and the Gordon Turner Harp Competition, in which all harpists are expected to take part each year).
11. The decision of the adjudicator(s) is final.
12. JD students' family members are welcome to attend competitions in order to support participants. With the exception of the Peter Morrison Concerto Competition final round (which is a public event held in the RCM Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall), anyone without JD ID cards will need to be given date-specific visitor access in order that they can reach the relevant performance space. Please ensure that the names of any family members without ID passes are forwarded to the JD admin team via jd@rcm.ac.uk no later than 1pm on the day preceding the competition.
13. All queries regarding JD competitions should be referred to the JD Administrator in the first instance.

PROCEDURE ON THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION

Students should register their presence with the steward 10-12 minutes before they are due to play, depending on the location of the competition (NB students do not have permission to miss lessons any earlier than this). A warm-up room will usually be made available to each competitor 10-12 minutes before they are due to play (check the JD Saturday noticeboards for competition order and details of rooms). **It is the responsibility of each competitor to tell the steward(s) on duty of any special platform requirements (eg page turner needed, piano lid up/down, type of chair required; cellists need to provide their own spike support).**

At the end of the competition, details of results will be posted via the JD Saturday noticeboards and/or emailed to all competitors and their teachers as soon after the end of performances as possible.

Adjudicators' feedback will be provided in the form of a written comments sheet, available to collect from the JD administrative team on the Saturday following the competition.