

Pendine Young Musician of Wales 2025

North Wales International Music Festival in association with the Pendine Arts and Community Trust and BBC Radio Cymru

Prizes:

First Place: **£2,000 & *Pendine Trophy***
(and the invitation to perform at the 2026
North Wales International Music Festival)

Second Place: **£1,000**

Two Runners-Up: **£500 each**

Judges:

Professor Helena Gaunt (Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama)

Rebecca Evans CBE (World-renowned Operatic Soprano)

Alun Jones (NWIMF Executive Vice-Chair & Former Principal of Chetham's School of Music)

The Pendine Young Musician of Wales Competition is a unique opportunity for young musicians born or living in Wales to showcase their talents at the North Wales International Music Festival, be judged by world renowned judges, receive expert feedback on their performances and perform in one of the greatest acoustics in Wales, St Asaph Cathedral, as well as to be broadcast on BBC Radio Cymru.

We are a fully inclusive competition, and we positively welcome applications from musicians with apparent and non-apparent disabilities.

If you are interested in competing, please upload a video or audio clip of your performance for **Round 1**, along with your completed application form and your proof of age document, via the North Wales International Music Festival website - nwimf.com - **by 5pm on Friday 4th July 2025**.

If you have any queries please contact Caroline Thomas, Festival Manager, by email - caroline@nwimf.com.

- The performance you upload should be no longer than 5-minutes in duration. It may be a performance of a single piece, or a movement of a larger work, or a short programme of no more than 5 minutes in duration.
- Uploaded videos and proof of age documents will both be destroyed following the judging.
- The judges will select performers and invite them via email to participate in the live semi-final competition, **Round 2**.
- Competitors who have not been selected to participate for **Round 2** will also be informed of the result. No further feedback is given at this point.

The live competition at St Asaph Cathedral is divided into two rounds: **Round 2** is the semi-final.

- For **Round 2: the semi-final**, a maximum of **Eight** competitors will be chosen to compete on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7pm.
- For **Round 2** competitors are asked to perform for 5-minutes. This may be a single piece or a movement of a larger work or a short programme of no more than 5 minutes in duration. This performance **may** be the same piece(s) that were submitted for the online application.
- All competitors will receive written feedback from each judge.
- **Four finalists** from **Round 2 – the semi-final** will be selected to compete in Round 3 (The Grand Final).
- NB: all non-western instruments are encouraged to apply.

Round 3 (The Grand Final)

Four finalists will be selected to compete in **Round 3 (The Grand Final)** at St Asaph Cathedral on Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 7pm.

For **Round 3**, competitors are asked to prepare a short programme of between 10 and 15 minutes in duration. This may be a single piece, a single or a couple of movements of a larger work, or a selection of shorter works. A work or works from **Round 1 and/or 2** may be repeated here as part of the programme.

Following **Round 3**, one performer will be crowned the 'Pendine Young Musician of Wales 2025', receive the trophy and first place prize. There will also be a second prize and two 'runner up' prizes.

No other prizes or awards will be presented.

Rules and Regulations:

- The competition is open to all musicians who were born or who are living in Wales or who are Welsh nationals studying abroad.
- All musicians must be **under the age of 21 on 1 January 2025** to be eligible to compete.
- Please note that there is no minimum age for entry.
- All musicians under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian if successful in being invited to the live rounds at St Asaph Cathedral.
- We are unable to accept entries from previous winners of the competition.
- To enter, you must upload a video or audio clip of your performance, along with your completed application form and your proof of age document, via the North Wales International Music Festival website – www.nwimf.com - **by 5pm on 4th July 2025**
- Your proof of age could be a copy of your birth certificate, passport, driving licence or national ID card. ***Please do not send original documents.***
- An official accompanist will be provided by the festival, if required, at Round 2 - the semi-final and Round 3 (The Grand Final) stages.

- Please note that page turners will not be provided.
- Please note that percussion instruments will not be provided. You must provide your own.
- A professional sized piano and the cathedral organ will be provided.
- All participants will have the opportunity to rehearse in the cathedral, on the day, ahead of **Round 2 – the semi-final** and **Round 3 (The Grand Final)**.
- Copies of the music performed by competitors must be handed to the judges in advance of the performance. These may be photocopies. If so, they will be destroyed after use in line with copyright law.
- All participants taking part in **Round 3 (The Grand Final)**, agree to be recorded for broadcast by BBC Radio Cymru at a later date and agree to be interviewed by BBC Radio Cymru and other media.
- Late applications will not be accepted.
- The judges' decisions are final.