



Rotary Club Of Halifax School Choir Competition

Thank you for applying to take part. We are pleased to confirm that you have been allocated a place!

Performance Details

Date: Wednesday 29th April 2026

Venue: Holy Trinity & St Jude's Church, Free School Lane, Halifax

Times:

Morning Session

Arrival & Registration	9:40am – 10:10am
Welcome, housekeeping notices and warm up	10:10am
School Choir Performances	10:25am
Break (times may vary)	10:50am
School Choir Performances	11:10am
Speeches, Certificates And Prizes	11:45am
Expected Finish Time	12:00pm

Afternoon session:

Arrival & Registration	12:45pm – 1:15pm
Welcome, housekeeping notices and warm up	1:15pm
School Choir Performances	1:30pm
Break (times may vary)	1:50pm
School Choir Performances	2:00pm
Speeches, Certificates And Prizes	2:20pm
Expected Finish Time	2:35pm

Next Steps

Please upload the following documents via our website by **Wednesday 15th April 2026**:

- Confirmation of your song choice including length, composer etc. (You will find song choice tips on our website)

Remember:

Primary schools – maximum of 5 minutes on stage, this could be one or two songs, or a medley, but no more than 5 minutes.

Secondary schools – two contrasting pieces, no more than 10 minutes on stage.

- Your backing track **as an MP3 file** if you are using one
- Confirmation of your choir numbers
- A copy of your sheet music/lyrics (if available)
- A signed media consent form (available on our website) if you can consent to Calderdale Music and the Rotary Club Of Halifax including your choir in photographs and videos of the event. *(Please note: this is not compulsory)*

More Information

Scoring System

For 2026 we have introduced a new scoring system. Choirs will be graded in to three classes: Commended, Highly Commended and Honours.

There will be one primary school winner and one secondary school winner. As the primary schools are singing across the full day, the primary school winner will be announced by email the day after the competition.

In addition to the primary and secondary prize winners, there will be additional certificates “Most Entertaining” and “Most Engaging” choirs for each session, which will be chosen by members of the Rotary Club.

Every choir will receive a participation certificate.

Safeguarding/Health and Safety

Please ensure you have a first aid trained member of staff with you.

Schools are required to bring a list of their students and adults with them in case of a fire evacuation, and must also provide a copy at registration on the day of the event.

A copy of the risk assessment is available on our website.

Calderdale Music staff are DBS checked.

There will be a short break to allow pupils to chat and eat a snack if they wish to bring one.

Please do not bring snacks that contain nuts

Toilets

There are two individually locked toilets by the main entrance including a disabled toilet. If possible, please wait until a choir has finished singing to take a child to the toilet. We recommend taking children to the toilet when needed rather than waiting for the break.

Audience

Everyone will get to watch the other choirs perform. However, this is not a public event, so parents/carers won't be admitted to the church.

Please ensure that your pupils know that they are expected to sit and listen to the other choirs in the way that they will want to be listened to when it is their turn.

Equipment

A piano will be available to use and you can bring an accompanist, a backing track or sing a cappella. Calderdale Music will not be able to provide an accompanist.

A music stand will be available but no other equipment other than the piano will be provided.

If you need a backing track for your performance, an digital copy in mp3 format will need sending to Samantha.Pearson@calderdalemusic.co.uk before Wednesday 15th April 2026.

Sean Ruane - Adjudicator

Tenor Seán Ruane is one of the rising stars of the opera world, whose breathtaking vocal artistry comes with an endearing, easygoing style that has allowed him to grace grand opera, TV and sporting arenas with ease.

Equally at home performing in front of the cognoscenti of Covent Garden or fervent football fans at Wembley, Seán has worked all over Europe, the United States, Russia, Australia and New Zealand since making his professional debut in 2001.

Highlights of his operatic career include his 2004 debut at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in *The Tempest* (Thomas Adés), he then moved with the production to the Opéra National du Rhin. Other roles followed at the ROH including a welcome return in the revival of *The Tempest*.

He made his debut with Opera Holland Park in *Manon Lescaut* in 2001 and has returned each summer since.

While opera remains at the heart of his work, Seán has become the voice for many of the national sporting events. He has sung ahead of England football internationals, the Irish Rugby Six Nations internationals and during the last three Ashes series. He has also

appeared on the bill of the Teenage Cancer Trust concerts, alongside the likes of Paul Weller, Jools Holland and comedian Johnny Vegas.

Educated in his native Lancashire, Seán completed his undergraduate and postgraduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music under the tuition of Patrick McGuigan. His exceptional promise was recognised by the Peter Moores Foundation who supported Seán as a young professional. Through them he was able to study in Italy with Fernanda Puccini. Seán was subsequently awarded a place on the prestigious Academia di Puccini studying with the world renowned Magda Olivero and Rania Kabiavanski.