COBIS Council of British International Schools

Honorary President: Rt Hon Baroness Evans of Bowes Park

Chair: The Rt Hon Lord Knight of Weymouth

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COBIS Music Festival 2026-27 Terms and Conditions
Hosted by St George's British International School, Rome.

The COBIS Music Festival (in-person event) will take place from 23-25 April 2027 at St George's British International School, Rome.

Participants

- The COBIS Music Festival is open to COBIS member schools. Each school with a registered COBIS account should participate as an individual school.
- Students in Years 6-13 (as of the date of the Music Festival) can attend. Students in Y5 and below will not be able to take part.
- Those in Years 6-9 must enter the 'Lower School' categories and those in Years 10-13 must enter the 'Upper School' categories.
- Participating schools may bring up to 20 students to take part in the festival solo competitions. *Schools are welcome to bring additional students beyond this limit where they are required to support or form part of instrumental or vocal ensembles participating in the festival. These additional ensemble members will not count towards the 20-student competition limit*.

Registration

- Schools must register for the event via the online form on the COBIS website.
- All bookings must be made by school staff.
- The cost per student is €350 +VAT (c. £293+ VAT – exchange rates may vary). In addition to this, each attending school will be charged a non- returnable deposit of €429 (c.£360).
- The participation fee covers competition entry, musical workshops, social event, catering during the festival days (Friday – Sunday) provided on the school premises, and transport within the host country (transfers between the airport and accommodation, and the accommodation and event venues). Local transportation, and meals for 2 accompanying staff are also included. Travel to/from Rome, Italy, accommodation within Rome, Italy and meals outside the school premises are **not** included in this fee.
- Registration will close on 14 December 2026.
- There are a limited number of places, and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis. When places have been filled, additional registrations will be added to the waiting list.
- Schools must confirm how many students and staff they would like to attend on the registration form to allow the host school to raise invoices. If these numbers change, please contact students@cobis.org.uk by 14 December 2026.
- If a registered school wishes to withdraw from this event, they must confirm before 14 December 2026. To cancel a booking, please notify students@cobis.org.uk and cobis2027musicfestival@stgeorge.school.it

Competition Categories and Entry Rules

Maximum Performance Duration: Each piece presented in any competition category, whether solo, ensemble or Battle of the Bands, must not exceed 5 minutes in duration. This time limit applies to all competition categories without exception.

SOLO COMPETITIONS - The following solo competitions will be offered:
Piano

- Solo Piano - Lower School
- Solo Piano - Upper School

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Classical Instrumental
- Solo Instrumental (Classical) - Lower School
- Solo Instrumental (Classical) - Upper School

Contemporary Instrumental
- Solo Instrumental (Contemporary) - Lower School
- Solo Instrumental (Contemporary) - Upper School

Classical Vocal
- Solo Vocal (Classical) - Lower School
- Solo Vocal (Classical) - Upper School

Contemporary Vocal
- Solo Vocal (Contemporary) - Lower School
- Solo Vocal (Contemporary) - Upper School

Musical Futures
- Solo Musical Futures - Grade 1/2

Entry Rules
- *Each school may enter a maximum of three students in each solo competition category.*
- *Where a competition is divided into Lower School and Upper School sections, the maximum of three entries applies across both sections combined, not separately to each section.*

For example, in the Solo Piano competition, a school may enter a maximum of three students in total.

These could be:
- *3 Lower School students;*
- *3 Upper School students; or*
- *a combination of Lower and Upper School students, such as 2 Lower School students and 1 Upper School student.*

Important: Schools may NOT enter three students in the Lower School section and an additional three students in the Upper School section. The maximum is three students in total for each solo competition category.
The same rule applies to Piano, Classical Instrumental, Contemporary Instrumental, Classical Vocal, Contemporary Vocal competitions and Solo Musical Futures.

- *Each individual student may enter one solo competition category only.*

ENSEMBLE COMPETITIONS - The following Ensemble categories will be offered:

Instrumental Ensembles
- Small Instrumental Ensemble - Lower & Upper School combined
- Large Instrumental Ensemble - Lower & Upper School combined

Entry rules:
- *Each school may enter a maximum of one Small Instrumental Ensemble and one Large Instrumental Ensemble.*
- *A Small Instrumental Ensemble must comprise 3 - 9 musicians.*
- *A Large Instrumental Ensemble must comprise 10 or more musicians.*
- *Lower School and Upper School students may perform together in the same instrumental ensemble.*

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Vocal Ensembles
The following Vocal Ensemble categories will be offered:

- Vocal Ensemble - Lower School
- Vocal Ensemble - Upper School

Entry rules:

- *Each school may enter a maximum of one Vocal Ensemble in each age category: one Lower School ensemble and one Upper School ensemble.*
- *Each Vocal Ensemble must comprise 4 - 15 singers.*
- *The size of the ensemble will not form part of the adjudication criteria. Ensembles will be assessed on the quality and effectiveness of the performance in relation to their chosen repertoire and ensemble size.*
  This means that a smaller chamber vocal ensemble will not be disadvantaged when competing against an ensemble with a larger number of singers.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

- Each school may enter **a maximum of one band** in the Battle of the Bands competition.

Music Festival Opportunities

Alongside the competition programme, all students participating in the festival will have the opportunity to take part in one of three collaborative workshops:

- Orchestral Workshop
- Choral Workshop
- Composition Workshop

Students participating in the competitions will be able to select the workshop that best reflects their interests and musical experience. The workshop programme has been designed to ensure that every participating student is actively engaged in one of these three areas and has the opportunity to collaborate with students from other schools.

Orchestral Workshop
Students participating in the Festival Orchestra will work together on the following repertoire:

- Giuseppe Verdi - Triumphal March from Aida
- Gioachino Rossini - Overture to La Gazza ladra (The Thieving Magpie)

The Festival Orchestra will also prepare the orchestral parts for the two combined tutti works to be performed with the Festival Choir during the Grand Finale.

Choral Workshop
Students participating in the Festival Choir will work together on:

- Coldplay - Fix You

The Festival Choir will also prepare the choral parts for the two combined tutti works to be performed with the Festival Orchestra during the Grand Finale.

Tutti - Festival Orchestra & Choir
The Festival Orchestra and Festival Choir will come together to prepare and perform:

- George Frideric Handel - Zadok the Priest

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- Morcheeba - Rome Wasn't Built in a Day – specially arranged for orchestra and choir

These works will bring all participating instrumentalists and singers together for a massed performance as part of the Grand Finale on Sunday.

Composition Workshop
A dedicated Composition Workshop will also be offered during the festival, providing students with an additional opportunity to develop their creative and compositional skills and to collaborate with students from other participating schools.

Workshop & Rehearsal Schedule
The collaborative programme will include:

- Friday: 1½-hour Orchestral and Choral Workshops
- Sunday: 1-hour Orchestral and Choral Workshops
- Sunday: an additional 1½-hour combined Tutti Rehearsal for orchestra and choir, immediately prior to the Grand Finale

Students participating in the orchestral and choral workshops should therefore be prepared to contribute both to their respective ensemble repertoire and to the combined tutti performances.
Scores will be duly distributed for learning purposes prior to the event.

Finance

- Schools will be required to make payment for places booked, not parents or guardians.
- Schools must pay the non-refundable deposit and balance fees in a timely manner, in accordance with the timeline specified below:
    - Non-refundable deposit invoice of €429 /£360 per school will be issued by St George's British International School upon registration and must be paid within 14 days.
    - The non-refundable balance invoice will be issued week commencing 4 January 2027 to be paid by 22 January 2027.
- If schools do not pay their fee in a timely manner, COBIS and the host school reserves the right to
- cancel their place at the festival.
- Once a school has confirmed the number of students taking part, it will not be possible to issue a refund
- Please note that invoices will be raised by the host school in the local currency (Euro) for the amounts equivalent to £360 per school and £293 per participant at the time of the invoices being raised.

Travel and Accommodation

- Schools must not make any arrangements to travel to or stay in Rome, Italy until their place has been formally confirmed by COBIS and the host school.

Cancellation

- COBIS and the host school reserve the right to cancel this event if insufficient bookings are received, or if travel to the host country becomes inadvisable.
- Schools must take out the appropriate insurance policies in order to attend this competition; the policy should include cancellation, travel and medical insurance as well as anything else as required by your school or region.
- COBIS and the host school reserve the right to cancel a school's place if they have not paid their invoice in a timely manner.

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Supervision and Safeguarding

- St George's British International School will implement on-site safeguarding procedures during official sessions only.
- The participating school retains all parental and supervisory duties including travel, accommodation, medical care, and behavior outside scheduled sessions.

Media, Image & Intellectual Property

During the event, photographs and videos may be taken to celebrate the success and participation of the students, as well as to promote the event.

- These videos and photographs will be shared on COBIS/ St George's British International School social media, on the COBIS/ St George's British International School website and used for online and printed marketing by COBIS/ St George's British International School.
- Please get in touch (students@cobis.org.uk) if you would like more information or to indicate that a specific pupil's image should not be used.
- COBIS has no control over spectators taking photographs or videos or where they share any media.

By participating in this event, schools confirm that all necessary parental consents will be obtained for these purposes. COBIS may ask for evidence of this consent.

Judging & Awards

All judging decisions are final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into after results are published**.**

COBIS Code of Conduct

By participating in a COBIS Student Event, individuals agree to abide by the Code of Conduct. Participants who exhibit any behaviour that contravenes this may be immediately removed from the event in question and may be suspended from future COBIS events. Please review the *COBIS Student Events Code of Conduct,* relating to students and staff, in full.

Students:

- Demonstrate empathy, tolerance, respect, and kindness towards others.
- Be respectful of differing opinions, viewpoints, experiences, and cultural sensitivities.
- Be considerate and respectful to all participants, attendees, hosts, officials and COBIS staff.
- Do not engage in unacceptable behaviour, including but not limited to demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behaviour, materials, or speech, whether in-person or online.
- Adhere to digital etiquette during online events including appropriate use of chat, breakout rooms, and screen sharing. The expectation will be for cameras to be turned on when requested (where this impacts bandwidth or connectivity, participants can ask permission to turn cameras back off once the event has begun).
- Take part for enjoyment and strive for personal excellence.
- Graciously accept constructive feedback
- Compete by the competition conditions and rules.
- Accept responsibility and apologising to those affected by our mistakes, and learning from the experience
- Learn to value honest effort, skilled performance and improvement.
- Cooperate with the officials, teachers, and teammates (if applicable).
- Do not argue with the officials' decisions.

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In the case of team events:

- Work hard for the team as well as for yourself.
- Treat all teammates and opponents with kindness and respect.

In the case of in-person events:

- Develop and demonstrate awareness and respect for local customs, laws, expectations and cultural context.
- Respect the venues, hotels and transport vehicles.
- Keep living spaces tidy.
- Do not disturb others in the hotel.

Data Processing

- In order to administer this event, COBIS/ St George's British International School will collect information about attendees once the event is confirmed e.g. names, ages, dates of birth, email addresses, dietary requirements, medical details, and access requirements, as well as passport details if required for visa support letters. Please ensure that you have obtained the correct consent from pupils or guardians when providing this information. COBIS may ask for evidence of this consent.
- COBIS will also collect lead teacher, head teacher and finance names and contact details. This data will be shared with the host school for the administration of the event. COBIS and the host school have a data sharing agreement in place to protect the transfer of this information.
- The full name, age, image and school name of any students taking part may be published on the COBIS and St George's British International School website and social media. This information may also be published and promoted at the COBIS Annual Conference in May 2027 and in other COBIS-related publications. Participants may be asked to take part in such reasonable promotional activities and material as COBIS may require. By taking part in the event, the teacher confirms that the appropriate consent has been obtained from parents/carers and/or pupils (who are over the age of 18) to publish this information (full name and photo/video images, and school name and logo). COBIS may request evidence of this consent at any time, such as signed parental / guardian consent forms or confirmation of school policy. Evidence of such permissions may be requested by COBIS at any time.
- COBIS will process this data in line with their Privacy Policy. The host school will process this data in line with their Data Protection Policy.
- In line with applicable Data Protection Laws, the data subject, or a parent or legal guardian acting on their behalf, may request the removal of their name at any time. Please contact students@cobis.org.uk to make this request.

These event Terms and Conditions should be read in conjunction with the COBIS Membership Terms and Conditions (with specific reference to Schedule 14), which is linked here. By agreeing to these event Terms and Conditions, you agree to also be bound by the relevant sections of the COBIS Membership Terms and Conditions. Should your school not adhere to the Membership Terms and Conditions, your membership with COBIS may be subject to review as determined by the COBIS Board.

COBIS reserves the right to publish updated guidance and Terms and Conditions regarding the COBIS Music Festival 2026-27.

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