

13-23 MAY
2023



Enter by
25 March 2023
oratoryfestival.com

An Online Celebration of Speech & Drama
oratoryfestival.com

The 2nd International Oratory Festival



biff

Affiliated to the British & International Federation of
Festivals for Music, Dance & Speech



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



Welcome!

We're really excited to welcome you to the second year of the International Oratory Festival, an online celebration of speech and drama.

Do you love words? Do you like to meet new people from around the world? Do you like to think differently?

If you do, you've come to the right place!

We'll be holding Zoom events in a range of time zones from Saturday 13 May to Tuesday 23 May, 2023.

If you're between the ages of 6 and 18, you can enter our friendly competition in the following categories:

- **Poetry recital**
- **Your original poetry**
- **Shakespeare sonnet**
- **Prose reading**
- **Solo acting**
- **Public speaking**
Presenting an argument,
Speaking to inform & Impromptu
- **News report**



Everyone who takes part will be sent a beautiful digital certificate, and receive useful feedback to help you to develop as a speaker and performer.

We'll also be recognising the best speakers in every category, and you'll also be in the running to receive our Jubilee Trophy for 'Best in Festival'.

We can't wait to meet you!

Debbie Alison

Chief Judges

Enter now at
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Main entry deadline:
25 March 2023

Entries subject to our
rules (see pages 17-20)

Our categories

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ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



 **Enter now at**
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£10 per category; discounts available for groups, and for individuals entering multiple categories (see page 5)

Poetry recital

Enjoy performing the wonderful words from one of our great poems **page 8**

Your original poetry **New!**

Perform poetry that you have composed yourself in our very own poetry slam **page 9**

Shakespeare sonnet **New!**

Explore multitudes of language and expression in 14 lines by the Bard of Avon **ages 12-18 page 10**

Prose reading

Read an excerpt from a work of fiction by a writer of your choice **page 11**

Solo acting

Choose a section from your favourite play and wow us with your performance! **page 12**

Public speaking Presenting an argument

Give a persuasive speech presenting one side of our topical issues, or a balanced argument considering both sides **page 13**

Public speaking Speaking to inform

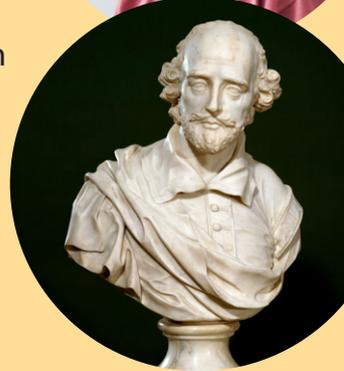
Deliver an interesting and informative speech about one of our topics **ages 6-14 page 14**

Public speaking Impromptu

Speak on a topical subject given to you 10 minutes before you speak! **ages 12-18 page 15**

News report **New!**

“Going live in 5, 4, 3 ...”
“This is the news ...” **ages 9-18 page 16**



Age groups

	6-8 Years	9-11 Years	12-14 Years	15-18 Years
 Poetry recital	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Your original poetry	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Shakespeare sonnet			✓	✓
 Prose reading	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Solo acting	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Public speaking Presenting an argument	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Public speaking Speaking to inform	✓	✓	✓	
 Public speaking Impromptu			✓	✓
 News report		✓	✓	✓

Equal Opportunities

Oratory can be great whatever your background, accent or nationality.

We welcome participants from around the globe on equal terms! The International Oratory Festival is committed to an Equal Opportunities Policy:

-  Apart from age-linked categories, there are no restrictions in entry.
-  We also welcome candidates who are **neurodiverse or have additional needs**; special considerations will be made where appropriate. You can let us know more about this (including potential adjustments we might need to make) by email at entries@oratoryfestival.com, or when we ask you to fill in a more detailed form about each entrant closer to the event.
-  We are always happy to discuss, learn and adapt our practices to enable all children and young people to be able to participate.
-  We welcome participation from any volunteers in the running of the festival.
-  Membership is open to anyone with sincere interest in and experience of the festival.



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023

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25 March 2023

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rules (see pages 17-20)



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023

How to enter

Entries are open from 1 December 2022
until the main closing date of **Saturday 25 March, 2022**

Individuals

Enter and pay by credit/debit card,
PayPal or money transfer:

oratoryfestival.com

If you have questions or problems
when booking, don't hesitate to get in
touch at entries@oratoryfestival.com.



Schools & groups

Many schools and organisations find it easier to book one session for a class or group, rather than have them enter as individuals. You miss out on seeing entries from other countries, but you get the convenience to schedule your own session and it works out as better value. To book these dedicated group sessions, email entries@oratoryfestival.com with the category and age range you're interested in.

Everyone in a whole class session enter the same category, but can be from different age groups. We'll liaise with you on a convenient time for your session. Closer to the time, we'll ask you to fill out a form with students' names and dates of birth.

Prices for individuals

£10 per category *or*

£30 for 4 categories

£37.50 for 5 categories

Multibuy discounts are for a single individual entering several categories; you can't enter multiple individuals on one multibuy.

Group pricing

6-11 year olds

up to 15 students in one hour for £100	up to 30 students in two hours for £180
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12-18 year olds

up to 10 students in one hour for £100	up to 20 students in two hours for £180	up to 30 students in three hours for £260
--	---	---

If you book more than one hour, we'll break the session up so that each student does not have to be on the Zoom call for too long.

You can also enter small groups via email, or at oratoryfestival.com. Pay by credit/debit card or invoice.

Early bird offer

We are offering **10% off** all individual entries made before **31 January 2023**

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Main entry deadline:
25 March 2023

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rules (see pages 17-20)

What next?



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL
MAY 2023



Scheduling

We're proud to be the International Festival of Oratory, welcoming young voices from all around the globe.

When the main entries close on 25 March 2023, we will carefully schedule entrants into sessions taking place in our festival week, from **Saturday 13 to Tuesday 23 May 2023**. We'll make sure your session is scheduled at a sensible time for where you are in the world.

Check the email you registered from during late April. If you haven't heard from us by 30 April, drop us a line at entries@oratoryfestival.com.

Prepare to speak

We'll be launching some great resources to help you prepare for your category. You'll find them online at oratoryfestival.com from early 2023.

There'll be tips about using language, speaking with clarity and impact, and what the judges will be looking for in each category. We'll also give you some ideas about how you can have fun preparing your oratory with friends or family members. There might also be a few slots available to enter some extra categories, if you're really keen!



On the day, you'll be welcomed to our Zoom by your friendly judge. You can be joined by up to two audience members¹. During the session, you'll deliver your oratory, and hear some other participants speak. The judges will give you all useful and positive spoken feedback. Each session will have its own winner and the overall category will have gold, silver and bronze awards.

At the end of the festival, we'll let you know the winners, and send you written feedback to help you grow as an orator.

¹ Audience members must use a different device, using headphones or in another room (see page 14)



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25 March 2023

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Our chief judges

At the International Festival of Oratory, we celebrate the power of the spoken word. Sure, we'll pick some winners, but the most important thing for us is giving you great feedback that will help you improve.

We know that great oratory has the power to change the world, and our judges will help you do that even better.



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



Debbie Newman

is the founder and lead trainer of the Noisy Classroom, experts in teaching public speaking, debating and oratory in schools.

Debbie has experience of coaching speech and debate around the world at all levels. She is a previous English national debating champion, president of the Cambridge Union Society and world champion schools debate coach. She has been on the faculty of the World Debate Institute, the International Debate Academy (IDAS) and the UK Debate Academy and is a former Head of the Centre for Speech and Debate at the English-Speaking Union in London.

Debbie is a qualified secondary teacher, and her focus is on speaking and listening in schools: both working with children, from 8-18, and also working with teachers to help build their skills and confidence. She has been a trustee of the English Speaking Board, a tutor at City Lit college, a primary school governor and a Speech and Debate committee member at the English-Speaking Union.

Alison Coates

is passionate about oracy and communication, in all its forms, and has worked in this area for over 25 years. A graduate of the University of Lancaster, with Joint Honours in English and Drama, she ran her own Speech and Drama business for 17 years, preparing students for examinations, festivals, and drama school.

Alison has worked in several schools teaching Speech and Drama and spent ten years as the Business Development Advisor for Speech with the English Speaking Board, also writing their three accredited debating qualifications during her time with the awarding organisation.

As well as the above, Alison has been lucky enough to travel across the UK and internationally as a trainer, assessor, and adjudicator for the English Speaking Board, the PiXL Club's *Up for Debate* programme, the Business and Professional Women's Public Speaking Competition, and others. Highlights have included time spent working in The Channel Islands, Belgium, Malta, Poland, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Shanghai and Trinidad and Tobago.

**As well as your
stunning digital
certificate, all
participants
will receive
personalised
written
feedback to help
you develop as
an orator.**

Our May 2023 Festival of Oratory will be scheduled in April 2023, once the main entries have closed. We will bring in further judges as necessary, from our wide range of international contacts including world champion debaters and top theatrical talent.

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**oratoryfestival.
com**

Main entry deadline:
25 March 2023

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INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023

Poetry recital

from memory

Perform words written by some of the greatest wordsmiths ever, from the 18th to the 21st centuries.

6-8 Years

Perform one of the following:

- a** 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' by Robert Frost
- b** 'Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll
- c** 'Homework, Oh Homework' by Jack Prelutsky
- d** 'Sleeping Out' by Grace Nichols
- e** 'The River' by Valerie Bloom



Finding your poem

Links to all of the poems are on our website at oratoryfestival.com

Our membership of BIFF means that the copyright permissions for your performance are all taken care of, and the author will receive payment for use of their work where appropriate (see page 19).

What we reward

Secure, well-memorised words • Clarity and audibility • Sensitivity to, and capturing of, mood and meaning • Vocal variety which engages the audience and adds power to the words • Thoughtful and appropriate use of pause • Facial expressions which support the successful communication of the words

Entry details

£10 per entry at oratoryfestival.com

Discounts for groups, and individuals entering several categories (see page 5)

Main entry deadline:
25 March 2023

Entries subject to our rules (see pages 17-20)

9-11 Years

Perform one of the following:

- a** 'Henry King' by Hilaire Belloc
- b** 'Cat-Rap' by Grace Nichols
- c** 'Sick' by Shel Silverstein
- d** 'Shakespeare at School' by Wendy Cope
- e** 'The Tyger' by William Blake

12-14 Years

Perform one of the following:

- a** 'The Listeners' by Walter de la Mare
- b** 'Anthem for Doomed Youth' by Wilfred Owen
- c** 'The British' by Benjamin Zephaniah
- d** 'Eagle Poem' by Joy Harjo
- e** 'The Sundial' by Gillian Clarke

15-18 Years

Perform one of the following:

- a** 'When Great Trees Fall' by Maya Angelou
- b** 'If You Forget Me' by Pablo Neruda
- c** 'War Photographer' by Carol Ann Duffy
- d** 'The Stolen Child' by W. B. Yeats
- e** 'The Rights of Women' by Anna Laetitia Barbauld

Entrants must be within the age bands on the first day of the festival. For example, to qualify as "9-11 Years Old", you must have your 9th birthday on or before 13 May 2023, and your 12th birthday must be after 13 May 2023.



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023

Your original poetry **New!** from memory

Sometimes performing other peoples' words just isn't enough. What do *you* want to say through the spoken word?

This category is very much about quality, rather than quantity! Make sure that every word is carefully chosen and expresses something unique and powerful.

A written copy of your poem should be sent to us at entries@oratoryfestival.com by 30 April 2023.



What we reward

Effective and original use of language and form, which leaves an impression on the audience • Secure, well-memorised words • Clarity and audibility • Vocal variety which engages the audience and adds power to the words • Thoughtful and appropriate use of pause • Facial expressions which support the successful communication of the words

Entry details

£10 per entry at oratoryfestival.com

Discounts for groups, and individuals entering several categories (see page 5)

6-8 Years

Perform your own composition lasting **no more than 2 minutes**, but long enough to show variation and skillful use of language

9-11 Years

Perform your own composition lasting **no more than 2 minutes**, but long enough to show variation and skillful use of language

12-14 Years

Perform your own composition lasting **no more than 3 minutes**, but long enough to show variation and skillful use of language

15-18 Years

Perform your own composition lasting **no more than 4 minutes**, but long enough to show variation and skilful use of language

Main entry deadline:
25 March 2023

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INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023

Shakespeare sonnet **New!** from memory

“Thou dost speak masterly!”
Shakespeare’s sonnets are
revered for a reason:
infinities are explored
in just fourteen lines ...

Choosing a sonnet

You’re free to choose any of Shakespeare’s complete sonnets. But there are also some suggestions of good sonnets you could choose on our website, as well as some of our favourite editions if you’d like to purchase a book to browse through.

What we reward

Secure, well-memorised words •
Clarity and audibility • Sensitivity to,
and capturing of, mood and meaning
• Vocal variety which engages the
audience and adds power to the
words • Thoughtful and appropriate
use of pause • Skillful handling of
the *volta* (where the feeling of the
sonnet ‘turns’) when appropriate •
Facial expressions which support
the successful communication of the
words

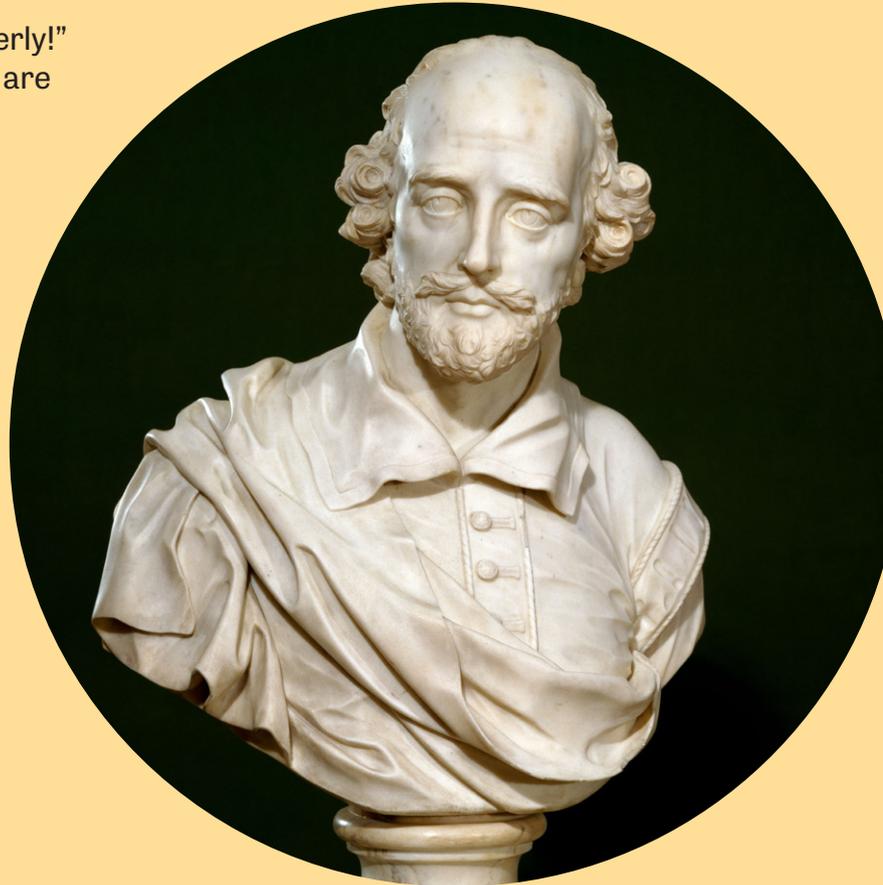
Entry details

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Main entry deadline:
25 March 2023

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rules (see pages 17-20)



You should let us know which sonnet you’ve chosen by emailing entries@oratoryfestival.com by 30 April 2023.

12-14 Years

Perform any of Shakespeare’s sonnets from memory. Your choice could be any one from his quarto of 154 sonnets, or any complete sonnet from his plays.

15-18 Years

Perform any of Shakespeare’s sonnets from memory. Your choice could be any one from his quarto of 154 sonnets, or any complete sonnet from his plays.

Entrants must be within the age bands on the first day of the festival. For example, to qualify as “12-14 Years Old”, you must have your 12th birthday on or before 13 May 2023, and your 15th birthday must be after 13 May 2023.

Prose reading



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



This year, we're letting you roam through the entirety of prose fiction, to choose an excerpt from any fiction book originally written in the English language.

A copy of the section you will be reading must be sent to us at entries@oratoryfestival.com by 30 April 2023.

At the start of your time, you need to give a brief introduction to your excerpt, lasting no more than 30 seconds. This should help set the scene for members of the audience who aren't familiar with the novel, and don't know what's already happened.

Your selection should include both narrative and dialogue. Choose a novel that you have read in full, and that you really enjoy.

It's better to share part of a book that you really enjoy than one which you find boring or don't really understand!

Further tips on how to make a good choice for your excerpt in this category are available on our website.

6-8 Years

Perform an excerpt from a novel, lasting **2 minutes** (including your introduction)

9-11 Years

Perform an excerpt from a novel, lasting **2 minutes** (including your introduction)

12-14 Years

Perform an excerpt from a novel, lasting **3 minutes** (including your introduction)

15-18 Years

Perform an excerpt from a novel, lasting **3 minutes** (including your introduction)

Entrants must be within the age bands on the first day of the festival. For example, to qualify as "9-11 Years Old", you must have your 9th birthday on or before 13 May 2023, and your 12th birthday must be after 13 May 2023.

What we reward

Familiarity with the text • Clarity and audibility • Eye contact • Sensitivity to, and capturing of, the mood • Clear differentiation between narrative and dialogue • Vocal variety which engages the audience and adds power to the words • Thoughtful and appropriate use of pause • Facial expressions which support the successful communication of the words

Our membership of BIFF means that the copyright permissions for your performance are all taken care of, and the author will receive payment for use of their work where appropriate. See page 19 for full details.

Entry details

£10 per entry at oratoryfestival.com

Discounts for groups, and individuals entering several categories (see page 5)

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25 March 2023

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Solo acting

Choose an excerpt from your favourite play or monologue. A copy of the reading must be sent to us at entries@oratoryfestival.com by 30 April 2023.

At the International Oratory Festival, our focus is on the words. Please don't wear any special costumes, just dress as you would for any other category.



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



6-8 Years

Your own choice of excerpt,
lasting **up to 3 minutes**

9-11 Years

Your own choice of
excerpt, lasting
3 minutes

What we reward

Secure, well-memorised words
 • Clarity and audibility •
 A demonstrable understanding of
 character and situation • Vocal variety
 which engages the audience and adds
 power to the words • Use of appropriate
 movement, stance, facial expressions and
 gesture

Our membership of BIFF means that the copyright permissions for your performance are all taken care of, and the author will receive payment for use of their work where appropriate. See page 19 for full details.

12-14 Years

Your own choice of excerpt, lasting
4 minutes

15-18 Years

Your own choice of excerpt, lasting
5 minutes

Entry details

£10 per entry at oratoryfestival.com
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25 March 2023

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Public speaking

Presenting an argument



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023

Candidates can choose to give a persuasive speech presenting one side of the issue (for or against) **or** a balanced argument considering both sides.

6-8 Years

“Can children make a difference to the environment” **or** your own choice on the theme of the environment, lasting **2 minutes**



What we reward

Well chosen points which are clearly explained and supported by relevant evidence • Language choices which engage the audience and add power to the speech • Facial expressions and body language which support the successful communication of the words • A well-thought out structure with a clear beginning, middle and end

Entry details

£10 per entry at oratoryfestival.com

Discounts for groups, and for individuals entering several categories (see page 5)

9-11 Years

“Are video games bad for you?” **or** your own choice on the theme of digital technology, lasting **3 minutes**

12-14 Years

Own choice on a contemporary moral or ethical issue, lasting **4 minutes**

15-18 Years

Own choice on a contemporary moral or ethical issue, lasting **5 minutes**

Entrants must be within the age bands on the first day of the festival. For example, to qualify as “9-11 Years Old”, you must have your 9th birthday on or before 13 May 2023, and your 12th birthday must be after 13 May 2023.

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25 March 2023

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rules (see pages 17-20)

Public speaking

Speaking to inform

INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



What the world needs more now than ever is information we can all trust! But we are also always grateful when that information is presented in an interesting and engaging way.

Engage the audience with an interesting and informative speech about one of our topics.

What we reward

Clearly explained content which shares relevant information with the audience

- Language choices which engage the audience and add power to the speech
- Facial expressions and body language which support the successful communication of the words
- A well-thought out structure with a clear beginning, middle and end

Entry details

£10 per entry at oratoryfestival.com

Discounts for groups, and for individuals entering several categories (see page 5)

6-8 Years

Talk about "Somewhere I have visited, or would like to go" in a speech lasting **2 minutes**

9-11 Years

Talk about "Someone I admire" in a speech lasting **3 minutes**

12-14 Years

Talk about "An important historical event" in a speech lasting **4 minutes**

Entrants must be within the age bands on the first day of the festival. For example, to qualify as "9-11 Years Old", you must have your 9th birthday on or before 13 May 2023, and your 12th birthday must be after 13 May 2023.

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25 March 2023

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Public speaking

Impromptu

You'll speak on an exciting general interest topic which will be given to you by the festival organisers 10 minutes before you speak. This is the perfect category for everyone who likes debating or thinking on your feet.

12-14 Years

Talk for **4 minutes**

15-18 Years

Talk for
5 minutes



What we reward

Content which explores ideas that are relevant to the topic in an interesting way • Language choices which engage the audience and add power to the speech • Facial expressions and body language which support the successful communication of the words • A well-thought out structure with a clear beginning, middle and end

Entry details

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25 March 2023

Entries subject to our
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INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



News report **New!**

Reporting on an exciting news story is a thrilling challenge for our final new category in our May 2023 Oratory Festival. But it's also the gateway to a career as a journalist, one of the world's most interesting and important jobs.

From local problems like litter on your street or problems with your public transport links, through national issues like education and healthcare, and on to worldwide problems like the climate emergency or global peace: whatever your choice of news, we look forward to receiving your live report!

9-11 Years

Report on a local, national or global news story for **3 minutes**

12-14 Years

Report on a local, national or global news story for **4 minutes**

15-18 Years

Report on a local, national or global news topic for **5 minutes**



You can use notes when delivering your report, but all good TV newsreaders and reporters have an almost constant connection with their audience, through their camera. Make sure you know your story inside out, and aren't dependant on your notes.

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INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023

What we reward

A clear explanation of the key facts about your chosen story: who, what, where, when, why (and so on) • Interesting details which further engage your audience • Some use of relevant sources • Language, facial expressions and body language which are suitable for a news report • A well-thought out structure with a clear beginning, middle and end.

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25 March 2023

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INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023

Good to know!

The International Oratory Festival is fun! Unlike an exam, you get to see what the other participants have prepared. Our judges are really friendly, and will give you really useful feedback to ensure that you grow in confidence and can return to our next Festival as an even better orator.

That said, we do have some rules. Everyone who enters is required to abide by the full set of rules on our website at oratoryfestival.com/rules. The key ones are included below, along with some other helpful points:

Language



The International Oratory Festival takes place using the English language. **We celebrate the range of accents and dialects used to speak English around the world.** We encourage you to speak with your own voice, while ensuring that your pace and diction enable your performance to be understood.

Entering online or by email



- Individual entrants should enter online at oratoryfestival.com, where you can choose to pay by credit/debit card, PayPal or money transfer
- Small groups can choose to enter online or by email
- Schools and larger groups should enter by email at entries@oratoryfestival.com, so we can discuss your needs with you fully and to enable you to provide us with detailed information about your own scheduling and pedagogical needs.



Getting entrants' names right

Whether you're making an individual entry on the website, or sending us a spreadsheet of a group's names by email, the names that you provide us with are the ones that will appear on that entrant's certificates. Please make sure you get them right! So that we address your participants in the right way, we also ask you to provide their preferred pronouns.

Before the Festival



Providing further details

For some categories, you will need to email us further information by **Sunday 30 April, 2023** to entries@oratoryfestival.com:

- Your original poetry:** the text of your poem
- Shakespeare sonnet:** the number of your sonnet, or its location (act, scene and line) in one of Shakespeare's plays
- Prose reading and Solo acting:** a copy of the full text of the excerpt you will be reading or performing.

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25 March 2023

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INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



Preparation and nerves

If you are feeling any nerves, we can reassure you that we are the friendliest bunch of judges in the world and we are only interested in celebrating your successes and supporting you in confidently presenting or performing online. If you want any last-minute tips, watch the videos and read our top tips on the festival website: oratoryfestival.com/tips-on-preparing.

On the day of your session



No photography or recordings!

Screen capturing, audio recording, taking photographs, or otherwise recording any part of any performance or part of the festival is not permitted.



Your Zoom link, and testing beforehand

You will receive the Zoom links for your sessions at least 48 hours in advance so if you haven't heard anything, please get in touch at entries@oratoryfestival.com.

Please test out your camera and microphone in advance and be ready to arrive in the Zoom room in good time in case there are any technical problems. Make sure you are in a quiet space or wear headphones if you need to. We have all seen babies and cats invade video calls over the last few years: try your best to be somewhere you won't be interrupted. But, whatever happens, the show will go on!



Joining your Zoom

On the day you'll be in the Zoom room with other people from your category (and perhaps other similar categories and ages) alongside guests who the entrants have invited (each entrant can have two devices join to watch).

Please try to enter the waiting room at least 10 minutes in advance of your session. Make sure you're using the full name given on your entry form. If you cannot join the call or have technical problems on the day, please email entries@oratoryfestival.com. Don't despair if the tech goes wrong on the day - we'll do our best to see you at another time.



Making sure you can be seen

Please orientate your camera in landscape format. You can stand or sit when you perform, but make sure that all of your head, and your hands and upper body, can be seen at all times. The participant should be the only person in view.



Audience members

You can have up to two additional devices join to watch you perform. They should either be in another room, or use headphones so that they can't be heard on your microphone. The audience members should join the Zoom using the entrant's name and their relationship, for example "Christina Rossetti's mum and dad" or "Chinua Achebe's teacher".

Enter now at
oratoryfestival.com

Main entry deadline:
25 March 2023

Entries subject to our
rules (see pages 17-20)



INTERNATIONAL
ORATORY FESTIVAL

MAY 2023



When other people are performing

When other people are performing, we ask that other people:

- Keep themselves on mute when it is not their turn
- Keep their cameras on if they can, so that the person speaking has a sense of their audience (obviously it is crucial to have your camera on when it is your turn!)

If you've booked as part of a group, we'll liaise with the teacher or group leader about the logistics of your session.



Age-appropriate? Triggering?

A lot of our Zoom events mix participants from different age groups. Some topics that older participants might choose to speak on might involve violence or more mature subject matter that might be inappropriate for younger viewers. Mentions of violence or traumatic situations can be triggering for other audience members of any age. If this is the case with your oratory, please remember to inform everyone before you start that it might not be suitable for everyone in the room, so they can choose to mute their speakers during your contribution.



Copyright and changes to your text

Through our membership of the British & International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech, we have an agreement with the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society. This means that entrants do not have to seek copyright permission for any for any poetry, prose or solo dramatic items performed to a time limit of 10 minutes.

- Please announce the title and author before you perform
- For any works in copyright, you may not change the wording, or the gender of the character.

Performers and teachers will be delighted to know that their participation in the Festival means that the author of any works which are still in copyright will be directly reimbursed as a consequence of their work being performed at the Festival.

Feedback, marks and awards

Of course, taking part is the main thing at the International Oratory Festival. The greatest thrill is in sharing your oratory with other speakers from around the world.

Everyone who enters gets a beautiful certificate, and a copy of their adjudication sheet with personalised feedback.

But marks and prizes are also fun, and we have special prizes and certificates for participants who do particularly well!



Mark scheme

All entries are marked according to the following mark scheme:

- Fair 75-77
- Good 78-80
- Merit 81-83
- Commended 84-86
- Distinction 87-89
- Honours 90+

Prizes and certificates

We also award the following special certificates:

- Bronze, Silver and Gold
- Best in Category
- Exceptional Achievement for Multi-Disciplinary Excellence
- Best in Festival (who also is awarded the Jubilee Shield)

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Other important information



Child Protection and Safeguarding

We take the safety and wellbeing of all our participants very seriously. For more information, see our Child Protection and Safer Festivals Statements at oratoryfestival.com/safeguarding.



Data Protection

The International Oratory Festival is committed to protecting your privacy and maintaining the security of all personal information received from you. All data requested is necessary for the general administration of the festival or for processing entries. Personal data is not disclosed or shared with third parties. For more details, see our privacy policy at oratoryfestival.com/privacy.



We're here to help

If you have any questions about the Festival, do get straight in touch with us at entries@oratoryfestival.com.



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noisy
classroom

Helping young people become persuasive and creative speakers, critical listeners, analytical thinkers and engaged citizens

The International Oratory Festival is founded and run by the Noisy Classroom. Based in the UK, we are a training organisation dedicated to promoting and supporting the use of speaking and listening in schools. We also offer online coaching for families and individual young people around the world. Visit noisyclassroom.com or email info@noisyclassroom.com to book!

Schools

We help teachers use a range of techniques including debate, discussion, dialogue, role play and enquiry as part of the Noisy Learning experience. A noisy classroom can be both inspirational and rigorous; we love all of the vibrant, active work going on inside it and campaign against the idea that only a silent classroom is an effective one. All students should leave school as confident and articulate adults and our team of experts is dedicated to fostering those skills.

Training Noisy Classroom offers popular training sessions (in person and online) for schools and teachers who want to use debate and critical oracy in the classroom.

Student Workshops We work with all ages, abilities and group sizes. Schools bring us in for a range of debate and oracy workshops with a whole cohort or targeted group. Popular choices include our debating Shakespeare Days for able 14-18 year olds, debating football sessions for reluctant writers, interview skills training for senior school or university entrants, public speaking workshops for new prefects and Model United Nations days. We regularly come up with bespoke workshops to meet a school's particular needs around the world and we can deliver in person or online.

Website

Our popular website at noisyclassroom.com is packed with useful videos, worksheets and ideas, used by teachers and young people around the world.

Online coaching

We work daily with families and individual young people around the world, providing individualised coaching and support in speaking, listening, conversation and debate. Whatever your location or background, we help you develop key skills that lead to success in the modern world.

Books

Our director, Debbie Newman, has two books published by leading international publishers Routledge: *Pros & Cons – A Debater's Handbook* and *The Noisy Classroom – Developing Debate and Critical Oracy in Schools*.

