

# NAO FESTIVAL RULES 2019-2020

## 1. QUALIFICATION

- (a) All competitors must be UK citizens. (Except the NAO International Solo Sections)
- (b) All sections are for AMATEUR musicians only with the exception of the International sections, Open Premier Duet, Art Level Group, Entertainment, Showband and Art Level Orchestra. (For a definition of "Professional" see guidance note 1)

## 2. UK CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the UK Championships there are two types of Performance Sections and the NAO Composers' Portfolio Competition:

- (a) **Qualification sections:** For the CIA Coupe Mondiale 2020: S1 (Virtuoso), SV1 (Virtuoso Variety) and GE (Ensemble) are qualifying sections for the Classical, Virtuoso Entertainment and Ensemble Categories at the 2020 Coupe Mondiale to be held in October 2020 in the Algarve, Portugal.  
For Senior Categories candidates must be born in 1988 or later and for Junior Categories in 2002 or later. There are no restrictions on these sections – candidates do NOT have to compete in Area Festivals and may perform any music they consider suitable for the section to gain qualification (even if performed at previous/current NAO UK Championship Competitions). These are non-competitive sections; candidates will either qualify or not qualify. The NAO will pay the Entry Fee to the CIA for all candidates who qualify.
- (b) **UK Championship competitions.** All other sections are UK Championship competitions. Competitors may enter only one of each of the following: Recital solo, Age group solo, graded solo, polka solo, musette solo, traditional solo, Frosini solo, Tango solo, duet competition, group competition, Entertainment, Showband, Mixed ability, Club band & one graded orchestral competition (with exceptions as defined in Rules 8 & 9).

## 3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR ALL UK CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS.

- (a) Competitors must be of the required age on 30th April 2020.
- (b) In the UK Championships, all entries are restricted to those having competed in the same section in an area festival during the current season. (Except the International solo sections) To qualify they must perform the complete piece. However, UK Championship Age solo winners (SA1 – SA6) may defend their title in the following festival season without entry in the current area festival section if still eligible by age.

## 4. OWN CHOICE MUSIC FOR ALL UK CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS. (See guidance note 9)

- (a) Any competitor placed first, second or third at the UK Championships in 2018 or 2019 (having three or more competitors) is not allowed to play the same own choice music / programme (or any part thereof) at the UK Championships 2019. With the exception of the Recital and Aged Solos.
- (b) No solo competitor may play the same piece in two different sections at the UK Championships 2020.
- (c) At the UK Championships 2020 if an "Own Choice" is not advised to the NAO Secretariat by the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020, TBA will appear in the programme and the competitor will be placed LAST.

## 5. GRADED SOLO SECTIONS AT THE UK CHAMPIONSHIPS.

- (a) In Graded solo sections (Preliminary – Advanced) where there is a separate Test Piece section & Own Choice Piece section in Area festivals, competitors may **ONLY** qualify to compete at the UK Championships by competing in the TEST Piece section.
- (b) Any competitor placed first in any graded solo section having five competitors or more may not compete again in the same or lower graded section in subsequent years.
- (c) Any competitor placed second or third in any graded solo section having five or more competitors may not compete in lower grade sections in subsequent years.
- (d) Competitors in the Introductory Solo (SG9) may only enter this section on one occasion and may NOT compete in any other SOLO section at the same UK Championships
- (e) The Graded Solo Own Choice Piece must appear in the **NAO compiled list for the corresponding grade** – This is available on the NAO website or on request (by grade) from the NAO Secretariat. Any competitor playing that offers an incorrect piece will be notified 14 days of the receipt of entry and any competitor knowingly performing an incorrect piece will be placed last
- (f) Any Competitor entering both the Championship Age Solo Sections (SA1 - SA6) and the Graded Solo Sections must NOT choose music which is **more than two grades higher** for the Age Solo section than the Graded Solo Section entered.

## 6. RETURNERS / LATE STARTERS SECTIONS AT THE UK CHAMPIONSHIPS.

These are non-competitive sections. Competitors, who may use any type of Accordion, will all receive a certification of participation and be awarded Gold/Silver/Bronze. Both sections will be divided by the NAO dependant on entries by the grade of music selected to be performed.

- (a) The Late Starters section is open to any competitor who commenced playing the accordion when 35 years or older.
- (b) The Returners section is open to any competitor who has not competed as a Soloist at the UK Championships in the last 10 years.

## 7. DUET SECTIONS AT THE UK CHAMPIONSHIPS.

- (a) Accordion Duets consist of two persons each playing an accordion.
- (b) Any duet partnership placed first in any graded duet section having FIVE or more competing entries may not compete in the same or a lower graded section in subsequent years.

- (c) Any duet partnership placed second or third in any graded duet section having FIVE or more competing entries may not compete in a lower graded section in subsequent years.
- (d) That both duet members must be NAO members to qualify for the reduced entry fee.

## **8. ENTERTAINMENT & SHOWBAND**

These sections are for entertainers.

ENTERTAINMENT - Each entry must feature at least one entertainer playing the accordion - with a minimum of 2 persons & a maximum of six accordionists – other artists may be featured

SHOWBAND - Each entry must feature at least seven accordionists at all times playing an accordion – other artists may be featured. See guidance note 6

## **9. GROUP SECTIONS**

- (a) Groups consist of 3-6 members each playing an accordion, except for the BASS member who may play ANY Bass instrument, electronic or otherwise.
- (b) 50% of the Group must be NAO members to qualify for the reduced entry fee.
- (c) Groups may not be conducted.

## **10. ORCHESTRAL SECTIONS**

- (a) Orchestras must consist of at least SEVEN Accordionists, each playing an accordion, in addition to which up to THREE other Instruments and percussion may be added. A setting up time of 8 minutes inclusive of a 30 second sound check/warm up is allowed. See *guidance notes No 7 and 8*
- (b) Players of Bass instruments may compete in orchestras of adjacent grades. Players of percussion may compete in more than one orchestra but not in the same section.
- (c) Orchestras competing in graded Own Choice sections at the NAO Area Festivals or the UK Championships must select their Own Choice music from the NAO Accordion Orchestra Graded Music list and may only compete in the own choice section appropriate to the grade of the music selected. Accordion Orchestras that enter a graded test Piece section in addition to a graded own choice section must enter the graded test piece section appropriate to the graded Own Choice section. A compiled list is available on the Internet. This may be added to by submission of a complete score to the NAO Music Committee.

## **11. ENTRIES**

- (a) Official entry forms must be used, which must reach the Area Festival Organiser by the advertised closing date, accompanied by the appropriate FEES.
- (b) Reduced entry fee concessions apply only to fully paid up NAO members provided they enclose their membership cards with the entry form.
- (c) All orchestras entered in the UK Championship and Area Festivals must have 50% membership of the NAO to qualify for the reduced entry fee.

**12. AMPLIFIED ACCORDIONS** may not be used in any solo (with the exception of the Returners / Late Starters) or duet section but may be used in the Entertainment & any Ensemble sections only. NO AUTOMATIC devices eg: midi files etc may be used.

## **13. PLAYING TIME**

- (a) This commences from the moment that an official or adjudicator requests the competitor to commence playing the OWN Choice Programme. Timing is "PLAYING TIME" of the Own Choice Programme. (This includes the Test Piece of sections SB1-SB6)
- (b) Playing UNDER TIME in the own choice programme will result in 2% of total marks possible being deducted from the adjudicators award.
- (c) Playing OVER TIME in the own choice programme will result in the competitor(s) being "belled" at which time the competitor(s) must stop playing immediately in which case the adjudicators mark will stand. (No marks will be deducted if the bell is sounded).
- (d) All dot repeats may be ignored unless essential to the form of the music.

## **14. ADJUDICATION** See *Guidance Note No 11*

- (a) The adjudicator's decision shall be FINAL.
- (b) In Area Festivals and at the UK Championships "No joint placing" is allowed for prize-winning positions.

**15. PROTESTS** connected with any NAO Festival must be made in writing and handed to the organiser before the end of the festival. In the event of the dispute not being resolved during a festival, a formal written protest may be sent within one month to the NAO Secretariat, who will refer the matter to the NAO Executive Committee for arbitration. Their decision will be final. Where the complaint refers to adjudication, the NAO Executive Committee will send a copy of the complaint to the adjudicator(s) concerned.

**16. FAILURE TO TAKE PART** in a festival or to be present by the stipulated time, or to comply with these festival rules, shall render the competitor(s) liable to disqualification and the entry fee FORFEITED.

Any competitor being PREVENTED from competing for a reason proved to be the fault of the organiser or the NAO shall have the entry fee refunded.

**17. TAPE/VIDEO RECORDING** and **PHOTOGRAPHY** is NOT ALLOWED without written permission from the NAO Executive Committee.

**18.** The organisers shall have the right to REFUSE ANY ENTRY, subject to the approval of the NAO Executive Committee.

## NOTES FOR GUIDANCE 2019-2020

1. The term professional refers to a person who a) claims to be professional and/or b) has playing and/or teaching as his or her sole occupation or business, on which he/she is financially dependent for a living and/or c) examines or adjudicates as an accordion specialist.
2. The term OPEN refers to professional and amateur players.
3. The festival season commences in September and concludes in May.
4. Entries to all CIA Coupe Mondiale 2019 sections will be approved by qualification in the relevant sections as specified in Festival Rule 2 at the UK Championships 2019. Only in exceptional circumstance may any others be considered for approval by the NAO Executive Committee.
5. CONCERT STYLE dress is advised in all sections, except the Entertainment & Showband. ie. No leisure type apparel to be worn.
6. ENTERTAINMENT & SHOWBAND - Competitors must present themselves as ARTISTES to an audience; PRESENTATION, SHOWMANSHIP, DRESS, PERSONALITY and STAGECRAFT are all IMPORTANT – this will be included on the adjudication sheet. Instruments used for the Entertainment or Showband may be standard, amplified or electronic.
7. ORCHESTRA SECTIONS
  - (a) Conductors of orchestras may be professional or amateur and may conduct more than one orchestra.
  - (b) Where there is a separate Test Piece section and Own Choice section listed, orchestras/bands may qualify in one or both of the sections at the appropriate grade and can compete in either or both sections at the UK Championships.
8. The term OTHER INSTRUMENTS refers to any instrument not written into the original score.
9. OWN CHOICE MUSIC
  - (a) Where appropriate, competitors are ADVISED to select an own choice piece / programme which is in a contrasting style to any Test piece they may be playing.
  - (b) Any competitor playing a Theme with Variations, or cyclical work, will, in subsequent years be allowed to repeat the theme, but different variations or movements will be required.
  - (c) Credit will be given for playing from memory and the adjudicators so advised.
  - (d) At the UK Championships - Entrants are requested to submit Own Choice scores at the commencement of the section or prior to performance. These should be collected thereafter from the Clerk of the section.
  - (e) STAGE MANAGERS will note the names of competitors performing on stage without an ORIGINAL copy of the Music - This information will then be passed on to the relevant publishing houses.
  - (f) In the Junior Recital, It is recommended that programmes should be of a minimum grade 6 standard.
10. MUSIC SUBMITTED for the adjudicators use must comply with the current CODE OF FAIR PRACTICE as published by the Performing Rights Society.
11. ADJUDICATION
  - (a) Adjudication will NOT be in camera.
12. In the event of a Section starting behind time, the organisers shall have the right to reduce the playing time allocated to each competitor, announcing any such alteration publicly at the commencement of the section concerned.
13. Practising within the vicinity of any competition hall is strictly prohibited.
14. CHALLENGE TROPHIES. Winners accept challenge trophies on the understanding that they are financially responsible for that trophy. Failure to return a Challenge Trophy for the UK Championships as requested will incur being invoiced by the NAO within 14 days for the replacement of the Trophy. Recipients are advised to insure it for its replacement value, and to agree to return the trophy on or before the date requested by the NAO. The winner is allowed to have the trophy engraved with their name and year of award, provided that such engraving is in a manner in keeping with the style of the trophy.
15. AREA FESTIVAL Entry Forms, fees, correspondence etc., are all to be sent to the appropriate **Area Festival Organiser, to whom all remittances must be made payable.**
16. **UK CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020:**  
**Entry Forms, fees etc., are to be sent to Pauline Noon, 3 Hartfield Road, Leicester LE5 1HS by March 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. All REMITTANCES to be made payable to the NAO – or entries may be made on the online system available January 2020.**

# NAO National Composers' Competition Rules 2020

- (a) All composition entries must be played on an accordion.
- (b) Pieces can be written in any style eg. Classical, Blues or Jazz style suitable for any age group but must not be arrangements of already published material.
- (c) The composer may not necessarily be a single person. A composition by a partnership or group of people is acceptable.

## Catagories for submission of entries into:

### Section 1 SOLO

#### **(a) Professional Solo (CS1)**

For a composition (unpublished) by an entrant who has won the Amateur Section (as organised by the North Staffs Accordion Club / NAO) on two consecutive occasions, or on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020: (a) teaches music for a living, either on a part-time or full time basis, or (b) has had two or more compositions published for purchase in their own right i.e. not just an inclusion in a Magazine.

#### **(b) Amateur Solo (CS2)**

For a composition (unpublished) by an entrant who does not fall under the definition of "professional" above, irrespective of age.

**(c) Junior Solo (CS3)** For a composition (unpublished) by an entrant falling under the "amateur" definition aged 18 and under (as of the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019) This Junior section will be subdivided into age groups: 18 & Under (for those currently studying for A levels / higher), 16 & Under (for those currently studying for GCSE / Standards) and 12 & Under - subject to the number of entries.)

### Section 2 DUET / ENSEMBLE (CE)

For a composition (unpublished) written for two, three or more accordion parts.

All entries will also be graded by the NAO and the adjudicators will be asked to consider their suitability for submission (if subsequently published) to the NAO Music Committee as Test Pieces in NAO sections in future years. Solo / Duet compositions would also be submitted to the BCA for consideration in future examination syllabi.

## ENTRIES

- (a) Official Entry Forms must be used (available from January 2020), which must reach the NAO by the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020, accompanied by the appropriate Fees - Reduced entry fee concessions apply only to fully paid up NAO members.
- (b) A recorded version, CD, DVD or Audio Cassette should accompany the Entry Form. (Candidates are encouraged to take care with the quality of the recording).

## RULES

- (a) All competitors must be UK citizens.
- (b) The composition is to be entirely original and not breach any copyright.
- (c) The composition may be for single or multiple accordion, or accordion with other instrument(s) where the accordion Predominately takes the lead.
- (d) Compositions submitted are to be no more than 5 minutes in duration.
- (e) Competitors may enter at most TWO compositions into each section.
- (f) It is strongly advised that entrants ORGANISE for their composition to be performed live at the competition which will be held during the UK Championships 2020 in the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool. This avoids a problem if no player is available to play the piece the submitted recording being used as a substitute.
- (g) Bass stave with chords depicted as either a) a single note plus chord symbol, or b) chord, with or without the chord symbol] must be included.
- (h) Lyrics may be included but it is the music that will be judged only. Care not to exceed the 5 minute maximum time limit should be taken when numerous verses are included.
- (i) It would be ideal if the Composition is submitted in Computer format however a hand-written submission on manuscript paper is acceptable. Neat work is requested and points may be deducted for untidy submissions. The piece should have its name, the name of the composer(s), and include the words "Copyright" followed by composer's name and the year. During the Competition the Composition will be known only by a number, the Composers name will not be known to the Adjudication Panel or Audience.
- (j) A recording CD or DVD of the entry is to be included with the accordion part played on acoustic accordion with no electronic accompaniment (other than bass and/or Electronium in the case of a band or group). This recording is not judged as part of the competition but is required a) to confirm that the composition is playable, and b) as a guide to the adjudicator as to what is intended by the composer and c) if no player is available to play the piece at the live performance the recording may be used as a substitute.

**ADJUDICATION** Will be under the auspices of the NAO - The competition is for the best composition, not the best performance. Subject to the number of entries an Elimination process may apply prior to the event.

The results will be an average of the Adjudicators marks. The Adjudicator's report will award total points taking into consideration Technical Accuracy—Originality—Overall Content— Edit — Form—Presentation

**PROTESTS** connected with this category must made in writing and handed to the organiser before the end of the festival. In an event of the dispute not being resolved during the festival, a formal written protest may be sent within one month to the NAO Secretariat, who will refer the matter to the Executive Committee for arbitration. Their decision will be final.

In the event of any entry knowingly or otherwise breaching copyright it will be withdrawn after consultation with the Composer concerned.