



FRANK MAHER CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS

SPONSORED BY  **TOP SECURITY**
THE SIGN OF SECURITY

RULES 2025

The awards were established in 2001 and are sponsored by the Top Security Group to honour the late Father Frank Maher, Teacher at Castleknock College From 1959-1998

The Awards have been running for + 20 years and are the largest classical music competition for secondary schools in the Republic of Ireland. Many winners have continued their studies at internationally acclaimed academies and gone on to perform at high profile venues all over the world.

Open to sixth year students only, the €5,000 prize must be used by the winner to attend a recognised place of tuition, a course of study in Ireland or abroad or on any purchase necessary for the development of their career. The finalists will each receive a €300 bursary.

The closing date for entries is Friday 3rd October 2025 at 5pm.

Bursary

A Bursary of €5,000 (Five Thousand Euros) will be awarded to the Winner.
A Bursary of €300 will be awarded to each of the other Finalists.

The Competition

The competition is open to sixth year students attending any post primary school in the Republic of Ireland. From the applications received an independent board of adjudicators will decide and select the finalists to attend and perform in front of the panel of judges. Closing date for applications is Friday 4th October 2024.

Venue

Royal College of Physicians, 6 Kildare St, Dublin 2, D02 E434

Date & Time

Friday 24th October 2025, 19:00

Application

Students can complete the application online at: xxxxxx@xxxxxx

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Rules

- The competition is open to 6th year students for Strings, Woodwind & Brass, and Piano only.
- A classical programme only may be entered for consideration to the competition.
- Own compositions not acceptable.
- The competition is open to all Post Primary Schools in Ireland.
- Applicants are **required to complete the Application Form**, on or before Friday 3rd October 2024.
- Applications must be **accompanied by a Recording** of one piece for consideration and must not exceed 10 minutes duration in total. Professional studio recordings are not acceptable. Applicants must ensure that the recording is tested and replayed before sending. The recording must not exceed a volume of 20MB
- **A passport sized photograph must be** uploaded in the application.
- The Adjudicators in their absolute discretion shall select from the entries submitted applicants to participate in the competition.
- Competitors will be informed by Top Security as to their selection or otherwise.
- Finalists must supply their own accompanist.
- Each applicant agrees to abide by the rules of the competition and to accept the decision of the Adjudicators.
- Formal performance dress code is required.
- On the competition night each competitor will perform two contrasting pieces not to exceed 10 minutes duration in total and provide for the Adjudicators 3 copies of each performance piece.
- The bursary of €5,000 (Five Thousand Euros) will be retained by Top Security and may be used by the Award Winner for attendance at a recognised place of tuition, a course of study (in Ireland or abroad), or on a purchase deemed necessary to assist in the development of their talent. The bursary must be used by the Award Winner within 12 months of being awarded.
- The other Finalists will be awarded €300 (Three hundred Euros) on the competition night.