



FRANK MAHER
CLASSICAL MUSIC AWARDS

SPONSORED BY



RULES 2026

The awards were established in 2001 and are sponsored by Top Sec Cloud Solutions to honor the late Father Frank Maher, Teacher at Castleknock College From 1959-1998

The Awards have been running for **25 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 2nd October 2026 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 3rd October 2025.

Venue

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

Date & Time

Friday 23rd October 2026, 19:00

Application Forms

Students can upload their application through the webpage.

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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 online Application Form**, which must be completed **on or before Friday 2nd October 2026**.
- Applications must be **accompanied by a Recording (YouTube, audio or video recording) of one piece** for consideration and must not exceed 10 minutes duration in total. Professional studio recordings are not acceptable. **Please follow the step by step instructions of the online application form. Note:** A Google account is required to upload your music securely (audio or video file). You do not need a Gmail address—an existing email address can be linked to a Google account. If you don't already have one, you can create one free of charge. (not applicable if you are using a YouTube link for your application)
- **A passport sized photograph** to be attached to the completed application form.
- The Adjudicators in their absolute discretion shall select from the entries submitted applicants to participate in the competition.
- Competitors will be informed 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 TopSec Cloud Solutions 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.