



David Clover
Festival of Singing
Sheffield

2025

FESTIVAL WEEKEND

HANDBOOK AND ENTRY FORM

31 January, 1 and 2 February 2025

at

Dore and Totley URC,
Totley Brook Road, Sheffield, S17 3QS

and

Tapton Hall (Hallam Room),
Shore Lane, Sheffield, S10 3BU

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES:

9 NOVEMBER 2024

www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1043131

The festival is affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals

“The object is not to win a prize or defeat a rival but to pace one another on the road to excellence.”

H. Walford Davies

New classes for 2025

Preparatory Recital class (age 12-13 years) (*see page 4*)

Vocal Solo class (age 7-8 years) (*see page 5*)

Changes from 2022 onwards

Songs from the Shows, Films and Musicals and Opera and Light Opera classes

Please note that Songs from the Shows and Light Opera are categorised in more detail from 2022:

- Light opera songs composed before 1920 are now included in the Opera and Light Opera Class (formerly the 'Opera' class)
- Songs from the Shows classes are now divided into 2:
 - songs composed *before* 1960
 - those composed *after* 1960

This has created 3 new classes for performers from 2022.

The David Clover Festival of Singing Sheffield

Reg. Charity No. 1043131

Founded by *City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir*, now *Sheffield Music Makers*

FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Friday 31 January – Sunday 2 February 2025

Dore and Totley United Reformed Church

Totley Brook Road, Sheffield S17 3QS
(Friday 31 January and Saturday 1 February)

and

Tapton Hall (Hallam Room)

Shore Lane, Sheffield S10 3BU
(Sunday 2 February)

Adjudicator: Maria Jagusz

Patron: Lesley Garrett CBE

President: Mark Wildman FRAM, FRSA

Vice-Presidents: Elizabeth Watts Hon.D.Mus
Richard Clover LTCL, FASC
James Kirkwood LRAM, LTCL, ARCM
Ralph Green ARCM
David Durrant MA

The David Clover Festival of Singing is affiliated to The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech.

The Festival is also a member of The Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Regional Forum of The British and International Federation of Festivals of Music, Dance and Speech.



PERFORM | EDUCATE | INSPIRE

www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

Enquiries not covered in this Handbook

DCFS, 269 Dobcroft Road, Sheffield S11 9LG

General enquiries: enquiries@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

Music enquiries: music@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

Festival Weekend - Performer Information

Eligibility to the Festival Weekend and to the appropriate classes will be determined by the performer's age on 31 January 2025. Performers will receive further and more specific details of the timetable, procedures etc., after the final date of the receipt of the Entry Form. Winners of classes in the 2024 Festival are not eligible to enter the SAME class in 2025 unless moving to a different age category. All performers entering the Singers' Platform section of the Festival are not eligible for the Festival Weekend classes.

Classes

Recital Classes

	Age on 2 February 2024	Time limit	Number of songs
Class 9: Preparatory Recital	12 – 13 years	8 mins	2 songs only
Class 10: Junior Recital	14 – 15 years	10 minutes	3 songs only
Class 11: Intermediate Recital	16 – 18 years	12 minutes	3 or 4 songs
Class 12: Open Recital	19 years and over	15 minutes	3 or 4 songs

Performers in the Preparatory Recital will choose EITHER Silent Worship – Handel from Celebratory Songs Book 1 published by Chester OR Dusk – Armstrong Gibbs from Easy 20th Century Song Collection Book 1 published Boosey & Hawkes AND 1 own choice song in any style or period.

Performers in the other Recital Classes should choose a balanced and varied programme of 3 or 4 songs, chosen from Groups A to E below, one of which must be from Group E. **Each song should come from a different group-letter:**

Group A: an aria from a cantata, an opera, or an oratorio of any period

Group B: a song (excluding Group A) written before the 19th century

Group C: a song (excluding Group A) written during the 19th century

Group D: an art song (excluding Group A) written during the 20th or 21st centuries

Group E: an unaccompanied folksong or unaccompanied traditional song

NB: Repertoire from musicals, music theatre and musical films is **not** appropriate in a Recital Class.

At no stage in the Festival should a Recital programme contain **both** an **accompanied** folk or traditional song arrangement **and** an **unaccompanied** folk or traditional song.

In **Class 9: Preparatory Recital**, the programme should consist of 1 of the 2 set songs and 1 song of your own choice.

In **Class 10: Junior Recital**, the programme should consist of **3 songs only**.

In **Classes 11 and 12: Intermediate and Open Recitals**, the programme may consist of **3 or 4 songs**.

Time limits: All recitals must adhere to the time limits. The time limit is for the whole performance including short verbal introductions. Any re-starts which are the fault of the singer are included in the performance time limit. Any re-starts which are not the fault of the singer will not be included in the performance time limit. Should a performer exceed the time limit, an adjudication will be given, but the Festival reserves the right to withhold a placing.

Placings: The adjudicator will choose two performers in each Recital Class who will become the winner and runner-up. These placings will be decided, and the awards presented, on the evening of Sunday 2 February 2025, when each performer will repeat **two** songs of their own choice from their original programme. These two songs may, or may not, include the unaccompanied folk or traditional song.

Non-Recital Classes

On the evening of Sunday 2 February 2025, the winner of each Non-Recital class (classes 13-31) will sing the winning song of each class again in competition for The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir Silver Salver and Award which is awarded to the most outstanding performance. Should an individual win more than one Non-Recital class, he or she should choose only one winning song to perform.

Time Limits: In all classes except where otherwise stated, the time limit is **4 minutes**.

Song choices: A performer must NOT sing the same song in more than one class.

Class 13: Vocal Solo (age 7-8 years)

Own choice of 1 song in any style from any period

Class 14: Vocal Solo (age 9-11)

One song chosen from the following:

- Ferry me across the water by Finzi (from *Easy 20th Century Song Collection Book 1*, pub. Boosey and Hawkes*)
- The Crocodile by Peter Jenkyns (pub. Novello NOV 160070*)
- Earth, Sea and Sky by Lin Marsh (from *Best of Singing Grades 1-3*, pub. Faber*)

Class 15: Vocal Solo: Songs from the Shows (age 9-11)

One song chosen from the following:

- In my own little corner by Rodgers (from *Cinderella*, edition: *ABRSM Musical Theatre Songbook 2*, pub. Hal Leonard*)
- Singing in the rain by N.H. Brown (from *Singing in the Rain*, edition: *Best of Singing Grades 1-3*, pub. Faber*)
- The second star to the right by Fain (from *Peter Pan*, edition: *ABRSM Musical Theatre Songbook Grade 2*, pub. Hal Leonard*)

*Other editions may be used. Copies of music for the official accompanist for Classes 14 and 15 need not be sent with your entry unless you are using a different edition.

Class 16: British Song (age 12-15)**

Class 17: British Song (age 16-18)**

Class 18: British Song (age 19 and over)**

**One song, excluding musicals, music theatre, opera, operetta and oratorio, by any British or Irish composer of any period.

Class 19: Oratorio or Sacred Song or Opera/ Light Opera (age 16-18)***

One sacred song (excluding hymns and religious pop songs) or one aria from an oratorio or opera of any period, in any language, or one song from Gilbert & Sullivan or any operetta composed before 1920.

Class 20: Oratorio or Sacred Song (age 19 and over)***

One sacred song (excluding hymns and religious pop songs) or aria from an oratorio in any language and in the original key.

Class 21: Opera and Light Opera (age 19 and over)***

Own choice of an aria from an opera of any period or a song from Gilbert and Sullivan or any operetta composed before 1920. Your choice should be sung in the original language and key.

***In Classes 19-21, there is a performance time limit of 7 minutes to include any instrumental introduction, preliminary recitative, da capo, coda and any brief introduction. In keeping with current performance practice, baroque repertoire may be sung at baroque pitch. The accompanist must have a copy in the key being sung and not be expected to transpose.

Class 22: French or German Song (age 15 and under)

One song to be sung in either the original language or in English.

Class 23: French Song (age 16 and over)

One song to be sung in the original language.

Class 24: Lieder (age 16 and over)

One song to be sung in the original language.

Class 25: World Songs (any age)

One song not in English but sung in the original language from any country except the British Isles, France or Germany excluding arias from operas or oratorios.

Class 26: A song with words by Shakespeare of any style or period (any age)

Class 27A: Songs from the Shows, Films and Musicals - pre 1960 (age 12-15)****

Class 27B: Songs from the Shows, Films and Musicals - post 1960 (age 12-15)****

Class 28A: Songs from the Shows, Films and Musicals – pre 1960 (age 16-18)****

Class 28B: Songs from the Shows, Films and Musicals – post 1960 (age 16-18)****

Class 29A: Songs from the Shows, Films and Musicals – pre 1960 (age 19 and over)****

Class 29B: Songs from the Shows, Films and Musicals – post 1960 (age 19 and over)****

**** Songs may come from musicals, music theatre, films, Disney songs and Light Opera (post 1920) but not from opera or pop songs. They should be performed as a concert item, i.e. without movement, (although meaningful gesture is permitted) and without recorded accompaniment or use of microphone.

Class 30: Ensemble Class (any age)

Up to 6 singers: one piece, time limit 5 minutes. Your ensemble *may* include one other instrument as well as piano or be accompanied by guitar. Two awards may be given, one for the best junior ensemble where all singers are under 18 years, and the other for the best ensemble overall. The overall winner will be invited to perform again on the evening of Sunday 2 February 2025 but will not be eligible for The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir Silver Salver. The Paul M Green Trophy and Award, presented by the Dore Male Voice Choir, will be given to the overall winner of this class.

Order of classes: Once the Entry Forms have been received, the order in which classes will take place will be determined and everyone will be duly informed. Programme changes will only be allowed after January 1st in exceptional circumstances.

Amateur status: The Festival is for amateur performers only and professionals are not eligible to enter. A professional is considered to be one who derives the **major** part of his/her livelihood from singing performance.

Preparation for the Festival

- Entrants are reminded that it is advisable to keep the whole weekend of the Festival free.
- In preparing their programme, performers are advised to choose material appropriate to their age and stage of vocal development.
- It is requested that performers dress appropriately for the occasion.
- An official accompanist will be available throughout the Festival, but performers may bring their own accompanist if they wish.
- Refer to all the key dates below and adhere to all the required deadlines.

Contact at the time of the Festival: Should a performer need to make contact at the time of the Festival, the Festival may be contacted on **07939 565829** or **07510 699821**.

Photographs, Recording Equipment and Mobile Phones: Due to copyright law and the Festival's safeguarding policy, members of the audience, as well as performers and their supporters, are **not allowed** to take photographs or make audio or video recordings at the Festival. Therefore, the use of any kind of camera, recording equipment, mobile telephone or other computerised device is **strictly forbidden**. However, the Festival may appoint a designated, authorised photographer/ videographer/ sound recordist ('authorised person') to take/ record official photographs ('images') and/ or video/ sound recordings ('recordings') for publicity purposes to promote the work and ethos of the Festival and for the benefit of the performers. **Performers should indicate on the Entry Form a) if they or their supporters have any objection to being included in any of the official images and/ or recordings taken by the authorised person and b) if they give permission for any**

such official images and/ or recordings made to be used for Festival publicity purposes, etc., without further consultation from the Festival.

Entry Forms: All Entry Forms, fees and music for the official accompanist/s MUST be received by **Saturday 9 November 2024** or the entry may not be accepted. Entries should be sent to: The Entries Secretary, DCFS, 29 Kerwin Drive, Sheffield S17 3DG. Entry Forms ONLY may be emailed to music@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk by the closing date. Once the Entry Forms have been received, the order in which the classes will take place will be determined and everyone informed. A submitted Entry Form will act as confirmation that you have read **all** the information in this Handbook and Entry Form.

Entry fees, which are non-refundable*, should be enclosed when sending in the Entry Form and are:

Class 9: Preparatory Recital	£10.00
Class 10: Junior Recital	£12.00
Class 11: Intermediate Recital	£15.00
Class 12: Open Recital	£18.00
Classes 13-15	£5.00 each
Classes 16-30	£10.00 each

*Entry fees will not be refunded unless a class is unexpectedly under-subscribed and subsequently withdrawn.

Music for the official accompanist: Should you require the services of the official accompanist, unfolded, legible copies **must** be sent in an A4 sized envelope with your Entry Form by **9 November 2024**. Our accompanists request that your own choice music is sent as either original copies or photocopies and NOT pdf downloads. Music is not required for classes where pieces are specified unless a different edition. It may be necessary to have your package weighed to avoid underpayment of postage. **NB: original copies are required by the adjudicator on the day.** Copies of all music should be **labelled with your name and class number**.

For further information about the David Clover Festival of Singing and to download copies of the Entry Form, please visit:

www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

Awards

All awards are made at the discretion of the adjudicator whose decisions are final, unless a singer exceeds the time limit. It is expected that award money will be used to further the musical development of the winner.

Recital Classes: The winner and runner-up will both receive a cash award and certificate, and each will receive his/her award at the Finals Evening on Sunday 2 February 2025.

Non-Recital Classes: The runner-up of each Non-Recital Class except Class 30 where there is a winner only, will receive a certificate. The winner will receive a cash award and a certificate. These awards will be presented at the end of each class. In Class 30 the winners will sing their song again and will be presented with their award at the Finals Evening on Sunday 2 February 2025. All performers in Classes 13, 14 and 15 will receive a certificate of participation.

Additional Awards: All performers accepting the following additional awards (trophies) will be deemed to have given an undertaking for their safe custody in being asked to sign a form of receipt for each trophy gained, before taking their trophies away. The trophies are to be held by the winners from February 2025 until 8 November 2025. These trophies should then be returned to the Trophy Steward in a clean condition on or before **8 November 2025** in readiness for the 2026 Festival. Any cost incurred in recovering trophies not returned by 8 November 2025 will be charged to the performer. Upon their return, the Festival undertakes to engrave the trophies. All trophies are the property of the Festival and must not be taken out of the country. Lost trophies must be replaced and the replacement of a lost trophy, or the cost of repair of damage to a trophy, will be the responsibility of the current holder. It is felt reasonable to assume that trophy winners will make adequate provision of insuring the trophies while in their possession. **Please inform the Trophy Steward of any change of contact details between 2 February 2025 and 8 November 2025.**

Additional Awards (Trophies)

The recipients of the additional awards are decided by the adjudicator during the Festival classes with the exception of the Teachers' Choir Silver Salver where performance on the Finals Evening is also considered.

The **John Gilbert Wilson Trophy** is given by Mrs. Jill Hamnett in memory of her father. It will be awarded to the most promising male singer between the ages of 16 and 21 in any appropriate class.

The **Don Greenfield Trophy** is given by Hallam Choral Society. It will be awarded for the best performance from class 14. This award is in memory of the life and work of Don Greenfield, conductor for many years of the Hallam Choral Society and a former member of The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir.

The **Hazel Lomas Trophy** given by Roger Lomas will be awarded to the winner of Class 15.

The **Doug Crossland Memorial Shield and Award** is given by the Worrall Male Voice Choir in memory of Doug Crossland, its conductor from 1971 to 1995. It will be awarded to the most promising female singer between the ages of 16 and 21 in any appropriate class.

The **Constance Shacklock Memorial Rose Bowl** is given by Ralph Green in memory of Constance Shacklock, who was the President of The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir and the David Clover Festival of Singing from 1985 to 1999. It will be awarded for the most outstanding operatic performance during the Festival Weekend.

The **Kathleen Walker Award** is given in memory of Kathleen Walker, who was a founder member of The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir, and a musical director of several operatic societies in Sheffield. It will be awarded for the most outstanding performance in Songs from the Shows Classes 27-29.

The **City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir Silver Salver and Award** is given by Ann Durrant, who was a member of The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir for over twenty years. It will be awarded for the most outstanding performance by a winner from Non-Recital Classes 13 to 29.

The **Michael Peaker Memorial Trophy and Award** is given by the Worrall Male Voice Choir in memory of Michael Peaker for his contribution as accompanist and conductor to the choir, and as organist at St. Mathias's Church, Stocksbridge. The award will be given for the most outstanding performance by anyone aged 16-21 of an aria from an oratorio or of a sacred song during the festival weekend.

The **Edith and Ronald Batty Salvors** are given by Valerie and Geoff Littleddyke in memory of Valerie's parents. It will be presented to the most promising female and male singers respectively, aged 15 or under in any appropriate class.

The **Petrie Rose Bowl** is given by our first Patron and previous President, Mollie Petrie, who was always a great devotee of the English language. It will be awarded to the best performance in any of the British Song Classes (Classes 16-18).

The **Mollie Petrie Memorial Award** is given by Ralph Green in memory of Mollie Petrie, who was President of The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir and the David Clover Festival of Singing from 1999 and then the first Patron until 2016. It will be awarded for the most outstanding performance of a song with words by Shakespeare from any class during the Festival Weekend.

The **Paul M Green Trophy and Award** is given by the Dore Male Voice Choir. It will be awarded annually to the overall winner of Class 29: Ensemble Class, in memory of Paul Green, their conductor and accompanist for many years.

We look forward to meeting, welcoming and hearing all the performers and wish you a happy, enjoyable and successful time at the Festival.

Key Dates

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 9 November 2024 | Last date for the receipt of the Entry Form, fees, song choices, and copies of music for the official accompanists. These should be sent to: The Entries Secretary, DCFS, 29 Kerwin Drive, Sheffield S17 3DG |
| 31 January 2025 | Afternoon and evening classes at Dore and Totley United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, Sheffield S17 3QS |
| 1 February 2025 | Morning, afternoon and evening classes at Dore and Totley United Reformed Church, Totley Brook Road, Sheffield S17 3QS |
| 2 February 2025 | Morning and afternoon classes, Festival Finals Evening: Recital Finals, Non-Recital Final and, Adjudications and Presentations at Tapton Hall (Hallam Room), Shore Lane, Sheffield S10 3BU |

Festival Weekend - General Information

Adjudicators: all adjudicators are appointed by the David Clover Festival of Singing. No performer, teacher or member of the audience may approach the adjudicator in each class venue unless invited to do so, nor engage the adjudicator in conversation or discussion on any matter, before or after a session, or whilst the session is in progress, otherwise disqualification may be incurred.

Audience Admission Charges

Charges are per person and per session and are payable in cash or by card at the door (please also see details about becoming a Festival Friend on page 12):

Session	Adults and children 12 years and over	Accompanied children under 12
Friday late afternoon, Friday evening after Tea Break, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, Saturday evening, Sunday morning, Sunday afternoon	£5 for a single session £8 for 2 sessions on the same day £10 for 3 sessions on the same day	£2
Sunday evening (Festival Finals)	£10	£3

Audience: An audience is welcome at all Festival sessions, so please support and encourage the Festival and its performers in their endeavours and appreciate and enjoy the talents of all the participants by being in the audience.

Cancellation of a class: In the event of a class being poorly subscribed, it may be withdrawn at the discretion of the Committee and the entry fees returned.

Car Parking: Car parking at Dore and Totley United Reformed Church is limited to on-street parking in the vicinity of the church. Car parking is plentiful in the grounds at the Tapton Hall and is free of charge.

Entry and Exit: No person will be allowed to enter or leave the hall during any performance or adjudication as movement tends to distract the performer, accompanist, adjudicator and the rest of the audience.

Equal Opportunities Policy: No person shall receive less favourable treatment or consideration on the grounds of race, colour, religion or belief, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, gender re-assignment, age (i.e. 9 or over), disability or marital status, or be disadvantaged by any requirement or condition that cannot be justified. The opportunity for people to compete in the Festival is provided through a variety of classes. All sessions are open to a public audience and the Festival only uses venues that have made provision for people with physical disabilities. The Festival will keep under review its policy, procedures and practices on equal opportunities.

Festival Help: We want to see the Festival continue to provide opportunities for the encouragement and development of all its entrants, the competitive element being a means to an end. Even if you are a prospective performer or performer's supporter, you could still help to further our cause by helping in two ways – as a volunteer helper and/or providing financial support. **Volunteer helpers** are a welcome and essential part of running the Festival and there is always a need for new people to assist in various ways. There is no need to be an expert, you just need to be committed, sensible, unflappable and a member of a team, but above all, have a sense of humour! You don't have to be there all day, every day. Helpers can choose how much time they are able to give. If you would like to become a volunteer, please email enquiries@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk for details. To continue to mount the Festival and engage specialist adjudicators, we need ongoing **financial support** and assistance from individuals and businesses who are interested in helping the amazing range of vocal talent to flourish. The cost of running the Festival increases each year, and although we receive some support from local organisations and individuals, we are faced with raising more financial support in the future.

Maybe you, or someone you know, can help to support the Festival in any of the following ways by:

- Becoming a Friend of the David Clover Festival;
- Sponsoring the Festival in a variety of ways, such as sponsoring a class or other aspect of the Festival;
- Advertising in future publications of this Handbook and/or the Festival Programme;
- Making a donation;
- Making a bequest.

If you can help in any of these areas of financial support, please contact the Festival via the email address: enquiries@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk. ***Any financial assistance offered can be increased in value if you are a taxpayer and by 'gift-aiding' your contribution where appropriate.***

Liability: The Festival does not hold itself responsible for any injuries sustained by any performer or member of the public whilst at Festival venues.

Lost Property: The Festival will not be responsible for property lost or damaged during the Festival.

Queries which are not covered in this Handbook may be made at: DCFS, 269 Dobcroft Road, Sheffield S11 9LG or email: dcfs@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

Refreshments: At Dore and Totley United Reformed Church drinks and light refreshments will be available throughout the day. Also, food may be obtained locally. Please ask for details at the time. At Tipton Hall, tea, coffee, alcoholic and soft drinks, bar meals and snacks are available all day at the bar adjacent to the Hallam Room.

Safeguarding Policy: A copy of the Festival's Safeguarding Policy will be on display at the Festival and is also available on the Festival website (www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk). This Policy relates to children (under the age of 18) and also to members of vulnerable groups of any age who are identified to the Festival before their arrival at the Festival. Contact should be made by parents and/or teachers via the Festival email address (enquiries@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk). Any subsequent reference to 'children' includes members of other vulnerable groups. The Festival will actively seek to meet the needs of children from ethnic groups and children with disabilities.

David Clover Festival of Singing is a Body of Persons Authority to fulfil the regulations on Child Licensing.

Safety of Performers: Teachers and parents should be aware of their responsibilities in entering any performers with limited physical capabilities or special needs. They should pass on any such information that might impact on the Festival's work by email (enquiries@davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk) before the start of the festival.

Supervision of Children: Please note that all children under 16 years of age must be accompanied and supervised effectively. Supervision may come from a parent, an adult acting on their behalf, a teacher or a group leader. The David Clover Festival of Singing cannot take responsibility for unsupervised children at the Festival venues. Any person acting in a supervisory capacity will be expected to pay the normal admission fee.

Withdrawals and Class Start Times: As it is impossible to foresee the number of last-minute withdrawals from classes due to illness or for any other reason, the Committee reserves the right to start classes early, except for the first class of a session.

Please make sure you arrive in plenty of time.

Festival Committee

Chairman: David Heslop OBE

Treasurer: Georgia Hall

Music Co-ordinator: Vivien Pike

Venues: Valerie Littleddyke

Marketing and Media: Ann Fooks

Secretary: Kathryn Wells

Entries Secretary: Eric Barraclough

Friends and sponsors: Geoff Littleddyke

Publicity and Advertising: Anthony Trippett

General Administrator: Georgina Hulse

The David Clover Festival of Singing

www.davidclover-festivalofsinging.org.uk

Dr David Clover came to Sheffield in 1966 having been appointed as the Music Advisor to the city's Education Department. It was one of the earliest residential courses for music teachers and its daily choral sessions, organised by David, which brought the first members of The Sheffield Teachers' Choir (as it was then known) together at the Buxton Conference Centre in the autumn term of 1968.

Following David's untimely death in 1979, the choir committee at the time decided to create a lasting tribute and memorial to his work. The result was the establishment of the David Clover Competition for Singers, renamed the David Clover Festival of Singing in 2010. The original competition started in a small way with only 2 classes for singers of secondary school age, providing the opportunity for the singers to be helped and encouraged by experienced judges of singing, an ethos that is still as strong today. The Festival has grown into a competition of high standing, credibility and stature in Sheffield, nationally and now internationally and is open to all singers from the age of 7. One of David's greatest loves was singing, whether solo or choral and he believed that the voice deserved equal status with other musical instruments.

Over the years, internationally famed singers have adjudicated at the Festival: Constance Shacklock, Marjorie Thomas, Jean Allister, Mollie Petrie (first Patron) and Mark Wildman (President) and many previous winners, including Elizabeth Watts, Ella Taylor, Anna Harvey, and Jessica Greaves have joined the singing profession.

Once the annual Festival has ended, Sheffield Music Makers (formerly The City of Sheffield Teachers' Choir) is always delighted to invite singers from the Festival to share its concerts whenever possible.

2025 Adjudicator – Maria Jagusz

Maria Jagusz trained as a dancer before taking up a place at the Royal Northern College of Music where she was awarded the Ricordi Prize for Opera. Further scholarships enabled her to continue her studies at the National Opera Studio.

As a singer, Maria has worked as soloist for most of the leading opera companies in the UK and Europe. Her roles include Carmen, Cherubino, Orlofsky, Hansel, Dorabella and Rosina. She has performed with many of the world's leading singers including Domingo, Carreras, Freni and Dame Felicity Lott. She is a keen recitalist and a regular soloist for choral societies in the UK.

As a teacher, Maria has specialised in training students who are hoping to have professional careers in the world of opera and musical theatre. In order to give them the experience they need to succeed in this cutthroat industry she formed MJ-UK Music and Arts, which has been running for the past eleven years and she has directed many operas and musicals.

For Longborough Festival Opera's Young Artist Programme she has directed Little Sweep, Dido and Aeneas, La Bohème, Sweeney Todd, Les Misérables, and most recently, Orpheo and Eurydice in 2017.

She travels all over the country leading workshops and master classes for singers and is an adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals (BIFF). She has been awarded honorary chairman of the Silurian Consort for her contribution to music in the Cotswolds.

2026 Festival Dates

Singers' Platform: 23, 24, 25 January

Festival Weekend: 30, 31 January, 1 February

David Clover Festival of Singing

Friends and Sponsors Scheme

supporting singers of the future

The Festival welcomes all levels of support, giving you the opportunity to be part of singers' journeys from age 7 onwards through maturity, whether working towards a professional career or pursuing a life-long love of amateur singing.

The Festival offers a unique experience in Sheffield providing a platform for performing in public as a soloist and in ensembles with constructive feedback from professional adjudicators and supports the continued growth of a long-held singing tradition in the city.

You can help this Festival continue to thrive and grow in several ways:

1. Become a Friend

We are grateful for whatever financial support you feel able to give – **there is no minimum or maximum donation.**

As a Friend you will:

- Receive regular updates about the Festival through Newsletters
- Acknowledgment in the Festival Programme
- Receive two free tickets to the Singers' Platform Gala Finals including a drinks reception
- Benefit from half-price admission to all other sessions for Singers' Platform and Festival Weekends

2. Sponsor a class

Suggested donation £50

As a Class Sponsor you will:

- Receive regular updates about the festival through Newsletters
- Acknowledgment in the Festival Programme
- Receive two free tickets to the Singers' Platform Gala Finals including a drinks reception
- Benefit from free entry to the relevant class and session as well as half-price admission to all other sessions
- A half-price Festival Programme

3. Sponsor a day

Suggested donation £100

As a day Sponsor you will:

- Receive regular updates about the festival through Newsletters
- Acknowledgment in the Festival Programme
- Receive two free tickets to the Singers' Platform Gala Finals including a drinks reception
- Receive two free tickets to all sessions on that day plus half-price admission to all other sessions
- Receive a free Festival Programme

To support the Festival by becoming a friend or sponsor, please contact Geoff Littleddyke at:

v.littledyke156@btinternet.com

or write to Geoff at: 4 Hockerton Heights, Hockerton, Southwell, Notts NG25 0PN

If you are a UK taxpayer, The David Clover Festival of Singing can reclaim the tax you have paid on your gift, increasing the value of your donation at no extra cost to you. If you can support us with Gift Aid, please let us know when you contact us.