



# ***ISA Musical Theatre Competition***

**Wednesday 30 April 2025  
Gosfield School, CO9 1PF**

Open to KS2-5

Online qualification followed with live final.  
Competition open to ISA Members' schools only.  
Visit the ISA website for more information.

**Deadline  
Tuesday 21 January**

**ISA**

**ARTS**

[www.isaschools.org.uk](http://www.isaschools.org.uk) | [isaarts@isaschools.org.uk](mailto:isaarts@isaschools.org.uk) | [@ISAartsUK](https://www.instagram.com/ISAartsUK)

The ISA Musical Theatre Competition gives students the opportunity to practice their performance skills inspired by their favourite musicals. Successful candidates will be invited to the final and will be able to demonstrate their singing and acting skills to a live audience. Finalists will also be able to watch performances by their peers and receive feedback from the judge.

### **Eligibility**

This competition is open to ISA Members' Schools only. Schools can enter a maximum of four entries per age group category (so twelve entries in total). Solo or duet performances only. We encourage schools to run their own competition in house and submit their successful entries in the competition.

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities accessible, we welcome applications from all pupils, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities. If your pupil(s), those with an EHCP or on the school's SEND register, are working at a level that differs from their age group's key stage, or if your school or student focuses on development and skills rather than year groups, please contact us.

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please notify us at the earliest opportunity so we can provide the document accordingly, if required.

### **Competition Categories**

- Junior (Year 3 to Year 6)
- Middle (Year 7 to Year 9)
- Senior (Year 10 to Year 13)

### **How to enter**

Entries must be submitted via our online form on the ISA website [here](#) by Tuesday 21 January 2025

- Schools are invited to record a video of their entries and submit them via the online form on the ISA website, following the guidelines below.
- A working URL link must be given for the video (e.g., to YouTube or Vimeo). ISA won't accept any file to download, WeTransfer links, or broken links.
- Please make sure that your videos are accessible to view by anyone with the link. YouTube videos will need to be unlisted, Vimeo videos will need to be unlisted and age rated, Google Drive will need to be set to 'Anyone with the link' and OneDrive needs to be set with 'share link' to 'anyone'.
- The maximum duration for each entry is three minutes.
- ISA suggests running a competition in-house and submitting your best entries.

### **Competition Format**

#### **1 Online Qualification Round**

- The first stage of this competition consists of an online qualification round.
- Entrants must ensure availability for the final at Gosfield School, CO9 1PF on Wednesday 30 April 2025 for the entire day if they qualify. Last minute cancellations cause considerable inconvenience to the organisers

and prevent other schools from taking part. All submissions will be considered a firm commitment to attend the final if selected.

## 2 The Final

Finalists will be invited to Gosfield School on Wednesday 30 April 2025 for the final. Schools will be asked to email the following information by Wednesday 16 April to [isaarts@isaschools.org.uk](mailto:isaarts@isaschools.org.uk)

- Title of piece
- Music in mp3 file format. Backing tracks or live piano accompaniment accepted (no other accompaniment is allowed).
- Length of the performance.
- Sign up list (full names of pupils per piece made clear, staff names and ETA)
- Number of coaches/mini buses/cars etc expected at the event.

### Judging criteria

- Quality of tone
- Technique
- Interpretation
- Dynamics
- Stage Presence

### Rules and General Information

- Pupils can take part as a solo performer or in a duet only.
- No self-composed songs are permitted in the competition.
- Each performance can last no longer than 3 minutes. Judging will stop after the time limit has been reached.
- Students may come in costume if they wish, however please be mindful that you might have to wear a belt for the microphones.
- All performers must attend the entire day, awards will be given at the end of the day. We encourage teachers, family and friends to come along to support the musicians and watch the performances.
- You must have obtained appropriate permissions from your Head/HoD for pupil and staff absence from school, including appropriate cover for staff and any associated costs.
- You must provide your own accompanist if required.

### Tips for performers

- Character, context and clarity are all important to make your song come alive!
- Make sure you warm yourself up before you perform. Try humming to warm up your voice, drink lots of water, and stretch to loosen your muscles and joints to engage the whole body.

- Research your character and their journey in the Musical you have chosen. Are they good or evil? Are they content or miserable? Really throw caution to the wind and *become* your character for four minutes in front of the camera.
- If performing a duet, work together to understand the relationship between your characters.
- See if you can find examples on YouTube of other actors performing your song. What do you like about their performance? What would you change about it?