

PRINCIPAL EDITION

COMPOSITION COMPETITION

Official Regulations – Edition 26/27



1. Purpose

The Principal Edition International Wind Band Composition Competition is dedicated to discovering, supporting, and promoting composers from around the world.

The competition aims to:

- encourage the creation of new and original repertoire for wind band;
- provide composers with a professional pathway to publication;
- increase the visibility of emerging and established composers on an international level;
- connect composers with conductors, performers, educators, and ensembles worldwide;
- reward artistic excellence, originality, and craftsmanship;
- facilitate the performance, distribution, and promotion of high-quality new concert works;
- contribute to the continued growth and development of the international wind band repertoire.

The competition seeks to create lasting opportunities for composers through publication, professional editorial support, and international distribution.

2. Eligibility

The competition is open to composers of all ages and nationalities.

Participation is individual.

The official language of the competition is English.

3. Competition Format

The competition follows a rotation system for wind band, fanfare band and brass band.

The 2027 edition is open exclusively to compositions for Wind Band / Concert Band / Harmonie Orchestra.

4. Instrumentation

Compositions must be written for standard wind band instrumentation.

Woodwinds	Brass	Percussion
● Piccolo ● Flute 1–2 ● Oboe 1–2 ● Bassoon 1–2 ● E-flat Clarinet ● B-flat Clarinet 1–2–3 ● Bass Clarinet ● Alto Saxophone 1–2 ● Tenor Saxophone ● Baritone Saxophone	● Trumpet 1–2–3 ● Horn in F 1–2–3–4 ● Trombone 1–2–3 ● Euphonium ● Tuba	Maximum five (5) percussion players.

Optional Instruments: Double Bass, Harp, Piano

Not permitted: Electronics, Choir, Vocal soloists

5. Difficulty Level

The composition must be suitable for:

Grade 3 – Grade 4

The jury reserves the right to reject works that clearly fall outside the intended difficulty range.

6. Duration

The composition must have a duration of:

- **Minimum: 5 minutes**
- **Maximum: 9 minutes**

The duration must be clearly indicated on the score.

7. Artistic Requirements

The submitted work must:

- be an original composition;
- be conceived as an independent concert work;
- demonstrate artistic and musical quality;
- be suitable for performance by a wide range of wind bands.

The following are permitted:

- programmatic music;
- literary inspiration;
- historical inspiration;
- original themes;
- melodies and themes in the public domain.

The following are not permitted:

- arrangements;
 - orchestrations of existing works;
 - transcriptions;
 - adaptations of copyrighted material.
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8. Previous Performances and Publication Status

The composition:

- may have been previously performed;
- may have been privately recorded;
- may have been shared online by the composer;

However, the composition:

- must never have been published;
 - must never have been commercially distributed;
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9. Submission Requirements

Each participant must submit:

- Full score in PDF format;
- Audio mock-up (MP3 or WAV);
- Completed entry form;
- Short biography.

Multiple entries are permitted; the entry fee applies to each composition submitted and must be paid separately for every entry.

Entry Fee

The entry fee is:

€25 per composition

The fee is non-refundable.

10. Anonymus Judging

The judging process is completely anonymous.

The submitted score must not contain:

- the composer's name;
- publisher information;
- logos;
- identifying references.

Only the title or a motto may appear on the score.

Failure to comply may lead to disqualification.

11. Jury

The jury shall consist of two internationally recognised composers.

The jury membership may vary from year to year.

The jury's decision is final and binding.

No correspondence regarding the results will be entered into.

12. Evaluation Criteria

The jury will evaluate each composition based on:

- Originality
- Compositional craftsmanship
- Orchestration and instrumentation
- Artistic quality
- Musical structure
- Playability
- Audience appeal
- Educational value
- Publication potential

13. Prizes

First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Cash Prize of €2,000		
A professional recording or a public concert performance by a partner ensemble (at the discretion of Principal Edition)	Cash Prize of €750	Cash Prize of €250
The title " Principal Edition Composer Award 2027 "	Professional publication by Principal Edition	Professional publication by Principal Edition
Professional publication by Principal Edition	Worldwide distribution and promotion through Principal Edition	Worldwide distribution and promotion through Principal Edition
Worldwide distribution and promotion through Principal Edition		

The jury reserves the right not to award one or more prizes if the required artistic standard is not achieved.

14. Publication Rights

By entering the competition, composers agree that all prize-winning works, as well as any work scoring 80% or higher and selected for publication by Principal Edition, shall be published exclusively by Principal Edition.

The composer retains full copyright ownership of the work but grants Principal Edition an exclusive, worldwide, perpetual licence to publish, distribute, market, sell, and promote the composition.

Once selected for publication, the work may not be offered to, published by, or distributed through any other publisher or by the composer independently.

Works that are not selected for publication remain entirely free of any obligation towards Principal Edition and may be published or distributed without restriction.

15. Competition Timeline

Opening of Competition

1 September 2026

Submission Deadline

1 May 2027 – 23:59 CET

Completion of Jury Evaluation

1 June 2027

Announcement of Results

15 June 2027

Editorial Preparation and Production

June - August 2027

Publication of Selected Works

End Summer 2027

16. Participant Feedback

Principal Edition is committed to supporting the artistic development of composers. Every participant will receive a written jury report containing constructive feedback on their submission.

The content and extent of the feedback shall be determined by the jury and Principal Edition.

No correspondence or appeal regarding the jury report will be entered into.

17. Acceptance of Regulations

By submitting an entry, participants confirm that:

- they are the sole creator of the submitted composition;
- all information provided is accurate;
- the work complies with all competition requirements;
- they fully accept these regulations;
- they accept the decisions of the jury and Principal Edition.

Principal Edition reserves the right to amend, modify, clarify, or supplement these regulations at any time if deemed necessary for the proper administration and integrity of the competition.