

International Big Band Composition Contest 2026

All composers, without an age limit, can participate in the competition with one 6-8 minute piece, composed for a standard big band orchestration. The submitted piece must be an **original composition** that has **not been recorded or published** prior to the competition, arrangements are not accepted.

The premier performance is reserved for the IBBC 2026.

The piece must not exceed **eight minutes** in duration, including all solo sections. Additionally, 2/3 of the total composition time must consist of effectively composed music, including any backgrounds

Line-up (17 musicians):

5 reeds

1 as, doubling instrument: ss/fl/alto fl/piccolo

2 as, doubling instrument: ss/fl/cl in Bb

3 ts, doubling instrument: ss/fl/cl in Bb

4 ts, doubling instrument: ss/fl/cl in Bb

5 bs, doubling instrument: bcl

5 trumpets, doubling instrument: 5 flugelhorn

3 trombones

1 bass trombone, doubling instrument: bass tuba

piano

upright bass

drums

All common mutes may be used for the brass section.

PLEASE NOTE! Guitar is NOT included in the line-up.

Extra musicians for solos and/or solo fragments is not allowed.

Any instrument can be used for improvised solos, except lead trumpet and bass trombone.

Jury members or members of the MJO cannot submit a composition.

If a jury member is aware of the participation of their student(s), they must ask for the reference of their work and report this to the competition management. The jury member cannot vote for this composition.

A maximum of three compositions will be selected for the final round.

The Millennium Jazz Orchestra will perform these compositions.

If the composition is chosen to be part of the final concert in Zwolle, the participant agrees to premier their composition at that concert and that the final concert will be recorded and published. Participation at the final concert on January 31, 2026 is obligatory for all finalists. Accommodation will be provided by the organization.

The winning composer will receive € 3.000,--

Submission deadline: Tuesday, December 2, 2025

COMPOSITION CONTEST RULES

contest secretary: betsy@reinmet.nl

Contestants who do not comply with the competition rules will be disqualified.
It is not possible to appeal against the jury's decision.

❖ **Application**

- Each applicant is allowed to submit **one composition**.
- Applications must be submitted via betsy@reinmet.nl
- The application must include the following material:
 - **Anonymised** composition;
 - in digital form (PDF);
 - in C or transposed score;
 - audio file (MP3): an audio file exported directly from the notation software is sufficient.

❖ **The applicant sends the following information:**

- the composer's last name, first and middle names, date of birth, current address, phone number and e-mail address.
- a written statement, dated and signed by the candidate, that the composition was written especially for the contest and that neither the composition as a whole, nor in part, was ever previously performed, published, registered or recorded.

Entries, not containing the data mentioned above will not be accepted.

Nominees

The selected finalists will be notified by the competition organization via e-mail on December 17, 2025.

The finalist must confirm his/her attendance at the rehearsal and final concert on December 23, 2025.

If a finalist cannot attend at the final concert on January 31, 2026 at Schouwburg Odeon Zwolle, The Netherlands, the first reserve finalist will be called up.

Communication regarding the competition is only possible by e-mail (see the above address).

After the pre-selection, the finalists are requested to submit the complete transposed parts in digital form (PDF) to the competition organization by December 23, 2025 at the latest.