

MITTELEUROPA
BLASMUSIKFEST 2026

14th International Wind Orchestra
Competition *Mitteleuropa Blasmusikfest*
2026

Omišalj (Croatia)
from 24th April 2026 to 26th April 2026

Competition rules

Art. 1 – Purpose of the Competition

The purpose of the 14th International Wind Orchestra Competition "*Mitteleuropa Blasmusikfest 2026*" is to promote and disseminate the music of wind orchestras and composers, seeking to enhance their musical quality in Croatia, the Central European region (Mitteleuropa), and, more generally, throughout Europe.

Furthermore, the exchange of experiences between professional and amateur musicians of different cultures and languages is promoted, encouraging the study of music and social interaction among orchestras.

Art. 2 – Admission to the Competition

The following are admitted to the Competition:

- Wind orchestras and bands;
- composers for wind orchestras.

Art. 3 – Program

The competition is open to all, without age and/or nationality limits.

Wind orchestras and composers will compete in different categories for the *14th international wind orchestra competition "Mitteleuropa Blasmusikfest 2026"*.

For **Wind Orchestras**, participating orchestras must perform:

- a warm-up piece, of any form and/or grade; the warm-up piece will **NOT** be subject to evaluation;
- **TWO** compulsory pieces of different character/style, indicated in art. 4; the choice of compulsory pieces determines the category for which the orchestra will be in the Competition;
- a piece of own choice, with a degree of difficulty equal to or greater than their category of membership; the piece of free choice **is subject** to evaluation.
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Solo instrumental or vocal compositions are **NOT** permitted in any way.

At the Competition, the order of performance is **NOT** changeable and is as follows:

- Warm-up piece
- Compulsory piece 1
- Compulsory piece 2
- Piece of own choice

Composers must submit a work for wind orchestra of an original nature and difficulty between levels 2 and 3. The composition submitted must be original. Popular themes can be used, but they must be included on the cover as a source of work that the author must briefly and exhaustively illustrate.

Please refer to the composition "Bright Dawn Overture" by Franco Cesarini as a guide regarding difficulty.

Each author must send the following to the email jury.mitteleuropablasmusikfest@gmail.com with the subject "NAME OF THE WORK, composition - Blasmusikfest 2026":

- 1 PDF file containing the score (with only and exclusively the title of the work, without the name of the author);
- 1 attached file containing the author's personal data and the title of the work.

Each author reserves all publication rights.

Multiple works can also be submitted, taking into account what is written in art. 5.

The winning composition will be selected as a test piece for the *Mitteleuropa Blasmusikfest 2027*. The winners will be announced on the festival's social media pages (Facebook and Instagram) on April 26, 2026.

Art. 4 – Categories, mandatory pieces and maximum performance times

The “*Mitteleuropa Blasmusikfest 2026*” Competition includes 5 categories (4 for Wind Orchestras and 1 for Composition).

In detail:

- **CATEGORY A - GRADE 4,5-6** - Maximum duration of the performance 45 minutes.
- **CATEGORY B – GRADE 3-4.5** – Maximum duration of the performance 40 minutes.
- **CATEGORY C - GRADE 2-3** – Maximum duration of the performance 35 minutes.
- **CATEGORY D – Youth Band** – Maximum duration of the performance 30 minutes.
- **CATEGORY E – Composition** (online competition - composition for wind orchestras)
– Maximum estimated duration of the work 5-8 minutes.

Competitors are required to adhere to the time limits established for each category; those who fail to comply will be penalized with a 5/100 point penalty for each minute of excess time.

Failure to perform one of the mandatory pieces will incur a penalty equal to the number of minutes of the unplayed composition (e.g., a piece lasting 10 minutes = 10 penalty points).

Youth bands are understood to be all those orchestras whose average age of all members does not exceed 25 years. Youth bands may register for categories higher than the one foreseen, if they believe that their preparation allows it.

The artistic commission has proposed the following mandatory pieces to the orchestras (A, B, C and D):

Cat. A - Grade 4,5-6

- Andrea Alvarez - *DOBOGÓKŐ - The Heart of the Earth*, ed. Mordente music
- Joseph Hellmesberger - *Danse diabolique*, ed. De Haske Music

Cat. B - Grade 3-4.5

- Jacob de Haan - *Festa Paesana*, ed. De Haske Music
- Ralph Benatzky arr. Jure Primožič - *Selection from "Im Weissen Rössl"*, ed. Bora Verlag

Cat. C - Grade 2 -3

- Philip Sparke - *A Klezmer Karnival*, ed. Anglo Music
- Franz Lehar, arr. Matteo Firmi/Stefano Pastorcich - *Selection from "Die Lustige Witwe"*, ed. Bora Verlag

Cat. D – Youth Band

- Ennio Salvere - *A Social Suite*, ed. Molenaar
- Johan Strauss, arr. Hans Thaler - *Bijoux Polka*, ed. Bora Verlag

Art. 5 – Registration

Competitors may register by midnight on March 15, 2026. Late registrations will not be accepted.

The registration fee is set at €400 for each orchestra in categories A, B, C and €350 for each orchestra in category D.

For category E the fee is €60 for each work submitted.

Registration fees are paid at the time of registration and are not refundable. All bank and/or postal charges are the responsibility of the participant.

The organization of the Competition reserves the right to evaluate any requests for time slots and programming. Such a request will not be binding for the organization of the competition which will evaluate whether or not to accept it.

The competitors will stay overnight at the Hotel Uvala Scott - Kraljevica, close to the competition venue, where the preliminary meetings will be held and also to foster conviviality among the participating orchestras.

To obtain the registration form and/or other organizational questions, including accommodation, please contact by e-mail: adriatic@blasmusikfestival.net and event@blasmusikfestival.net

For artistic and logistical questions, please contact by e-mail: jury.mitteleuropablasmusikfest@gmail.com

Art. 6 – Location of the competition, rehearsal and competition times

The competition will take place at two locations: the Hotel Uvala Scott – Kraljevica and the Društveni Dom in Omišalj. The dates and times of the calls for the rehearsals and for the competitions will be communicated to the individual participants and displayed on the Instagram and Facebook pages of the event. The rehearsals and the competition are open to the public and will be held at the Društveni Dom in Omišalj (Croatia).

Art. 7 – Documents

Competitors will be updated by the organization on the documents to bring on site after registration.

Art. 8 – Jury and evaluation criteria

The jury of the Competition is international and is appointed by the organizer. All competitors are evaluated by a jury composed of three to five members, depending on the number of orchestras in the competition. The judgment and final decisions of the jury are indisputable and definitive and the competitors have no right of appeal.

Each member of the jury awards a maximum of 100 points according to the criteria listed below. The final score is given by the arithmetic mean of all these criteria of all the jurors.

1. General impression of the orchestra
2. Tonal quality of the performance
3. Articulation
4. Performance technique
5. Rhythm and metrics
6. Dynamics of the performance
7. Tempo of the performance
8. Balance of the orchestra's sound
9. Musical expressiveness
10. Interpretation and style

The Jury has the right to have the performance(s) of the individual participants repeated, if it deems it appropriate, as well as to interrupt them before the conclusion. Participants and their companions are prohibited from communicating with the members of the Jury during all phases of the competition, except as reported in art. 9.

Art. 9 – Private interview with the Jury

Once all the participants in the Competition have finished their performances and before the award ceremony with the official announcement of the results, the presidents of the orchestras and the conductors will hold a private professional interview with the members of the jury, in which the final scores will not be revealed for any reason.

Art. 10 – Final results

During the final ceremony, the position and total number of points won by each orchestra and composition will be officially announced. Below is the distribution of scores with a final summary judgment:

- **90,1 – 100 points:** "Excellent"
- **80,1 – 90 points:** "Very Good"
- **70,1 – 80 points:** "Good"
- **60,1 – 70 points:** "Participation"

The first three orchestras with the best scores, obtained through a combined ranking, without category constraints, will be awarded the following prizes:

- 1st place: gold prize (winner of Mitteleuropa Blasmusikfest 2026 Competition)
- 2nd place: silver prize
- 3rd place: bronze prize

In addition, a special prize is awarded for the best interpretation of the compulsory composition, a prize for the best conductor of the competition and for the best composer of the competition.

Art. 11 – Acceptance of the rules

The organizers of the “Mitteleuropa Musikfest 2026” Competition decline all responsibility for any risks or damages, of any nature, to people and/or things, both during the trip and during the period of stay in Omišalj for the entire duration of the 2026 Competition. They are not responsible for any theft or damage to instruments, clothes and other valuables and reserve the right to remove from the Competition any competitor who does not respect the rules and proposals prescribed by the Competition.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances, the organizer has the right to change the program and the location of the program.

All participants will receive a booklet with the Festival program.

In the event of disputes, the rules in Italian and English will be valid.

Registration for the 2026 Competition implies total and unconditional acceptance of the rules contained in this regulation.