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9 JUL - 2 AUG
26

RULES FOR THE CONCERT DIVISION
CONTEST BRASS BAND



Contest schedule 2026

The contest schedule for Brass Band Concert Division is as follows:

- Test Piece – Saturday July 11
- Own Choice Program – Sunday July 12

The contest venue is the Roda Hall in the City of Kerkrade, The Netherlands.

Article 1: Participation and Application

Participation in the World Brass Band Championship 2026 is possible for Brass Bands with a maximum of 35 players, including percussion.

Participation in the Concert Division is only possible for bands that have already been placed (via invitation) in the Concert Division based on their performance and/or are qualified for this contest based on the international ranking as a representative of their country.

The following bands are eligible to participate:

- High-ranking European Brass Bands in the Concert Division (Championship/Elite Division) - a maximum of 8 places is available.
- High-ranking non-European Brass bands - a maximum of 4 places is available.

The maximum number of bands in this division is 12.

Application is only possible for bands that have received an invitation from the WMC-organization. Participating (invited) bands must submit a Curriculum Vitae online via the My WMC portal. Application for WMC 2026 opens on April 1, 2025 and closes on November 1, 2025.

A player may participate with one band only at the Concert Division contest.

Article 2: Contest schedule and possible changes, prize ceremony and draw

WMC reserves the right to cancel contest days based on the number of registrations.

The contest will end with a prize ceremony in which all the results are announced simultaneously. Besides the conductor a band shall appoint a representative to attend the ceremony on stage.

In January 2026, there will be a drawing of lots for all participants in the Concert Division Brass Band to determine the order of performance for Sunday July 12, 2026 (Own Choice Program). This drawing is supervised by a notary and will be broadcast through live stream. Results are binding. The order of performance for Saturday July 11, 2026 (Test Piece) will be decided by a draw on the same day prior to the contest.

Article 3: Duration of the program

- 3.1. The participating bands must perform a Test Piece selected by WMC.
- 3.2. The participating bands must perform an Own Choice Program with a total performance time of at least 30 minutes and a maximum of 35 minutes, including changes.
- 3.3. Violations of these time limits will result in penalties in the form of point deduction(s) from the grand total: see Article 4.
- 3.4. Time limits will be checked by WMC through twofold time registration:
- Total performance time: time registration of the total performance time including all stage changes, own announcement or presentations. This time registration starts at the first note of the program (that sounds) and stops after the last note of the program (that sounds).
 - Applause time: time registration of the total applause time.
Applause time will be deducted from the total performance time leading to the Final total performance time.

Article 4: Penalty points

Penalty points for exceeding time limits for the Own Choice Program will be assigned based on the Final total performance time (total performance time minus applause time) as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------|--------|
| ● Exceedance by one (1) minute | - | 0,00 | points |
| ● Exceedance by two (2) minutes | - | 0,50 | points |
| ● Exceedance by three (3) minutes | - | 1,00 | points |
| ● Exceedance by four (4) minutes | - | 1,50 | points |
| ● Exceedance by five (5) minutes | - | 2,00 | points |
| ● Exceedance by six (6) minutes | - | 2,50 | points |
| ● Exceedance by seven (7) minutes | - | 3,00 | points |
| ● Exceedance by eight (8) minutes | - | 3,50 | points |
| ● Exceedance by nine (9) minute | - | 4,00 | points |
| ● Exceedance by ten (10) minutes | - | 4,50 | points |

Article 5: Stage – build-up, percussion, clearing the stage

The maximum stage time, 50 minutes (including build-up and clearing of the stage) is divided as follows:

1. A maximum of 10 minutes is available before your performance for build-up. (A warming-up room is available prior to your performance close to the main stage).
2. A maximum of 35 minutes is available for the performance.
3. A maximum of 5 minutes is available to clear the stage after your performance.

All Brass Bands must use the standard percussion set provided by WMC Kerkrade as listed in the application module (My WMC portal). Bands that substitute percussion instruments may be disqualified from the contest.

Article 6: Scores

Scores of the **Own Choice Program** must be submitted as follows:

1. As a PDF in the application module (My WMC portal) by February 1, 2026
2. Three (3 pcs.) original hardcopy scores must be submitted (for use by the adjudicators) by May 1, 2026. Send the scores to the post box of WMC, including the bands/ensembles name and registration number. A shipping label with the name and registration number can be downloaded from the application module (My WMC portal).

Article 7: Copyrights

WMC Kerkrade requires all participating bands to comply with copyright laws regarding performance and/or use of arrangements of copyrighted music. If copyright violation is found to exist, disqualification may occur. We also refer to our General Terms and Conditions on our website for more details and information.

Article 8: Program and use of the contest venue

- 8.1. Each Own Choice Program to be performed must comply with the provisions of Article 3: Duration of the program.
- 8.2. The Own Choice Program must present a well-balanced, high-level concert containing at least one solo work (or work for ensemble and band). Guest soloists (professional or amateur) are allowed and are not included in the total band line-up. The composition of this program, as well as the program sequence, must be determined by each band according to their own artistic judgement.
- 8.3. The use of the other spaces of the contest venue is also allowed but must be approved by WMC to guarantee such use does not interfere with general security regulations.

Article 9: Instrumentation

All compositions must be performed according to the instrumentation of the scores concerned.

Article 10: Adjudicators

The participating bands will be adjudicated by an International Team of Adjudicators with broad expertise on Brass Bands and musical qualities, consisting of 6 people:

- Three (3) Adjudicators for the adjudication of the Test piece (closed jury box)
- Three (3) Adjudicators for the adjudication of the Own Choice Program (open adjudication)

The International Team of Adjudicators will be supervised by an Independent Chairman of Adjudication.

Article 11: Scoring, adjudication parameters, distinctions and awards

11.1. Each band will receive a score based on the following:

Test Piece – Concert Division Brass Band

Adjudicator	Artistic Outcome	Technical Outcome	Total	Score
Adjudicator 1	100,00	100,00	$200 : 2 = 100$	$300 : 3 = 100$
Adjudicator 2	100,00	100,00	$200 : 2 = 100$	
Adjudicator 3	100,00	100,00	$200 : 2 = 100$	

1. Artistic outcome of the performance (Test Piece), including musical interpretation.
2. Technical outcome of the performance (Test Piece):
 - aspects as general technique, rhythm, ensemble playing, articulation, tuning, sound balance, dynamics, phrasing;
 - quality of soloists and band sections.

Own Choice Program – Concert Division Brass Band

Adjudicator	Artistic Outcome	Technical Outcome	General outcome	Total	Score
Adjudicator 1	100,00	100,00	100,00	300 : 3 = 100	300 : 3 = 100
Adjudicator 2	100,00	100,00	100,00	300 : 3 = 100	
Adjudicator 3	100,00	100,00	100,00	300 : 3 = 100	

1. Artistic outcome of the performance (Own Choice Program), including musical interpretation.
2. Technical outcome of the performance (Own Choice Program):
 - aspects as general technique, rhythm, ensemble playing, articulation, tuning, sound balance, dynamics, phrasing;
 - quality of soloists and band sections.
3. General outcome of the performance (Own Choice Program):
 - general presentation of the performance;
 - repertoire choices in relation to the qualities of the band.

Final Score – Concert Division Brass Band

Adjudicator	Test Piece	Score: Test Piece	Own Choice Program	Score: Own Choice Program	Final Score
Adjudicator 1	100	300 : 3 = 100	100	300 : 3 = 100	200 : 2 = 100
Adjudicator 2	100		100		
Adjudicator 3	100		100		

In the event of a tie in the aggregate placing, the placing awarded to the performance of the Test piece shall determine the overall placing.

11.2. Each band will receive a score that determines the ranking. The final ranking will be presented during a prizing ceremony at the end of the second contest day.

11.3. Next up to the ranking, each band receives a distinction based on the final score:

- Score up to 59.99 WMC participant
- Score 60.00 – 69.99 Bronze
- Score 70.00 – 79.99 Silver
- Score 80.00 – 89.99 Gold
- Score 90 and above Gold with Distinction

11.4. Each participating band will receive a final score and a diploma.

11.5. The Team of Adjudicators will appoint the following awards:

- Award for the best Test Piece
- Award for an outstanding soloist based on the Own Choice Program

Article 12: Titles and Prizes

Regarding Titles and Prizes, we refer to the separate document 'Titles and Prizes WMC 2026' on the WMC website.

Article 13: Results and appeal

13.1. Once publicly announced, results are definite and binding. After this only WMC Kerkrade has the authority to adjust scores when deemed necessary.

13.2. No appeal is possible against results and WMC will not allow any appeal.

13.3. In case of unforeseen circumstances where these rules do not apply, WMC Kerkrade reserves the right to make decisions that are binding. No appeal is possible.

Article 14: Responsibilities

14.1. The Artistic Management is artistically responsible for all contests in the Roda Hall.

14.2. The Independent Chairman of Adjudication is responsible for the correct application of the adjudication system by all adjudicators and for the execution of the rules and adjudication manual. The Independent Chairman of Adjudication reports to the Artistic Management.

World Music Contest, (WMC) Kerkrade, The Netherlands, April 2025.

General information

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