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9 JUL - 2 AUG
26

**RULES FOR THE CONCERT DIVISION
CONTESTS FOR WIND BANDS / FANFARE
BANDS / PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES**



Concert Division in general

The Concert Division is a special contest category for the world's best amateur wind/fanfare bands and percussion ensembles. The open, international character of the WMC-contests make it possible for virtually all band cultures around the world to participate.

A meaningful artistic experience is the main goal within the Concert Division - the highest division in WMC's Concert Contests. The total program aims to achieve a concert experience at the highest level. Communication and emotion are key concepts in this division. The Concert Division has no test piece and the conductor has the artistic freedom to develop the best possible program within the given time.

Contest schedule 2026

The contest schedule for the section Percussion Ensembles is as follows:

- Concert Division – Saturday July 18, Location: Kerkrade Theater

The contest schedule for the section Fanfare Bands is as follows:

- Concert Division – Sunday July 26, Location: Roda Hall.

The contest schedule for the section Wind Bands is as follows:

- Concert Division – Saturday August 1 & Sunday August 2, Location: Roda Hall.

The contest venues are the Roda Hall and Kerkrade Theater in the City of Kerkrade, The Netherlands.

Article 1: Sections

Participation in the Concert Division of WMC 2026 is open to bands/ensembles in the sections:

- Wind Band (max. 15 bands)
- Fanfare Band (max. 7 bands)
- Percussion Ensemble (max. 7 ensembles)

Application is possible for those bands/ensembles that qualify for the Concert Division based on their general playing standard. Participating bands/ensembles must submit a Curriculum Vitae online, via the My WMC portal, demonstrating that the quality and history of the band is such that they are eligible for participation in the Concert Division.

Application for WMC 2026 opens on April 1, 2025 and closes on November 1, 2025. The assessment of the Curriculum Vitae by the Artistic Manager of WMC will take place as soon as possible after completion of application.

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.

Each cluster of divisions will end with a prize ceremony in which all the results are announced simultaneously. Besides the conductor a band/ensemble 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 Contests to determine who is playing at what time. This drawing is supervised by a notary and will be broadcast through live stream. Results are binding.

Article 3: Duration of the program

- 3.1. The participating Wind and Fanfare Bands must perform a program with a total performance time of at least 50 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes, including changes. The participating Percussion Ensembles must perform a program with a total performance time of at least 40 minutes and a maximum of 45 minutes, including changes.
- 3.2. Violations of these time limits will result in penalties in the form of point deduction(s) from the grand total: see Article 4.
- 3.3. Time limits will be checked by WMC through twofold time registration:
 - Total performance time: time registration of the total performance time including all stage interactions (for example changes, own announcement or presentations). This time registration starts at the first note of the program (that sounds), or at the first stage interaction being part of the performance and stops after the last note of the program (that sounds) c.q. the last stage interaction being part of the performance.
 - 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 Concert Division Contests 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: Percussion, Stage – build-up, clearing the stage

Percussion

All bands/ensembles must use the standard percussion set provided by WMC Kerkrade as listed in the application module, with a few exceptions (See: My WMC portal). Bands/ensembles that substitute percussion instruments may be disqualified from the contest.

Wind Bands and Fanfare Bands

The maximum stage time, 90 minutes (including build-up and clearing of the stage) is divided as follows:

1. A maximum of 20 minutes is available before your performance for build-up. (A warming-up room is also available prior to your performance close to the main stage).
2. A maximum of 60 minutes is available for the performance (with adjudication).
3. A maximum of 10 minutes is available to clear the stage after your performance.

Percussion Ensembles

The maximum stage time, 95 minutes (including build-up and clearing of the stage) is divided as follows:

1. A maximum of 30 minutes is available before your performance for build-up.
2. A maximum of 45 minutes is available for the performance (with adjudication).
3. A maximum of 20 minutes is available to clear the stage after your performance.

Article 6: Scores

Scores must be submitted as follows:

1. As a PDF in the application module (My WMC portal) by February 1, 2026
2. Five (5 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/ensembles 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 program to be performed must comply with the provisions of Article 3: Duration of the program.
- 8.2. Each program must contain at least 20 minutes of original composed music in the applied section (Wind Band, Fanfare Band or Percussion Ensemble).
- 8.3. For the Concert Division Fanfare Bands and Wind Bands each program must contain at least one composition for soloist and band (instrumental, singer, choir, ensemble, etc.).
- 8.4. Compositions that require an extended instrumentation are allowed, provided that they fit the available contest stage (see Technical Rider)
- 8.5. 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 and doubling of parts

All compositions must be performed according to the instrumentation of the scores concerned. WMC allows the doubling of parts by instruments that are not in the original score.

Article 10: Adjudicators

The participating bands/ensembles will be adjudicated by an International Team of Adjudicators, consisting of 5 people.

In the Concert Division the profile of the Adjudicators will be with broad expertise on bands/ensembles and musical qualities.

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 or ensemble will receive a score based on the following:

| Adjudicator | Artistic outcome | Technical outcome | Conceptual outcome | Total | Final Score |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| Adjudicator 1 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 300 : 3 = 100 | 500 : 5 = 100 |
| Adjudicator 2 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 300 : 3 = 100 | |
| Adjudicator 3 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 300 : 3 = 100 | |
| Adjudicator 4 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 300 : 3 = 100 | |
| Adjudicator 5 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 100,00 | 300 : 3 = 100 | |

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

11.2. Each band/ensemble will receive a score that determines the ranking.

11.3. Next up to the ranking, each band/ensemble 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/ensemble will receive a final score, a short report of the individual adjudicators comments and a diploma.

11.5. The Team of Adjudicators will appoint the following special awards for the Concert Division:

- Award for an outstanding section or soloist
- Award for (a) musical moment(s) that made great impression – in positive sense – on the Team of Adjudicators.

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.

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