

Composition competitions for orchestra

within the framework of the festival:

27th Spring
Festival of
Contemporary
Music 2026
5th-8th June 2026

Submission Deadline: 30th January 2026

27th Weimar Spring Festival for Contemporary Music 2026

Composition contest for Orchestra

The via nova – contemporary music in Thuringia e.V. announces an international composition competition for orchestra on the occasion of the 27th Weimar Spring Festival for Contemporary Music 2026

Type and Scope of the Competition:

Compositions are expected for orchestra with the following maximum instrumentation:

- Strings: 6.4.4.3.2
- Woodwinds: 2.2.2.2 (piccolo flutes, English horn as 2nd oboe, bass clarinet as 2nd clarinet, contrabassoon as 2nd bassoon possible)
- Brass: 4.2.3.0
- Percussion: 2 (marimba excluded, please confirm in advance)

Performance duration: approx. **8 minutes**. The score must indicate the duration. Performance will be by the **Thüringer Symphoniker** under Markus L. Frank.

Eligibility for participation:

Submitted works may have been premiered or published but **must not have won any other prize** prior to the conclusion of this competition. Published works, if selected, must not be subject to any financial claims from the publisher. Previous winners of the orchestral competition at the Weimar Spring Festival are not eligible.

Conditions of participation:

Each participant may submit **only one composition** in the orchestral category. Participation in the acousmatic music category is unaffected by this rule. **Six bound copies** of the score (no originals) must be submitted. The competition is anonymous. The composition must be labeled with a password and must not contain any indications of the composer's name or origin.

Included with the submission must be a separate sealed envelope labeled with the password, containing the composer's name, address, contact details, date of birth, nationality, artistic CV, and a copy of their ID, as well as a signed declaration that, in the event of selection, the composer agrees to the performance, potential recording, and broadcast of their work, and that they are the sole author of the work.

Submitted scores will not be returned. The composer is responsible for creating a legible performance material. Selected composers agree to prepare the performance material by **April 15, 2026**, and to be present during orchestra **rehearsals** from **June 10 to 14, 2026**.

Prize Money:

A divisible prize fund of at least 6,000 euros will be provided for the composition competitions as part of the Weimar Spring Festival, subject to approval from the sponsors.

Jury:

A jury composed of composers and representatives of performers will select compositions from the submitted works, which will be developed before or during the festival taking place from **June 11-14, 2026**. The decision on awarding prizes will be made by the jury during the event days in closed deliberations. There is no recourse against this decision. The jury reserves the right not to award the prize.

Participation Fee:

The participation fee applies only to the selected finalists whose works will be performed as part of the festival. It amounts to 80 EUR and must be paid no later than **April 1, 2026** (date of receipt) into the account of via nova e.V., IBAN: DE21 8205 1000 0301 0302 35, SWIFT-BIC: HELADEF1WEM, at Sparkasse Mittelthüringen.

Submission Deadline:

The submission deadline is **January 30, 2026** (postmark). Finalists will be notified in writing or by email by **March 16, 2026**.

The detailed event program for the 27th Weimar Spring Festival for Contemporary Music 2027 – consisting of courses, lectures, symposia, and concerts – will be published on the website www.via-nova-ev.de in March 2026 (subject to change).

Organizer

via nova - zeitgenössische Musik in Thüringen e.V.

Gesellschaft für Neue Musik Thüringen

In cooperation with:

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Landesverband Thüringen

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Bank Details

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