

Composition competition
for Sacred Music

within the framework of the festival:

27th Weimar
Spring Festival
of Contemporary Music 2026
11th-14th June 2026

Submission Deadline: 30th January 2026

27th Weimar Spring Festival for Contemporary Music 2026

Composition contest for Sacred Music

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

Type and Scope of the Competition:

Compositions are expected for soprano and organ. The composition must engage with **Psalm 36,6–10** according to the translation of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV, 1989). The performance duration should not exceed **8 minutes**. The score must indicate the performance duration.

The composition must be performable on one of the **three organs of the Belvedere Organ Cosmos**. It should also be suitable for performance on **the organ of the Herder Church** in Weimar, where the awarded work will be presented during the Sunday church service. If necessary, adaptation to the organ of the Herder Church may be made in consultation with the performing organist.

The **dispositions of the organs** of the Belvedere Organ Cosmos and of the Herder Church are available on the website of via nova e.V. (www.via-nova-ev.de).

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, as otherwise the work will be excluded. For published works, in case of selection, no financial claims from the publisher may be asserted.

Conditions of participation:

Each participant may submit **only one composition** in the sacred music category. Participation in other categories 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.

A separate sealed envelope labeled with the password must be included with the submission. This envelope must contain 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 confirming 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 **15th April 2026** and to be present during the Weimar Spring Festival 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 performers will select works from the submitted entries for performance during the festival. The winning composition will additionally be performed as part of the **church service on 14th June 2026**.

The decision on awarding prizes will be made by the jury in closed deliberation. 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 **1st April 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 **30th January 2026** (postmark). Finalists will be notified in writing or by email by **16th March 2026**.

The detailed program for the 27th Weimar Spring Festival for Contemporary Music 2026 – 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:

Deutscher Komponistenverband

Landesverband Thüringen

Address

Karlstraße 6

D-99423 Weimar

Tel: +49 (0)3643-490748

Mail: via_nova@web.de

www.via-nova-ev.de

Bank Details

via nova e.V.

Sparkasse Mittelthüringen

IBAN: DE21 8205 1000 0301 0302 35

SWIFT-BIC: HELADEF1WEM

