



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN COMPOSERS' COMPETITION 2024-2025**  
**Presented by the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra**

The deadline for the third annual South African Composers' Competition, presented by the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, South Africa's premiere professional orchestra, has been announced – October 31, 2024. The competition is aimed at young composers to develop skills and recognise talent in the local creative music industry. The competition for a five-to-fifteen-minute work for symphony orchestra will provide sought-after performance opportunities to composers.

**THE PRIZES**

- First Prize: A cash prize of R20 000; a one-year appointment as Resident Composer of the CPO which comprises a performance of the winning composition in a CPO concert, and one new commission, to be performed at the following year's final round
- Second prize of R10 000 with at least one public performance of the composition.
- Third prize of R5 000 with at least one public performance of the composition.

The works of all five finalists will be performed at the finalists' concert on March 15, 2025.

**CLOSING DATE**

The closing date for the competition is Thursday, 31 October 2024. The competition is open to all South Africans not older than 35 years of age - those born no earlier than 31 October 1989. Entry is free.

## REQUIREMENTS

Only one composition may be entered. The work must not be longer than fifteen minutes in duration and not shorter than five minutes. Previous winners of first prize in the competition will not be eligible to enter.

The composition should be an original work composed by the participant and should not have been published, performed or awarded recognition in any other competition prior to the closing date of this competition. It must be free of any liabilities, including those with publishing houses.

Instrumentation for works can include strings, double woodwind, brass and limited percussion, keyboard, harp/celeste, limited traditional African instruments, and electronic instruments. Orchestrations for more than 55 players unfortunately can't be accommodated. Works for solo instrument or solo voice will not be accepted.

Arrangements of existing works will be disqualified.

Composers will retain ownership of the compositions. Composers agree that the CPO may use their composition for promotional purposes.

Pre-recorded music or electronic music compositions will not be accepted.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

Please ensure you have all documentation before uploading via [this form](#)

### Submissions must include

- a clean and clear score in **PDF format from music notation software** with the duration and title clearly marked on the first page
- no attribution on the score to ensure it remains anonymous to the judges
- explanations are only allowed for special requirements on performing techniques or forms and the only musical languages allowed are Italian/English/German/French
- an audio demo in MP3 format (file name must include title of work only)
- one digital photo of the entrant not older than three months and at least 1MB in size
- scanned ID document

Submissions must be submitted by 17:00 on 31 October 2024.

Incomplete applications and compositions that do not meet above requirements will be disqualified.

Enquiries may be made to Neil Robertson at [neil@cpo.org.za](mailto:neil@cpo.org.za)

Members of the jury and the organizing committee are disqualified from participating in this competition.

All materials submitted will be retained by the organisers and will not be returned.

## **JUDGING**

The jury will include distinguished composers, conductors and musicologists whose names will be announced later. The jury's decision will be final.

All entries will be judged anonymously and only the Orchestra Librarian will be aware of identities to ensure confidentiality. The jury will review scores and sound files only. *Any* markings, notations or indications on the scores and any sound elements on the recordings that in any way identify the composer will disqualify the candidate.

By applying for the competition, each candidate accepts all of the regulations of the competition.

The short list of five composers will be announced in early January, 2025.

## **PROCEDURE AND SELECTION**

To ensure fairness of the competition, all the composition works will be numbered for the use of the panellists.

A preliminary round will be based on the submitted scores and five finalists will be selected. The final round will take place in the form of a live performance with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, where the award-winning composition(s) will be selected. The presenters reserve the right to not make any awards if the compositions do not meet the grading criteria.

## **JURY RULES**

Included in the strict jury rules which include internationally accepted general rules and voting procedures are:

The final selection takes place *in camera* by members of the Jury. The work of the Jury, their decisions and discussions, are bound by professional confidentiality.

## **FINAL LIVE CONCERT AND AWARD CEREMONY**

The finalists will have domestic travel expenses and accommodation covered by the CPO for the concert in which their works are adjudicated, which will also be live streamed.

The date and venue for this concert will be on March 15, 2025, at the Hugo Lambrechts Auditorium in Parow, and will be followed by an awards ceremony.

## **RELEVANT RIGHTS**

All entrants retain the copyright of their works.

The award winner must agree to grant the following rights to the CPO free of charge:

- The organizer has the right to premiere the award-winning composition and the priority to perform the winning composition.
- The organizer has the right to perform the award-winning composition(s) or any other forms of audio-visual products for non-commercial purpose and publish it on social media or YouTube.
- Each award-winning composition, regardless of when and wherever it is performed, should be noted as “A 2025 South African Composers’ Award” prize-winning composition.

Composers whose works are selected for the final concert may be asked to grant a media or video interview to present themselves and the work. Composers will be required to be on standby for rehearsals, prior to the final performance.

The prize-winning works remain the full and complete property of their authors, who take personal written responsibility for allowing them to be performed and broadcast, free of any royalties (with the exception of copyright and editing rights).

Laureates waive all and any rights to audio/video recordings as well as radio/television/internet broadcasts of sessions of the Competition, as well as further use of pictures or videos from themselves, taken during the performance.

## **SUBJECT TO CHANGES**

The appointment of the jury members is the sovereign responsibility of the CPO. Members are chosen for their international recognition in the music world, regardless of any racial, ideological, political or linguistic considerations.

The juries’ deliberations are governed by internal regulations. Their decisions are final. After all selection rounds all applicants will be notified.