

**INTERNATIONAL MUSIC  
COMPOSITION COMPETITION  
BANDA SINFÓNICA PORTUGUESA  
“PORTUGAL AND EUROPE”**

**RULES**

**1.** The Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa (BSP) announces the International Music Composition Competition for Symphony Wind Orchestra, following the XII National Composition Competition.

**2.** The Competition aims to stimulate the creation of original repertoire for band and to promote this type of ensemble both nationally and internationally.

**3.** The Competition is open to composers of all nationalities, with an age limit of 40 years as of December 31, 2026.

**4.** The musical composition, in the context of this competition, is strongly associated with thematic concepts, many of which relate to other artistic areas such as literature, theatre, painting, dance, cinema, among others.

**5.** In this edition, to be held in 2026, Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa intends to celebrate Portugal's accession to the European Economic Community (EEC), now the European Union (EU), as a symbol of progress and profound transformation in Portuguese society and its communities.

**6.** Candidates are encouraged to create a freely composed work that relates to the suggested theme.

**7.** Works submitted to the Competition must be written for the following instrumentation: 2 Flutes, 1 Piccolo (optionally also playing 3rd Flute), 2 Oboes, 1 English Horn, 2 Bassoons, 1 E-flat Clarinet, 12 B-flat Soprano Clarinets\* divided into three parts (divisi allowed in each part), 1 Bass Clarinet, 2 Alto Saxophones (1st also optionally Soprano Saxophone), 1 Tenor Saxophone (2 performers, divisi allowed), 1 Baritone Saxophone, 4 Horns, 3–5 Trumpet parts (inclusion of cornets or flugelhorns optional), 2 Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone, 1 Euphonium (2 performers, divisi allowed), 2 Tubas (divisi allowed), 1 Piano, 4 Timpani, Percussion (5 performers), and a 4-string Double Bass.

**8.** Percussion parts may include mallet instruments (marimba, xylophone, vibraphone, and glockenspiel), tubular bells, crotales, drums, and standard accessories.

**9.** Works should have a duration between 10 (ten) to 15 (fifteen) minutes.

**10.** No changes will be allowed to the usual stage layout of musicians as used by the BSP.

**11.** Only original, unpublished works for band (excluding solo works) will be accepted, excluding, in particular: i) works already publicly performed or published by any means; ii) commissioned works; iii) works previously awarded in any national or international competition.

**12.** Submissions must be presented in computer-edited and digitized format.

**13.** Candidates must register for the Competition by **September 20, 2026**, submitting: i) 3 (three) copies of the full score in A3 format, properly bound; ii) one copy of each individual instrumental part in A4 format (for doubled instruments, one copy per performer, **no overlapping of parts, e.g., Horn 1 and 3 on the same part**); iii) a USB drive with the score, synopsis, and individual parts in PDF.

**14.** To avoid postal delays or customs issues, participants must ensure that scores reach the secretariat by the stated submission deadline via registered mail to Rua Costa Cabral, 877, 4200-225 Porto.

**15.** Compositions must mention only the title and a pseudonym of the composer and must not contain any element that could identify the author.

**16.** Along with the submitted work, a sealed envelope must be attached containing the competitor's identity, postal and email address, phone number, a photocopy of an ID (citizen card or passport), a brief CV, a photo, and a short text presenting the work. Only the title of the work and the composer's pseudonym should appear on the front of the envelope, which will be opened after the jury's final decision.

**17.** All non-awarded works and their identification envelopes will remain with the BSP secretariat and may be claimed up to one month after the results are published. After this period, they will be destroyed to safeguard copyright. If return by mail is desired, candidates must include a payment of €25 to cover postage.

**18.** The score and parts must display the work's title and a pseudonym chosen by the composer.

**19.** Submissions including any elements that directly identify the author or that fail to meet any other requirements of this regulation will be immediately excluded.

**20.** Each candidate may submit only one work.

**21.** The competition awards three prizes (1st, 2nd, and Best Portuguese Composition) – **Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa Prizes** – of **€2,000, €1,000, and €500, respectively.**

**22.** Prize money also covers the copyright and rental rights of the winning work's score and parts by the BSP.

**23.** The jury will select a maximum of six semifinalist works, which will be rehearsed with the presence of each composer during October 2026, on a date to be defined, with the Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa, to select a maximum of three final works.

**24.** The semifinalist works and the names of their composers will be announced publicly in October 2026, and all selected composers will be notified by the competition organizers.

**25.** Finalist works will be announced after the rehearsal session.

**26.** The jury's final decision on the competition results will occur after the public premiere of the finalist works in a concert by the Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa in November, on a date to be defined, in Porto, dedicated to the premiere of the works.

**27.** Awarded composers are required to include the mention “Winning Work of the Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa International Music Composition Competition” in future performances or publications of the awarded works.

**28.** Depending on the merit of the submitted works, the jury may decide not to award a prize, however, honorable mentions may be granted.

**29.** Jury decisions are final, with no possibility of appeal, and the jury may award ex-aequo prizes.

**30.** The jury will consist of BSP President Francisco Ferreira, representing BSP's vote, the 2026 Resident Composer Nelson Jesus, and Oliver Waespi as Jury President.

**31.** Composers of finalist works authorize them to be recorded by the Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa by any means.

**32.** Participation in the competition implies acceptance of all clauses of these regulations.

**33.** Any omissions, changes, or clarifications regarding participation and the development of the competition are the responsibility of the organizers and may be consulted with the jury.

*Porto, February 01, 2026*



40 ANOS DE ADESÃO  
DE PORTUGAL À CEE  
ATUALMENTE UE

# CONCURSO INTERNACIONAL DE COMPOSIÇÃO

TEMA: PORTUGAL E EUROPA

DATA LIMITE DE INSCRIÇÃO:  
20 DE SETEMBRO DE 2026

# INTERNACIONAL MUSIC COMPOSITION CONTEST

THEME: PORTUGAL AND EUROPE

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

40 YEARS OF PORTUGAL'S  
ACCESSION TO THE EEC  
CURRENTLY EU



[HTTPS://WWW.BANDASINFONICAPORTUGUESA.COM](https://www.bandasinfonicaportuguesa.com)

Founded in Porto, Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa (BSP) made its debut on January 1, 2005, at the Rivoli, Porto Municipal Theatre, where it also recorded its first album.

Since then, BSP has established itself as one of Portugal's leading wind and percussion ensembles, performing regularly in major venues such as Casa da Música, Coliseu do Porto, Serralves Foundation, Eng. António de Almeida Foundation, and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. Internationally, the Band has appeared in Spain, the Netherlands, and China, and has collaborated extensively with municipalities and cultural institutions.

BSP's discography reflects its artistic versatility, featuring albums such as *A Portuguesa* (2010), *Traveler* (2011), *Hamlet* (2012), *Oásis* (2013), *Grand Concerto pour Orchestre d'Harmonie* (2014), *Sinfónico* with Quinta do Bill (2015), *Trilogia Romana* (2015), *Porto* (2016), *The Ghost Ship* (2017), and *Música Ibero-Americana* (2019).

Its repertoire spans classical arrangements, contemporary premieres, and original commissions, with works by composers including Luís Tinoco, Jorge Salgueiro, Luís Carvalho, and Pedro Lima.

BSP fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, having partnered with the theater company O Bando, the Olga Roriz Dance Company, and the Contratempus Quartet.

Its educational initiatives include the BSP Júnior festival, conducting and artistic development masterclasses, composition competitions, and partnerships with high schools.

The ensemble's awards include first prize at the International Band Competition of La Sénia (2008) and the highest score in the history of the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Netherlands (2011). BSP has been invited to perform at the 18th World Music Contest Festival in Kerkrade and the 17th World Conference of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles in Utrecht. In 2023, it was recognized by RTP and Antena 2 for its outstanding contribution to Portuguese culture.

BSP is a nonprofit cultural association with public utility status, supported by the Portuguese Republic – Culture / Direção Geral das Artes. Francisco Ferreira served as its founding principal conductor and artistic director; today, Horácio Ferreira leads the artistic direction, with José Rafael Pascual-Vilaplana as Associate Conductor.



Banda Sinfónica  
Portuguesa

## Banda Sinfónica Portuguesa

[www.bandasinfonicaportuguesa.com](http://www.bandasinfonicaportuguesa.com)

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### Contactos

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## Apoios



REPÚBLICA  
PORTUGUESA

CULTURA, JUVENTUDE  
E DESPORTO

dgARTES  
DIREÇÃO-GERAL  
DAS ARTES