

IRISH EU PRESIDENCY CLASSICAL CONCERT

**COMPOSITION COMPETITION RULES
AND FAQ**





BCE Competition for Irish Composers

In celebration of the Irish Presidency to the Council of the EU, the [Brussels Chamber Ensemble](#) (BCE) is hosting a competition for Irish composers. The winner's piece will be premiered in Brussels at the BCE's 2026 Irish Presidency Concert, among other pieces by Irish composers.

"Sounds of Ireland": We are looking for a piece that is connected to Ireland and showcases the musical sounds of this Member State. All symphonic entries are welcome, and our orchestra would particularly be keen on a piece that showcases the (celtic or classical) harp, being Ireland's national instrument. For examples of past winners, please check out the [composition section of our BCE website](#).

Participants: Any and all composers of Irish nationality (no age limit).

Deadline: 1 September 2026.

Composition criteria: Check our FAQs for more details.

- Instrumentation: 2.2.2.2 4.2.(3).0, strings, percussion. Trombones optional.
- All symphonic entries are accepted, and any piece with solo (celtic or classical) harp is particularly welcome.
- Duration: 5-10 minutes.

Winning prize: Winner to be announced by end of September 2026.

- Première in Brussels 800-seat Flagey Concert Hall in December 2026.
- Concert recording of your composition.
- 2 free tickets to the concert.
- Cash prize of €1000.

Application details: Apply [HERE](#) before 1 September, 2026.

- Required: short description, PDF and a sound file of your composition.
- No application fee.

Questions? Follow BCE on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates!

- Contact brusselschamberensemble@gmail.com.
- Review our FAQs page.



BCE Competition for Irish Composers

FAQs

- **Can I submit more than one entry?** - Yes.
- **Can I submit a work that has already been performed in public?** - Yes, but we will give preference to works that have not yet been performed.
- **How many musicians does the orchestra have in total?** - 60
- **Can I submit a work for soloist + orchestra?** - Yes, provided the solo instrument is a (celtic or classical) harp.
- **Can I include solos for string instruments?** - Yes, you may submit a piece that has solos for any of the string instruments.
- **How many musicians are available for each instrument?**
 - 2 flutes (including 1 piccolo) available - 2 musicians in total
 - 2 oboes (including 1 English horn) available - 2 musicians in total
 - 2 clarinets - no bass clarinet available
 - 2 bassoons - no contrabassoons available
 - 4 horns
 - 2 trumpets (B-flat notation if possible)
 - 3 trombones optional
 - Strings: 12.10.8.6.3 (1st/2nd/va/vc/db)
 - 1 percussionist, who can play (at a time): timpani (2, not 4), castanets, snare drum, tambourine, triangle and glockenspiel
- **Is there a maximum acceptable division for strings?** - There should be no more than one divisi per string section (for example, first violins should have no more than two parts).
- **Can I submit a piece for strings or winds only?** - Yes you can but we will give preference to pieces that include most of the musicians in our orchestra. Therefore, we strongly recommend submitting a piece for both strings and winds.
- **Where can I apply?** - [HERE](#).



BCE Competition for Irish Composers

Competition Rules

Please review the following Rules of BCE's Composition Competition and reach out to brusselschamberensemble@gmail.com for any clarifications.

Applicant acceptance of these rules

The candidate's submission of his/her Competition application will be tantamount to the candidate's acceptance of these Rules. The notification of the acceptance of the candidate's application will mean that an agreement has been concluded between the Brussels Chamber Ensemble and the candidate concerning all matters provided for in these Rules.

Data sharing

By submitting an application, you agree for BCE to share your data and composition with the members of the selection committee.

Winner selection

All decisions regarding the winner and any potential honorary mentions made by the Selection Committee will be final and not subject to appeal. The Selection Committee reserves the right to not select a winner.

Prize

The winner's cash prize is subject to applicable tax deductions required by local law of the recipient's country of residence.

Language prevalence & jurisdiction

In case of doubt, the english language version of the Rules will be used in interpreting and clarifying their provisions. Any matter not provided for in the Rules will be subject to Belgian law. Any legal dispute will be settled by the Belgian court of law in whose jurisdiction the registered address of BCE is located.

Permissions & authorizations

1. The competition winner and any honorary mention will:

a) permit BCE to make audio and visual recordings of his/her composition during BCE's rehearsals and concerts and transfer to BCE all economic rights to these performances;

b) permit BCE to make audio and visual recordings of his/her image, statements and interviews given in preparation for / during the concert where the winner's piece will be performed; transfer to BCE all property rights to these statements and interviews; permit BCE to disseminate his/her image recorded in connection with his/her participation in the BCE concert,

c) transfer to BCE the exclusive, temporally and territorially unlimited right to grant permissions to exercise related copyrights on the works specified under a) and b) above, in particular to dispose of and use adaptations of the works, including translations into foreign languages; the participant will also undertake not to take any action limiting this right in the future,

d) authorise BCE to execute his/her personal rights with respect to the works and artistic performances mentioned under a) and b) above, and undertake not to exercise his/her personal rights in a manner that will restrict BCE in the exercise of its rights obtained in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph,

e) permit BCE to use his/her artistic performances, interviews, statements and image, in full or in part, to make adaptations, abridged versions, alterations and translations, and declare that such use of them will not be deemed to damage his/her name; the participant will also grant leave to mark with his/her first and last name his/her artistic performances, statements, interviews and images specified under a) and b) above.

f) permit BCE to make use of your score free-of-charge for the purposes of the BCE concert at which the winning piece will be performed.

2. The transfer and granting of the rights (including permissions), specified above, is temporally and territorially unlimited, and covers all exploitation fields known at the time of making these Rules public, in particular:

a) recording and duplicating (including storing in the memory of a computer or other device), reproducing with the use of any technology, including printing,

reprography, magnetic, mechanical, optical, electronic or other recording, analogue and digital technology, in any system or format; on all media, including audio, video and audio-visual media, on paper and similar media, on light-sensitive, magnetic, optical disks, memory cubes, computers and other recording and memory media, uploading, downloading, digitalisation, using in a multimedia work,

b) trading the original and its copies created in the fields of technology specified under a) above – offering for sale, licensing, leasing, renting,

c) all other manners of dissemination, including:

i. live, simultaneous, integral broadcasts and replays, including cable and wireless radio/TV, terrestrial and satellite; making available over the Internet (including streaming technology), in other information, cable, telecommunication and multimedia relay networks, and in other transmission systems (including simulcasting, webcasting, IPTV), uncoded and coded, in open and closed circuit relay systems, in any technology (including analogue and digital, high definition (HD), three dimensional (3D)), and in any system and format, with or without a recording mode, including text, multimedia, internet, telephone and telecommunication services, and the Video on Demand (VoD) service;

ii. making available to the public in a way that offers every person access to the objects covered by these rights at a time and place of their choice, including by terrestrial transmitters and via satellite, by cable, telecommunication and multimedia networks, databases, servers or other devices and systems, including third parties, in open and closed circuit systems, in any technology, system and format, with or without a recording mode, including the services mentioned in i.) above, also as part of all telecommunication services using any system and device (among others, landline phones and/or mobile phones, tablets, desktop computers and/or laptops, notebooks, netbooks, etc., and relays in any available technology, e.g. GSM, UMTS, etc., via telecommunication data relay networks);

iii. all kinds of public replaying, performing, exhibiting, displaying,

d) making foreign language versions.

3. The transfer and granting of the rights (including permissions) specified above take effect as soon as the artistic performances, statements and interviews are established, and they are free-of-charge. If possible, under existing laws, the participant will relinquish his/her rights to royalties from Internet, TV and radio broadcasts of his/her artistic performances, statements or interviews mentioned above.

4. Within the scope of the rights obtained under these Rules, BCE will be fully authorised to transfer these rights to others, to grant licenses and further authorisations. The participant will not be entitled to any additional remuneration arising out of this.