



REGULATIONS

Young Composers Competition Delft 2026/2027

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Article 1 – Organization

The Young Composers Competition Delft 2026/2027 is organized by the DProject Orchestra (DPO), in cooperation with partners from the Dutch music sector.

By registering, participants declare that they accept and agree to these Regulations.

Article 2 – Purpose and Vision

The Young Composers Competition Delft is designed as an educational and developmental program. The competition aims to:

- encourage and support young composers;
- foster the development of new music;
- provide participants with the opportunity to hear their work performed live;
- create connections between composers, performers, and audiences.

In line with the vision of the DProject Orchestra, the competition focuses on innovative and accessible concert formats for new and diverse audiences.

Article 3 – Theme and Composition Assignment

The composition assignment is as follows:

Compose a work for string orchestra lasting 5–8 minutes, based on the theme “Nature”.

The first round consists of submitting a sketch of approximately 1–2 minutes. This sketch must constitute a complete and self-contained musical fragment.

The interpretation of the theme is entirely open. The composition should demonstrate artistic coherence and convincing compositional craftsmanship.

Article 4 – Eligibility

The competition is open to individuals who, on the registration deadline:

- reside in or study in the Netherlands, Belgium, or Luxembourg (Benelux); and
- are at least 18 years of age; and
- belong to one of the following categories:

Categories

- Composition students;
- Composers who graduated from a composition program no more than five years ago;
- Amateur composers up to and including the age of 27.

The organization reserves the right to place participants in the category it considers most appropriate.

Article 5 – Registration

Registration must be completed through the official application form.

Registration becomes valid only after receipt of:

- a fully completed registration form; and
- payment of the registration fee.

The registration fee is **€50 per participant** and is non-refundable.

Article 6 – Competition Procedure

Phase 1 – Preliminary Registration

Deadline: 1 July 2026

Phase 2 – Sketch Round

Deadline: 1 October 2026

Required submission materials:

- anonymized score (PDF);
- audio recording (MIDI realization or MP3 recording);
- brief program note of no more than 300 words.

All participants will receive feedback from the jury.

Phase 3 – Live Pitch and Selection

Date: Sunday, 15 November 2026

At least eight selected sketches will:

- be performed live;
- be presented and discussed by the composer.

The jury will select a number of composers to advance to the next round.

Phase 4 – Development Phase

Selected participants will develop their sketch into a complete composition of 5–8 minutes.

Phase 5 – Final Concert

Spring 2027

The selected works will:

- be performed live by the DProject Orchestra;
- be presented to both audience and jury.

Article 7 – Composition Requirements

The composition must meet the following requirements:

- Duration: 5–8 minutes (final version);
- Instrumentation: string orchestra;
- Theme: “Nature”;
- Style: unrestricted.

Each participant may submit a maximum of one composition.

The work must:

- be original;
- not have been publicly performed previously;
- not have been published or commercially distributed.

Article 8 – Scores and Performance Materials

Scores must be clearly legible and professionally notated.

Finalists must provide:

- a full score;
- all orchestral parts in PDF format.

Where text materials are used, proper source attribution is required.

Article 9 – Jury

The jury consists of a professional panel chaired by the Dutch composer Edward Top.

The jury:

- evaluates artistic quality, originality, and performability;
- provides feedback during the sketch round;
- determines selections, finalists, and any awards.

All jury decisions are final.

In cases of direct involvement or conflicts of interest, a jury member shall abstain from evaluating the participant concerned.

Article 10 – Awards and Opportunities

Finalists will receive:

- a public performance of their work by the DProject Orchestra;
- professional feedback and coaching;
- visibility within the network of partners and audiences connected to the competition.

The organization may award additional prizes, commissions, or professional development opportunities.

The jury reserves the right not to award prizes.

Article 11 – Schedule (Summary)

- **1 July 2026** – Preliminary registration
- **1 October 2026** – Sketch submission deadline
- **15 November 2026** – Live pitch and selection
- **Spring 2027** – Final concert

Article 12 – Copyright, Publicity, and Media

Copyright of all submitted compositions remains entirely with the composer.

By participating, the participant grants the organization permission to perform, record, and use the composition for promotional purposes in connection with the Young Composers Competition Delft.

Participants additionally grant permission for:

- audio and video recordings of rehearsals, performances, and presentations;
- the use of image and audio materials for promotional purposes;
- online publication and streaming through the organization's digital channels.

Article 13 – Liability

The organization shall not be liable for:

- loss of or damage to submitted materials;
- personal accidents, injuries, or property damage occurring during participation in the competition.

Participants are responsible for arranging their own insurance and covering any travel and accommodation expenses related to participation.

Article 14 – Acceptance of the Regulations

By registering:

- the participant confirms acceptance of these Regulations;
- the participant commits to taking part in all rounds for which they are selected.

Article 15 – Miscellaneous Provisions

In circumstances not covered by these Regulations, the organization shall make the final decision.

Exceptions to these Regulations are only valid when granted in writing by the organization.

Article 16 – Disputes

Any disputes shall first be discussed and addressed through mutual consultation.

If no satisfactory resolution can be reached, the organization shall make the final decision.

Final Provision

The Young Composers Competition Delft is not a traditional competition but an artistic development program in which experimentation, collaboration, and live performance are central values.

Language and Interpretation

These Regulations are an English translation of the original Dutch version. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this translation, the Dutch version shall be the authoritative and legally binding text. In the event of any discrepancy, inconsistency, ambiguity, or dispute regarding interpretation, the Dutch version shall prevail.

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An initiative of the DProject Orchestra (DPO)

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