

**BIG BAND COMPOSITION COMPETITION FOR YOUNG COMPOSERS FROM
THE BALTIC AND NORDIC COUNTRIES
2026
REGULATIONS**

Organizer: Jazeps Vitols Latvian Academy of Music (JVLMA) in cooperation with the Latvian Radio Big Band (LRBB)

Objective: To create **an extended composition for big band and a solo instrument of choice – trombone or tenor saxophone; duration up to (no more than) 7 minutes.**

Jury: Massimo Morganti (Italy), Krists Auznieks (Latvia), and the remaining jury members will be announced later.

Prize Fund:

1st place – €900

2nd place – €700

3rd place – €500

Conditions:

- Young composers who permanently reside or study in the Baltic States, Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, or Denmark may apply. Eligible applicants include senior students of secondary music schools and colleges, students of higher music institutions, and young professionals aged 18 to 30 (not older than 30 by 31.08.2026).
- **Each participant may submit one original composition.**
- The submitted composition must not be published by any music publishing house.
- The work must be an original composition by the participant. **Arrangements will not be evaluated.**
- After submission, the participant may not request additions or make any corrections to the score.
- The submitted score must include all performance and interpretation markings (dynamics, articulations, tempo, etc.). The big band will perform strictly according to the score.
- Participation in the first round and the final is not mandatory, but possible and encouraged. The organizers do not cover any expenses related to application preparation, travel, accommodation, or other costs.

Deadlines and Competition Procedure:

- **Application deadline: 31.08.2026 at 23:59.** Late submissions will not be considered.
- The jury will conduct a preliminary selection of submitted scores for the semifinal and announce results on 14.09.2026.

- **The semifinal**, with jury presence, will take place on **30.10.2026** at the Ziedonis Hall of the National Library of Latvia. Selected works will be performed by a joint big band of JVLMA and Nordic music students, with soloists and conductor Dāvis Jurka.
 - After the concert, the jury will select three finalists (results announced on 02.11.2026 on www.jvlma.lv).
 - **The final** will take place on **03.12.2026** at Spīķeri Concert Hall; the winning works will be performed by the Latvian Radio Big Band under the direction of Kārlis Vanags with soloists.
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Required Documents:

- Completed [application form](#)
 - Submission via email (jazz-competition@jvlma.lv) or WeTransfer:
 - Score and parts in PDF format
 - Demo recording (MIDI or MP3)
 - Copy of passport or ID card (1 MB)
 - Publicity photo (1–2 MB)
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Instrumentation:

Solo Trombone / Tenor Saxophone

A Sax / S Sax / Fl

A Sax / S Sax / Fl

T Sax / Cl

T Sax / Cl

Baritone Sax

Trumpet / Flugelhorn (x4)

Trombone (x3)

Bass Trombone

Piano

Guitar

Bass (acoustic/electric)

Drums + percussion (if needed)

The solo part will be performed by invited soloists.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Overall artistic quality
 2. Style
 3. Score presentation
 4. Instrumentation
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Copyright:

- The organizers have the right to record the competition and obtain phonogram producer rights, as well as to broadcast and publish recordings without limitation in radio, internet, and archives.
 - The event will be documented in photo and video; materials may be published on the JVLMA website and social media.
 - Submitted works will be stored in the JVLMA Library and will be publicly accessible.
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Data Processing:

- Personal data processing is carried out by JVLMA (address: K. Barona iela 1, Riga, LV-1050; email: dati@jvlma.lv).
 - By submitting an application, participants confirm agreement with the rules and consent to data processing (name, institution, age, photo) for competition purposes and public communication.
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Contacts:

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