

New
Voices
Big OF THE
Band

Big Band
Radio România

AMPHITRIO

Writing for Big Band - A Challenge ?

PROIECT CO-FINANȚAT DE:



COMPOSITION
COMPETITION

The project does not necessarily represent the position of the Administration of the National Cultural Fund. AFCN is not responsible for the content of the project or for the way the project's results may be used. These are entirely the responsibility of the beneficiary of the fund.

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O R G A N I Z E R S

The competition is organized by the initiators of the Cultural Project “New Voices of the Big Band”, in partnership with the Romanian Radio Big Band through the Romanian Broadcasting Corporation (SRR) and co-financed by the Romanian National Cultural Fund Administration.

P U R P O S E

The purpose of the **Writing for Big Band - A Challenge?** competition is to promote and stimulate original creation for the Big Band ensemble - an instrumental apparatus specific to jazz music, but often integrated into other hybrid musical genres, especially in recent decades.

O B J E C T I V E

A key objective of the competition is to support young composers and encourage them to become interested in writing for big band, given that opportunities to collaborate with such ensembles are currently limited.

01

ORGANIZERS & PURPOSE

02

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to all young composers who are:
> citizens of European countries and residents of one of the countries listed* to the left;
> aged between 18 and 35 (born between January 1, 1991, and December 31, 2008).

*** ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE ARE CONTESTANTS FROM:**

Albania	Liechtenstein
Andorra	Lithuania
Austria	Luxembourg
Belarus	Malta
Belgium	Moldova
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Monaco
Bulgaria	Montenegro
Croatia	Norway
Czech Republic	Netherlands
Denmark	Poland
Estonia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	San Marino
Germany	Serbia
Greece	Slovakia
Hungary	Slovenia
Ireland	Spain
Iceland	Sweden
Italy	Switzerland
Latvia	Ukraine
	United Kingdom (Great Britain)

EACH PARTICIPANT MAY SUBMIT A MAXIMUM OF ONE ENTRY TO THE CONTEST.

THE COMPOSITION MUST BE WRITTEN FOR **A BIG BAND ENSEMBLE**, RESPECTING THE FOLLOWING INSTRUMENTAL DISTRIBUTION:

▶ **5 SAXOPHONES**

- > **Alto 1 in E♭** (optional doubling Soprano sax in B♭)
- > **Alto 2 in E♭** (optional doubling Soprano or Tenor sax in B♭ or Clarinet in B♭)
- > **Tenor 1 in B♭** (optional doubling Soprano sax in B♭ or Alto Sax in E♭ or Flute)
- > **Tenor 2 in B♭** (no doubling)
- > **Baritone in E♭** (optional doubling bass clarinet or Clarinet in B♭)

▶ **4 TRUMPETS in B♭**

(optional doubling Flugelhorn for all of them)

▶ **3 TROMBONES + 1 BASS TROMBONE**

▶ **RHYTHM SECTION:**

- > Piano
- > Electric guitar
- > Double bass or electric bass
- > Drum set

DURATION OF THE WORK:
MINIMUM 5 MINUTES -
MAXIMUM 10 MINUTES.

Only original works that have not been previously awarded, published, or publicly performed prior to the date of submission to the competition will be accepted.

Arrangements of existing pieces are not accepted unless the work on which the arrangement is based is original (the author and arranger are the same person) and has not been awarded, published, or performed publicly prior to the date of submission of the piece to the competition.

The full score must be digitally typeset (handwritten scores are not accepted) and sent in PDF format, accompanied by an audio/MIDI reference recording, to the email address writingforbigbandchallenge@gmail.com.

Participants must take into account the typical writing style for a Big Band ensemble, using elements such as free or guided improvisation sections, as well as notation specific to the jazz tradition (indication of harmonies, accentuation, writing for wind and brass instruments and rhythm section).

Entries must contain only a title and be anonymous, without the author's name on the score; identification will be made by a subtitle consisting of a unique code, made up of 4 alphanumeric characters (numbers and/or letters) chosen by the participant.

Upon submitting the general score to the competition, the composer undertakes to provide the Organizer with the individual parts for the ensemble (according to the distribution given in the Regulations) within a maximum of 5 days from the announcement of the final results, in the event of winning the First Prize.

04.

REGISTRATION

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- > completed and signed application form – download the form below
- > short CV (max. 2 pages)
- > copy of ID/passport
- > full score of the musical work in PDF format
- > audio demo in mp3 format
- > high-quality portrait photo

Entries for the competition must be submitted by:

10 MAY 2026,
23:59 ROMANIAN TIME (EET; UTC+02:00),

by sending all documents to the email address:

THERE IS NO
REGISTRATION FEE.

If the documents exceed the attachment capacity of a single email, they will be made available to the organizer via a permanent cloud link (Google Drive, One Drive, DropBox, etc.).

05

JURY

THE EVALUATION CRITERIA ARE:

- > originality;
- > artistic and musical value of ideas;
- > compliance with the specific writing and technique of the Big Band instrumental apparatus;
- > relevance of the use of the ensemble's resources;
- > compliance with the conditions of these regulations.

The results of both stages of the composition competition will be individually announced via email, as well as on:

The jury consists of three members, Romanian musical personalities in the fields of MUSICAL COMPOSITION, BIG BAND ARRANGEMENT, and CONDUCTING.

JUDGING WILL TAKE PLACE IN TWO STAGES:

1. THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAGE

in which the works entered in the Competition will be checked for compliance with all the conditions set out in these Rules;

2. THE ACTUAL JUDGING

and awarding of prizes.

MEMBERS OF THE JURY:

- > **Dan Dediu** - composer, pianist, university professor, DHC, President of the Union of Composers and Musicologists of Romania
- > **George Natsis** - composer and arranger, pianist, conductor, Coordinator of the Jazz-Pop Section of the Union of Composers and Musicologists of Romania
- > **Simona Strungaru** - composer and arranger, pianist, conductor of the Romanian Radio Big Band

Secretary of the Jury:
Andrei Petrache

* THE JURY'S DECISION IS
FINAL AND IRREVOCABLE.

06

PRIZES

1st PRIZE

10,000 RON (approx. 2000€)

+ a personalized Certificate
+ PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK by Amphitrio and the Romanian Radio Big Band in a public concert held in Romania in 2026*

2nd PRIZE

7,500 RON (approx. 1500€)

+ a personalized Certificate

3rd PRIZE

5,000 RON (approx. 1000€)

+ a personalized Certificate

SPECIAL PRIZE

2,500 RON (approx. 500€)

- Awarded for the best work composed by a Romanian composer
+ a personalized Certificate

The value of the prizes is gross. The value of the prizes will be taxed at source in accordance with Romanian legislation in force at the time of payment.

The prizes will be transferred to the winners' bank accounts within a maximum of 90 days from the date of announcement of the final results.

The jury may decide to combine the Special Prize with another prize, if the situation so requires.

The organizers reserve the right not to award all prizes.

* THE DETAILS AND EXACT DATE OF THE CONCERT WILL BE ANNOUNCED BY THE ORGANIZER AT A LATER DATE.

07

COPYRIGHT

The rights to the work remain entirely with the author.

The organizers reserve the right to perform, record, and broadcast the winning work in a public concert in 2026, without additional payment to the composer.

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CALENDAR

Launch of the competition:

10 MARCH 2026

Deadline for entries:

10 MAY 2026 23:59 EET (UTC+02:00)

Announcement of the results of the administrative stage:

17 MAY 2026

Announcement of the results of the final stage:

24 MAY 2026

09

FINAL PROVISIONS

By registering, participants confirm their full acceptance of these rules.

Any unforeseen situations will be resolved by the organizers.

For any other questions or additional details, please email us at:

writingforbigbandachallenge@gmail.com.

LOOKING FORWARD
TO YOUR ENTRIES!
GOOD LUCK!