

VISEGRAD JAZZ

COMPOSITION

CONTEST 2026

**Join this year's competition for the
best compositions for a jazz orchestra
supported by the Visegrad Fund**

The project 22520285 is co-financed by the Governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from International Visegrad Fund. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.

DEADLINE: MARCH 15TH



Visit Nanosymphony.eu site to learn more

VISEGRAD JAZZ COMPOSITION CONTEST 2026

RULES OF THE CONTEST:

1. Composers up to 35 years of age (included) of Czech, Slovak, Polish or Hungarian nationality or composers who live in these four countries and who have been musically active in these countries are eligible to enter the contest (an official document with the stated nationality or a document with a permanent or temporary address will be relevant)
2. Candidates must submit a full concert score and all parts in PDF format, along with a sound demonstration of the composition in MP3 format. The sound demonstration can be an audio output from a computer. The submitted composition must be unpublished and unknown to the public and must follow the criteria outlined below:

The composition registered in the contest must be an original and must be composed for the following instrumentation:

1st Eb alto saxophone / Bb soprano saxophone / Bb clarinet (solo)
2nd Eb alto saxophone / Bb soprano saxophone / Bb clarinet (solo)
1st Bb tenor saxophone / Bb soprano saxophone (solo)
2nd Bb tenor saxophone / Bb soprano saxophone (solo)
Eb baritone saxophone / Bb bass clarinet (solo)
1st trumpet / flugelhorn
2nd trumpet / flugelhorn (solo)
3rd trumpet / flugelhorn (solo)
4th trumpet / flugelhorn (solo)
1st trombone (solo)
2nd trombone (solo)
3rd trombone (solo)
bass trombone (solo)
guitar (solo)
piano (solo)
double bass (solo)
drums (solo)

The composition should have a duration between 4 and 10 minutes, including any solo sections. - The composition must be in the jazz genre and feature improvised solos

The composition can be either an arrangement of a folk music tune or an original piece that incorporates one or more folk music motifs from the candidate's country.

Please, send your composition here: nanosymphony.contest@gmail.com until **March 15th, 2026**. The subject of the e-mail: **Visegrad Jazz Orchestra Composition Contest 2026**.

The following must be attached to the e-mail:

1. the concert score (without the composer's name)
2. particular (transposed) parts for all instruments (without the composer's name)
3. a recording of the composition in mp3 or midi format (audio recording from a rehearsal or a midi/mp3 file exported from any notation software)
4. a pdf document with a short composer's bio and his/her contact information and scan of ID card or passport
5. affirmative statement confirming that the contestant is the author of the composition and the arrangement (the statement must be signed by the contestant and scanned)

Compositions composed for a different instrumentation, compositions with missing or incorrect (i.e. incorrect transposed)parts for instruments (or illegible parts) or compositions with the name of the author written on the score/parts will be eliminated.

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Prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st prize: **1 000 €**, the composition will be premiered by VJO

2nd prize: **750 €**, the composition will be premiered by VJO

3rd prize: **500 €**, the composition will be premiered by VJO

Participating composers may receive written feedback from members of the jury on their submitted compositions, focusing on artistic quality and potential for further development.

Three selected compositions will be premiered at the orchestra's concert in April–May 2026 in Bratislava. The composers of the winning works will receive financial prizes and will be invited to attend the orchestra's rehearsals and concert. Accommodation and travel expenses for the winning composers will be covered.

Time capacity for rehearsals of the winning pieces, which will be performed at the concert, is approximately 3 hours. We ask the composers to take this into consideration – the compositions should not be too long or too hard to play. It has to be a jazz composition, i.e. include elements typical for this genre. We highly recommend that the composers use the great improvisation abilities of solo players of the Visegrad Jazz Orchestra.

The present jurors will announce the top three compositions during the final concert. The jury reserves the right to award other additional prizes.

JURY:

Matúš Jakabčík (SK) – chairman

Štěpánka Balcarová (CZ)

Kornél Fekete-Kovács (HU)

Jakub Stankiewicz (PL)

Ľuboš Šrámek (SK)

Jan Jirucha (CZ)

Kristóf Bacsó (HU)

Grzegorz Nagórski (PL)

For more detailed information about this contest, please write to: nanosymphony.oz@gmail.com.