

## THE LORD MAYOR'S COMPOSITION PRIZE

### COMPETITION RULES 2026

The Lord Mayor's Composition Prize is administered and funded by the Worshipful Company of Musicians to provide a biennial prize for classical composition. Previous competitions were held in 2012 (String Quintet), 2013 (Organ), 2015 (Piano Trio), 2017 (Wind Quintet), 2019 (solo voice, piano and obligato melody instrument), 2022 (a setting for choir of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis), and 2024 (solo piano).

1. **The composition for the 2026 Competition will be for saxophone quartet.**
2. The amount of the 2026 Lord Mayor's Composition prize will be £5,000.
3. The winning composition will be performed by a professional quartet in a concert arranged by The Musicians' Company in January 2027 in St Stephen's Walbrook. At the concert the winner's award will be presented by the Lord Mayor of London.

It should be noted that the composition may be in any style and that composers are welcome to incorporate jazz, folk or popular music idioms in the work while recognising the influence and traditions of Classical contemporary composition. The inclusion of an electronic element in the composition is allowed though a work using electronic elements must be performable with equipment and/or programme that is readily accessible and, if necessary, provided by the composer.

4. The judging panel for the 2026 Lord Mayor's Composition Prize is expected to include Leslie East (Chairman, City Music Society and Pastmaster of the Company), John Harle (composer, saxophonist and Musicians' Company Court member), Robert Saxton (composer), Amy Dickson (saxophonist and Liveryman) and Richard Ingham (saxophonist and Liveryman).

5. The 2026 Lord Mayor's Composition Prize is **open ONLY to UK citizens** who are under the age of 35 at the closing date for entry, which will be **30<sup>th</sup> September 2026**. Applicants must send a copy of their birth certificate with their entry.

6. The work submitted must be entirely the work of the composer. It should be noted that this Competition permits a single theme or line of music originated by another composer to be incorporated into the new composition. The work must be composed specially for this competition and must not have been performed or recorded before.

The instrumentation must be for Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone saxophones.

7. The work must last a minimum of eight (8) minutes and should not exceed twelve (12) minutes in duration. The estimated duration must be stated on the score.

8. Entrants must submit the full score for their composition, together with a completed Entry Form, which can be obtained or downloaded from the Musicians' Company website: <[www.wcom.org.uk](http://www.wcom.org.uk)>
9. Each entry must be supported by two references from referees who are able to write from personal knowledge about the composer and his/her achievements.
10. If sent by post, scores must be submitted printed single-sided on white A4 paper, not bound in any way. Scores will be photocopied for the judging panel and it is assumed that entrants give consent for this.
11. The winner of the Competition must agree in advance that they will attend at least one rehearsal with the saxophone quartet who will perform the winning composition and attend the concert during which the winning composition will be performed for the first time.
12. Entrants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs regarding any aspect of the competition or premiere.
13. Each entry will be scrutinised, in the first instance, by a Screening Panel, to ensure that it meets both the brief for that year and the Rules for the Prize.
14. Selection will take place in October 2026 by the Adjudication Panel, who will select the winning entry.
15. The composer of the winning work will be informed in November 2026.
16. The composer of the winning work will be required to donate a signed, bound copy of the score of the work to The Musicians' Company to be lodged in the Company's Archives and grant permission for part of the work to be reproduced on the Company's website.
17. The Musicians' Company reserves the right to present the first performance of the winning work.
18. The Judges' decision is final. Neither the Judges nor The Musicians' Company will enter into correspondence with any entrants. No alternative prize will be considered.
19. Canvassing on behalf of any entry in the competition is strictly forbidden and will render the applicant liable to disqualification from the competition.
20. The Company reserves the right to add to or alter the Rules at any time.

**All enquiries should be addressed to Amanda Ratcliffe, Deputy Clerk, The Musicians' Company, 1 Speed Highwalk, London EC2Y8DX or by email: [assistant@wcom.org.uk](mailto:assistant@wcom.org.uk) or telephone: 020 7496 8980 option 1.**