



ANIMATO A CAPELLA

SÈR KOMPETISIE | SERENADE COMPETITION

United Through Music



ANIMATO SERENADE

2026

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COME AND PARTICIPATE AT ANIMATO SERENADE COMPETITION

The primary goal of the Animato Serenade Competition is the promotion and enjoyment of light music in song and dance among high schools as well as the creation of new, innovative productions and material.

Animato started in 2014 with just four high schools from Gauteng. Animato has since grown into a nationwide competition with high schools from across the country now participating.

With a focus on uniting people through music, the unique competition creates an inclusive platform with two diverse categories to ensure that every school, regardless of their level of experience, can participate in the competition so that the love for music and a capella singing can be preserved.

With an incredibly high standard and extremely talented children, this competition provides loads of enjoyment, not only for the learners, but also for the spectators.

Animato Serenade looks forward to welcoming your school to our next competition.



ANIMATO SERENADE CRITERIA & GUIDELINES

PARTICIPATION

Animato Serenade is a National competition for high school students. School groups from grade 8 to grade 12 May therefore participate in the competition. The Serenade groups can be composed of only boys, only girls or mixed groups. The groups do not have to be affiliated with ONE school (i.e. groups can also enter privately)

CATEGORIES

Animato Serenade offers high school learners the opportunity to participate in two different categories.

A. The **first** category is for Ensembles where the focus is placed on singing, but ensemble playing is also looked at through minimal formation shifts and homogeneous movements.

B. The **second** category is for Productions where the focus is on the overall production that is presented through singing and choreography.

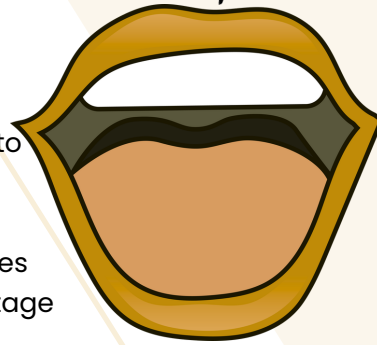


ENSEMBLE CATEGORY INFORMATION

- 8 to 20 members allowed
- Duration is 9 to 11 minutes (It is the ensemble group's own responsibility to compose their repertoire so that their performance fits within this time slot)
- No dialogue is allowed
- No conductor allowed
- Coordinated uniform
- Solos are allowed, but the emphasis is on group singing.
- No movements are allowed, only formation shifts between songs
- The emphasis is on musicality and high singing standards
- Sheet music must be provided for each judge
- No theme is required · No instruments are allowed, except to indicate a broken chord for intonation
- Arrangements are permitted · No props
- During rehearsals, each ensemble group is given 20 minutes
- This time can be used to test the acoustics and practice stage placements

PROGRAMME

- Prescribed FAK song
- Two songs of your own choice with two different styles and in different languages
- No own composition



PREScribed FAK SONG: My hartjie, my liefie

General:

- The timekeeping begins when the first sound is made as part of the performance and ends after the last note is sung.
- For every 10 seconds too short or too long, the group is penalized with 1 point for every 10 seconds or part thereof.
- A group can give the necessary intonation of the following work/song in any way (e.g. a broken chord). This can be given by voice or instrument but must be given by a learner from the group on stage.
- Every learner in the group MUST sing
- No sound reinforcement is offered for the groups.
- Basic lighting will be provided by Con Spirito
- The groups are responsible for their own transport and accommodation arrangements during the qualifying rounds and National Final.

PRODUCTION CATEGORY INFORMATION

- 10 to 20 members allowed · Duration is 14 to 18 minutes (It is the groups' own responsibility to compose their repertoire so that their performance fits within this time slot · Dialogue is allowed with transitions, but must not dominate the performance.
- Solos are permitted, but the emphasis is on group singing.
- Costumes must be meaningful and clearly fit the theme.
- Props are permitted provided they support the theme and execution of the repertoire. Props must be used as part of the performance and must be used for percussion for at least four beats.
- Choreography is allowed that supports the storytelling through lyrics and emphasizes the energy and atmosphere of the performance

Prescribed FAK Song: *Kan 'n man dan nie*

PROGRAMME:

- **Prescribed FAK Song**
- **There is no limit to the number of arrangements a production group must include in their repertoire, but each group's repertoire must include at least the following:**
 - **An arrangement of the prescribed FAK song**
 - **An own composition (for Productions only)**
 - **An adaptation in another language (Neither Afrikaans nor English)**



- The production group's program consists of songs sung in at least three different languages.
- All music is your own choice except for the prescribed FAK song.
- **A clear theme** must be chosen and the repertoire must be structured around this theme. The song choices, costumes, choreography and props must all contribute to the storytelling and depiction of the group's theme.
- The **prescribed FAK song** MUST be adapted, but the original thematic material must still be identifiable. The text may be changed and it may be in a new inversion/mode. The idea is that this song must be newly interpreted and adapted in its presentation, with a creative touch so that it fits in with the group's theme. A minimum of 40 seconds (in total) must be delivered and at least four bars of the song must be clearly audible and recognizable in the adaptation thereof. The sheet music is available on the [website](#).
- The **OWN COMPOSITION** is a song whose lyrics and melody are original. The own composition must be suitable for the group's chosen theme and must tell a clear story. The own composition must contain lyrics and to be eligible for the award for best own composition, the lyrics must be in any of South Africa's official languages. The harmonization and performance of the arrangement will be looked at and judged.

Please note: The sheet music for the own composition must be submitted to the judges.

PRODUCTION CATEGORY INFORMATION

TOOLS:

- The focus of the Animato competition remains singing, so no melodic instruments are allowed. Only non-melodic instruments may be used.
- No melodic accompaniment is allowed. No introduction may be given beforehand. A group may provide the necessary intonation of the following work/song in any way (e.g. a broken chord). This can be given by voice or instrument but must be given by a learner of the group on stage.
- There is no limit to the number of non-melodic instruments that can be used and the instruments must be carried on and off the stage by one person.
- The instruments should not dominate the performance and should only be used for effective support.

General:

- The timekeeping begins when the first sound is made as part of the performance and ends after the last note is sung.
- During rehearsals, each ensemble group is given 20 minutes. This time can be used to test the acoustics and practice stage placements.
- For every 10 seconds too short or too long, the group is penalized with 1 point for every 10 seconds or part thereof.
- A group can give the necessary intonation of the following work/song in any way (e.g. a broken chord). This can be given by voice or instrument but must be given by a learner from the group on stage.
- Every learner in the group **MUST** sing
- Groups are encouraged to arrange their chosen songs, with the understanding that the lyrics of the music may be changed and sheet music may be arranged.
- No sound reinforcement is offered for the groups.
- Basic lighting will be provided by Con Spirito
- The groups are responsible for their own transport and accommodation arrangements during the qualifying rounds and National Final.



ENTRY FORMS AND FEES

The closing date is May 30, 2026, so please ensure that you successfully complete your entry before this date.

The entry fee is R2200 per group, payable to Con Spirito Animato with the following details and reference:

Bank:	FNB
Account holder:	Con Spirito Nasionaal
Account type:	GOLD BUSINESS ACCOUNT
Account number:	63175116285
Branch code:	21-08-19
Reference:	School name

Send this proof of payment to animatoser@conspirito.co.za

Please note:

Half of the entry fee is refundable if a school group withdraws 2 months before the first qualifying rounds.
If Animato cancels the competition, the full entry fee will be refunded to the school.

[ENTER HERE](#)



THE COMPETITION

Following the elimination rounds, the top ensemble and top production groups, based on the combined scores of the judges during the elimination rounds, are invited as finalists to participate in the National Final in October.

Animato reserves the right to determine which and how many schools advance to the finals and there is no limit to the number of schools that advance to the finals. There is also no requirement that a certain number of schools from each qualifying round advance to the finals. The schools with the highest combined points after the qualifying rounds will be invited to the National Finals.

Should it happen that there are 2 groups that are tied in points, it is the prerogative of the head judge, after consulting the other judges, to make the final choice as to who the winners are.



COMPETITION DATES AND VENUES

There are FOUR venues for elimination rounds to choose from. The best groups from each elimination round will be invited to the National Finals in October.

Elimination Rounds – August & September 2026

Please note:

At least TWO schools must enter a specific round for the elimination round to take place.

July 7 or 8
July 31 and August 1
August 3 and 4
July 1 and August 1
August 7 and 8
August 7 and 8

Eastern Cape
Limpopo
Free State
Western Cape
KZN
Gauteng

George
Hoërskool Pietersburg
C&N Sekondêre Meisieskool, Bloemfontein
Cape Town
Richardsbaai
Pretoria

Please note:

If not enough entries have been received for a specific elimination round by May 30, the specific round may be cancelled and the schools that would have participated in that elimination round must participate in an alternative elimination round.

NATIONAL FINAL

The **Con Spirito Animato National Final** will take place in Pretoria from 8 to 10 October 2026.

Animato invites the top Ensemble and Production groups from the elimination rounds to participate in the National Final.

The finalists will be announced on Monday, August 17, 2026.



NATIONAL FINAL – October 2026

8 – 10 October

Pretoria

AWARDS AND RESULTS

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT AT SCHOOLS

Please note that the awarding of honorary colours and the recognition of achievements at schools takes place independently of Con Spirito Animato.

FEEDBACK FROM ADJUDICATORS

After a specific elimination round, the head judge will provide feedback and mentorship to the Ensemble and Serenade groups. Each group will also receive a participation certificate indicating a Gold or Silver award.

Gold = 80% to 100% Silver = 60% to 100%

AWARDS DURING NATIONAL FINALS

Finalists who advance to the national final each receive a FAK Animato participant certificate for participation at the national level. Each group also receives a participation certificate indicating a Gold or Silver award.

Gold = 80% to 100% Silver = 60% to 100%

Specific certificates are also awarded for overall performance based on the performance scale used by Animato as well as the following additional prizes:



Most Original Theme (Production Groups)

- This award is given to the group with the most original theme and whose theme is best portrayed through the costumes, arrangements and props.

Best Costumes (Production Groups)

- This award is given to the group that had the best costumes and whose costumes best portrayed their theme.

Best uniform (Ensemble groups)

- This award is given to the group that had the best uniform.

Best ensemble performance (Ensemble groups)

- This award is given to the ensemble that had the best ensemble playing during their performance.

Best Choreography (Production Groups)

- This award is given to the production that had the best choreography during their performance.
- Best choreography refers to the effective use of the choreography, the effectiveness of the production's stage use and whether the choreography supported the performance as a whole.

Best Musicality (Ensemble and Production Groups)

- This award is given to the group that received the best marks from the judges for the musicality section on the judges' sheet.

• Best Adaptation in Another Language (Production Groups)

- This award is given to the group that had the best adaptation into another language.
- The suitability of the song to the theme as well as the arrangement and performance of the song are considered here.

Best Afrikaans Adaptation (Production Groups)

- This award is given to the group that had the best Afrikaans adaptation.
- The suitability of the song choices to the theme as well as the arrangement and performance of the song are considered here.

Best Prescribed FAK Song (Ensemble and production groups)

- This award is given to the group that performed the best and most musical FAK song.

Best Prescribed FAK Song (Production Groups)

- This award is given to the group that had the best prescribed FAK processing.
- The presentation and interpretation of the prescribed FAK song as well as how the group made it appropriate to their theme are considered here.

Best Original Composition (Production Groups)

- This award is given to the group that had the best original composition.
- The originality of the lyrics and melody line, how it contributes to portraying the theme as well as the arrangement and the interpretation and performance thereof are considered here.

Overall winners (Ensemble and production groups)

- The first, second and third places for the respective categories are announced.



SCORE SHEETS

ENSEMBLE

Entertainment (30 points)

Spontaneity, Creativity and Balance (10)

- The group has variation in feel and continuous energy to create the right atmosphere and continually surprise the audience with changes in music and storytelling.
- The audience shows strong sympathy with the performance of the a capella group.

Ensemble play (20)

- The group works together as a particularly strong unit and their performance is well supported by facial expressions, body language, interaction with the audience and each other.
- Formations are appropriate and balanced.

Musicality (90 points)

Dynamics (15)

- The pitch of the music is appropriate and there is clear distinction and motivation with alternating loud and soft in the application of the tone.

Diction (10)

- Good, correct and clear pronunciation of words.

Intonation (15)

- Accurate pitch is achieved throughout.

Balance (15)

- There is a good balance between the different voices, group singing as a whole and soloists, as well as percussion instruments, if used.
- There must be good balance between the vocal parts so that the chords are balanced.

Musical Completion (15)

- There is good finishing with regard to the interpretation of the songs, the technical execution of the songs and the singing technique of the group members.
- There is good interpretation of the songs through phrasing and tempo changes.
- Good technique was applied by the members with regard to breath and voice control.

Processing and Harmonization (20)

- There is originality in the song choices and innovation in the way they have been arranged.
- There is a good balance between the different languages in which the songs are sung.
- The group forms a beautiful musical harmony. All vocal groups harmonize beautifully into a unity of pure sound.

Overall Impression (10 points)

- The execution as a whole.
- Song selection, finishing, design, ensemble playing, program composition, initiative, originality.

Prescribed song (10 points)

- The prescribed song is clearly recognizable and complies with the prescribed time.
- The arrangement is interesting and the song was adapted to support the program.



SCORE SHEET PRODUCTION

Entertainment (50 points)

Costuming and Props (10 points)

- The costumes and props must be meaningful, motivated and effective, clearly portray the theme and fit the theme.

Theme (10 points)

- The theme must be clear and original and the song choices must be appropriate to the theme.

Spontaneity, Creativity and Balance (10 points)

- The group has variation in feel and continuous energy to create the right atmosphere and continually surprise the audience with changes in music and storytelling.
- The audience shows strong sympathy with the performance of the a capella group.

Choreography (20 points)

- Creative choreography that supports the storytelling through lyricism and shifts the energy and atmosphere of the performance as different sections of focus require.
- Choreography is appropriate and balanced and is performed evenly, strongly and with passion.
- There is good use of the stage.

Musicality (70 points)

Dynamics (10 points)

- The pitch of the music is appropriate and there is clear distinction and motivation with alternating loud and soft in the application of the tone.

Diction (10 points)

- Good, correct and clear pronunciation of words.

Intonation (10 points)

- Accurate pitch is achieved throughout.

Balance (15 points)

- There is a good balance between the different voices, group singing as a whole and soloists, as well as percussion instruments, if used.
- There must be good balance between the vocal parts so that the chords are balanced.

Musical Round-up (10 points)

- There is good finishing with regard to the interpretation of the songs, the technical execution of the songs and the singing technique of the group members.
- There is good interpretation of the songs through phrasing and tempo changes.
- Good technique was applied by the members with regard to breath and voice control.

Processing and Harmonization (15 points)

- There is originality in the song choices and innovation in the way they have been arranged.
- There is a good balance between the different languages in which the songs are sung and the song choices are appropriate to the theme.
- The group forms a beautiful musical harmony. All vocal groups harmonize beautifully into a unity of pure sound.

Prescribed song (15 points)

- The prescribed song is clearly recognizable and complies with the prescribed time.
- The arrangement is interesting and the song is adapted to support the theme.

Own composition (15 points)

- The originality of the lyrics and melody line, how it contributes to portraying the theme as well as the arrangement and the interpretation and performance thereof are considered here.



TERMS & CONDITIONS

CON SPIRITO Animato Serenade competition proudly presents this platform for the development of a capella singing, but does not necessarily endorse the content or opinions of the participating groups.

By registering for any of Con Spirito Arts Association & FAK's projects and/or competitions, I/we/school confirm that I/we may collect personal information, as referred to in Article 26 of **POPIA**.

The entry form must be completed in full and submitted as soon as possible (no later than 30 May 2026).

The entry form must be submitted with the approval of the school principal.

Only high schools are allowed to register.

Groups may make use of professional assistance. This concession is to facilitate interaction between the professional music industry and amateurs through the transfer of knowledge and skills.

Groups are responsible for their own transport and accommodation arrangements during the regional rounds and national final.

Submitting the entry form establishes a basic agreement between CON SPIRITO Animato and the person(s) or institution(s) entering.

This agreement implies that the person/persons or institution entering will act strictly in accordance with the competition rules and that Animato A Capella will present the competition strictly in accordance with the rules.

Violation or non-compliance with the rules of this competition may result in disqualification or penalization.

The person/persons or institution that enters indemnifies CON SPIRITO Animato against any claims that may arise as a result of damage or loss of whatever nature that such person/persons or institution may suffer during the entire course of the competition.

Animato reserves the right to suspend or terminate the competition at any time if extraordinary circumstances necessitate this.

The person/persons or institution that enters authorizes Animato to use photos and videos of the production or ensemble groups or members of the a capella group for reporting and marketing purposes.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into during or after the competition.

All inquiries should be directed to the Animato organizer or the Managing Director of Con Spirito and not to the judges.

Half of the entry fee is refundable if a school group withdraws 2 months before the first qualifying rounds. If Animato cancels the competition, the full entry fee will be refunded to the school.

Copyright Act

- Where unpublished compositions or arrangements are used, schools make their own arrangements for:
- The right to duplicate the music.
- The right to execute it.
- Schools negotiate with composers and/or arrangers themselves for the performance of their works.
- Music may not be modified without the permission of the composer.

Schools that have doubts about the application of the Copyright Act can contact SAMRO. This includes changing text.



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