

STRUMENTO

con SPIRITO



NATIONAL
ORCHESTRA
COMPETITION

**In the world of music education,
the bridge between individual
practice and ensemble
performance is where a student's
true potential often finds its
voice. The Strumento Orchestra
Competition was established to
provide that bridge, creating a
stage where technical skill meets
collaborative artistry.**

**By fostering a competitive yet
supportive environment, the
initiative seeks to illuminate the
diverse paths available to the next
generation of performers.**

**Whether a student is picking up
an instrument for the first time or
refining years of study, this
competition serves as a catalyst
for growth and a gateway to the
professional musical community.**



CON SPIRITO



STRUMENTO

ORKESKOMPETISIE | ORCHESTRA COMPETITION

INDEX

A	Aim of the competition	1
B	Who can participate	1
C	Categories	1
D	Section	2
E	Competition dates	2
F	Closing dates	3
G	Closing date for enrollment	3
H	Cancellation policy	3
I	Banking details	3
J	What does every orchestra's programme look like	3
K	How does the competition work	4
L	Copyright	5
M	Rules	6
N	Contact details	7

No one can whistle a symphony. Only an orchestra can play it.

~Halford E. Luccock~



A. AIM OF THE COMPETITION

The primary aim of the Strumento orchestra Competition is to promote talent and discover the opportunities for young musicians to join orchestras/bands amongst school learners and explore their musical talents. Thus, discovering the joy of making music together

B. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

School Orchestras (all the orchestra members **MUST** come from the same school) **AND** Non-School Orchestras (learners from various schools or private institutions)

C. CATEGORIES

Marimba bands	8 to 30 members	This is a group of percussionists playing together on Marimba's with mallets. Djembes, drumkit and other percussive instruments are allowed
Chamber Orchestra / Ensembles	4 to 16 members	An instrumental or chamber ensemble is a small group of musicians. Strings, winds, etc. as well as the light bands (guitars, drums and other instruments, NO vocal)
Orchestras	20+ members	The full spectrum of instrumentation, strings, woodwind, brasswind and percussion



D. SECTIONS

Marimba bands	Primary Schools High Schools Non-Schools (age no older than 24 years)
Ensembles	
Orchestras	

E. COMPETITION DATES

First Rounds	
7 or 8 July	George, South - / Eastern Cape
31 July and 1 August	Western Cape
31 July and 1 August	Hoërskool Pietersburg, Limpopo
3 and 4 August	C&N Oranje Meisieskool, Bloemfontein, Vrystaat
7 and 8 August	KZN
21 and 22 August	Pretoria
FINAL ROUND	
In 2026, there will NOT be a final round for the orchestra section, as this is a new competition	



F. ENTRY FEES

All sections - R900 per orchestra

G. CLOSING DATE FOR ENROLMENT

30 May 2026

H. CANCELLATION POLICY

Entry fees will only be refunded if CON SPIRITO cancels the competition at least 30 days before the event date.

I. BANKING DETAILS

Con Spirito National
FNB Cheque account number: 63175116285
(Reference: School/Orchestra’s name)

J. WHAT DOES EVERY OCHESTRA’S PROGRAMMEME LOOK LIKE

Duration	Each orchestra has a maximum of 35 minutes on stage. • 10 minutes to set up, warm up, and tune • 12–17 minutes to perform a programme of 4–5 pieces • 8 minutes to clear the stage
Programme	The well-known FAK song “My Sarie Marais” MUST be included in the repertoire. The rest of the programme is own choice (this must include contrasting genres of music)



K. HOW DOES THE COMPETITION WORK

FIRST ROUNDS

- THE ORCHESTRAS MAY CHOOSE THE MOST CONVENIENT REGION IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE, NOT NECESSARILY THEIR OWN REGION.
- EACH ORCHESTRA RECEIVES A WRITTEN EVALUATION REPORT.
- EACH ORCHESTRA RECEIVES A PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE:

GOLD = 80% TO 100%

SILVER = 60% TO 79%

FINAL (NOT IN 2026)

- THE ORCHESTRAS THAT QUALIFY FOR THE FINAL COMPETITION WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRST ROUND.
- ORCHESTRAS MUST PERFORM THEIR FIRST-ROUND PROGRAMME (WITHOUT ANY CHANGES) IN THE FINAL COMPETITION.
- EACH ORCHESTRA RECEIVES A PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATE:

GOLD = 80% TO 100%

SILVER = 60% TO 79%



- **WINNERS WILL RECEIVE CERTIFICATES AND TROPHIES FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:**

TROPHY WINNERS:

- **BEST IN EACH CATEGORY**
- **BEST PRESCRIBED WORK (MY SARIE MARAIS)**
- **OVERALL COMPETITION WINNER FOR THE BEST ORCHESTRA IN TOTAL**

OTHER AWARDS:

- **BEST CONDUCTOR**
- **BEST REPERTOIRE CHOICE**
- **BEST ENSEMBLE BALANCE**
- **BEST SOUTH AFRICAN WORK**
- **MOST PROMOSING ORCHESTRA**

PLEASE NOTE:

A TROPHY OR CERTIFICATE WILL ONLY BE AWARDED IF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ORCHESTRA/BAND, ACCORDING TO THE ADJUDICATORS, IS SATISFACTORY WITH THE STANDARD OF THE PERFORMANCES

L. COPYRIGHT ACT

- **THE ORCHESTRAS MUST THEMSELVES GET PERMISSION FROM THE COMPOSER OR ARRANGER TO PERFORM THE PIECE(S) OF MUSIC.**
- **ORCHESTRAS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THE MUSIC, WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE COMPOSER.**
- **COPIES OF MUSIC PIECES THAT ARE PROVIDED TO THE JUDGES WILL ONLY BE USED FOR JUDGING PURPOSES AND WILL BE DESTROYED AFTER THE COMPETITION IF THE ORCHESTRA DOES NOT COLLECT IT.**
- **ORCHESTRAS THAT ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COPYRIGHT ACT MAY CONTACT SAMRO DIRECTLY.**



M. RULES

1. A piano will be provided.
2. No backtracks are allowed.
3. The decision of the judges is final.
4. Three sets of clearly marked copies of each music piece must be handed to the organisers beforehand. Each set of music must include a cover page containing the following information:
 - a. Name of the orchestra
 - b. Region
 - c. Category
 - d. Bandmaster or Conductor
 - e. Programme
5. Results may not be requested before completion of the competition.
6. Each orchestra must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and is responsible for the costs
7. Orchestras accept and undertake to abide by the rules of the Con Spirito Strumento Competition by enrolling in the competition.
8. Enquiries must be referred to the Con Spirito organisers and not to the judges.
9. Not abiding by the rules may lead to disqualification.
10. Orchestras that enrol indemnify Con Spirito from claims resulting from any damage or loss whatsoever that the choir may suffer during the competition.
11. Orchestras that do not comply with the number and age requirements may be penalised.
12. 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.



CONTACT DETAILS

Lizelle van Staden

083 660 4822

strumento@conspirito.co.za



[Con Spirito website](http://conspirito.co.za)



[Con Spirito Kunsvereniging](https://www.facebook.com/conspirito)



[Con Spirito Kunswedstryd](https://www.instagram.com/conspirito)