



NATIONAL SASMT PRETORIA ENSEMBLE COMPETITION 2026

IN COLLABORATION WITH TYGER VALLEY COLLEGE

SUPPORTED BY THE RUPERT MUSIC FOUNDATION

www.ensemblecompetition.co.za

The National SASMT Pretoria Ensemble Competition is aimed at developing young musicians through collaborative participation and by encouraging the enjoyment of performing with others. Another goal is to foster an understanding, love, and appreciation for ensemble music as well as the performance thereof among young musicians. With this objective in mind, this competition is open for musicians who are not yet professional soloists.

Categories & Prizes

CATEGORIES	1st PRIZE	2nd PRIZE	3rd PRIZE
10 years and under	R7 000	R4 000	R2 000
13 years and under	R7 000	R4 000	R2 000
16 years and under	R7 000	R4 000	R2 000
19 years and under	R7 000	R4 000	R2 000
Open	R15 000	R7 500	

Special award R2 000

to the SASMT Pretoria member with the highest scoring ensemble

Professional members of the SASMT Pretoria Centre and members at Pretoria based institutions will be taken into consideration for this award

ENTRIES CLOSE: 31 JULY 2026
ROUND 1: 4 & 5 SEPTEMBER 2026
ROUND 2: 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

1.PARTICIPATION

1. The age categories of the competition are open to any school going learners up to, and including, the age of 19 on 1 September 2026.
2. The Open category is for ensembles with at least one musician over the age of 19.
3. Musicians residing in South Africa are eligible for participation.
4. Visit www.ensemblecompetition.co.za for entry forms, previous winners, and a gallery.

2.PRE-SELECTION

1. A recording of one of the works to be performed is required for pre-selection and must accompany the entry.
2. The musicians performing in the video must be the musicians who will be participating at the competition.
3. Videos do not have to be professional recordings.
4. Videos must be placed on YouTube and the link e-mailed to nspec.competition@gmail.com
5. The number of qualifying ensembles is conditional to the standard of the entries received. A maximum of 60 ensembles will be selected for participation in the competition by three judges.
6. Ensembles qualifying for the competition will be notified via e-mail not later than 5 August 2026.

3.COMPETITION ROUNDS

1. Adjudication will take place over two rounds.
2. All selected entrants will compete in Round 1.
3. Three finalists will be announced at the end of each age category.
4. Two finalists will be announced at the end of the open category.
5. The finalists will compete in Round 2, which takes place in the form of a Gala Concert.
6. The prize winners will be announced at the end of the Gala Concert.

4.RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The average age of all the participants in an ensemble as on 1 September 2026 will determine the age category.
2. Participants are allowed to enter with more than one ensemble.
3. Participants aged 20 or older are only allowed to participate in the Open Category.
4. No professional soloists are allowed to take part, as this competition is aimed at developing musicians.
5. All ensembles must perform without a conductor.
6. No conducting whatsoever from the audience or backstage will be allowed. Any attempts to do so will lead to disqualification.
7. Ensembles can include a minimum of two, and a maximum of 16 players.
8. Any combination of instruments may be used, with the exclusion of electronic instruments.

9. No electronic sound amplification of voices or instruments is permitted.
10. Electric guitars will be allowed but the sound level must be controlled.
11. Drum kits may be used as part of an ensemble.
12. Duos consisting of one instrument and piano may enter if both parts play a similar role with appropriate musical difficulty.
13. The focus of the competition is on ensemble playing and not show case soloists. Adjudicators have the right not to choose such combinations if the criteria are not met.
14. The pianist is always included in the calculation of the number of players.
15. The combination of instruments must stay the same throughout the performance in both rounds.
16. If required, two pianos will be available on stage.
17. In four-hand, six-hand and eight-hand piano ensembles, the players may change positions.
18. Own music stands must be supplied.
19. Three sets of ring-bound copies of the sheet music should be made available for the adjudicators. These copies should be handed in before the start of each category at registration and will be returned to contestants at the end of the age category.
20. Arrangements and newly composed works may be performed, provided that a score is presented.
21. Deviations from the scores must be clearly marked in the adjudicator's copies.
22. Where applicable, original scores of the sheet music should be present during the competition as per copyright law. The SASMT accepts no responsibility for copyright infringements if copies of sheet music are used.
23. If scores have been downloaded, proof of purchase must be affixed to the copies. If scores are open source, a letter from the teacher stating the source of the material will suffice.
24. All contestants must report backstage 20 minutes before their allocated competition times.

5.PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS AGE CATEGORIES

Pre-selection via video only on YouTube link

1. One of the works which will be performed in Round 1.

Round 1

1. A program of three works, contrasting in style and character, by three different composers must be performed.
2. Arrangements and newly composed works may be performed, provided that a score is presented.
3. Complete compositions are not required.
4. Time limits must be adhered to. (Refer to 7. Performance Requirements Round 1)

Round 2

1. Two pieces, contrasting in style and character, by two different composers must be performed. Pieces which were not previously performed in Round 1 may be included.
2. Time limits must be adhered to. (Refer to 8. Performance Requirements Round 2)

6.PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS OPEN CATEGORY

Pre-selection via video only on YouTube link

1. One movement or piece which will be performed in Round 1.

Round 1

1. One cyclic work, eg. Haydn Trio, OR a program of three works, contrasting in style and character, by three different composers must be performed.
2. Arrangements and newly composed works may be performed, provided that a score is presented.
3. Time limits must be adhered to. (Refer to 7. Performance Requirements Round 1)

Round 2

1. A selection of movements or pieces from Round 1 can be repeated. Pieces which were not previously performed in Round 1 may be included.
2. Time limits must be adhered to. (Refer to 8. Performance Requirements Round 2)

7.PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS ROUND 1

1. Total playing time may not exceed the subsequent times and ensembles will be stopped if this limit is exceeded:
 - a. 10 years and under: maximum of 7 minutes
 - b. 13 years and under: maximum of 12 minutes
 - c. 16 years and under: maximum of 16 minutes
 - d. 19 years and under: maximum of 20 minutes
 - e. Open Category: maximum of 30 minutes
2. The stipulated time is for the performance only. Set-up and tuning will not be timed.

8.PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS ROUND 2

1. The total playing time may not exceed the subsequent times and ensembles will be penalized if this limit is exceeded:
 - a. 10 years and under: maximum of 5 minutes
 - b. 13 years and under: maximum of 9 minutes
 - c. 16 years and under: maximum of 12 minutes
 - d. 19 years and under: maximum of 15 minutes
 - e. Open Category: maximum of 20 minutes
2. The stipulated time is for the performance only. Set-up and tuning will not be timed.

9.ADJUDICATION

1. A panel of three adjudicators will judge the performances in Round 1 and 2.
2. The adjudicators have the right to withhold prizes.

3. The decision of the adjudicators is final, and no further correspondence will be allowed.

10.GENERAL

1. The competition will take place at Tyger Valley College, Pretoria.
2. Warm-up facilities are available. These can be booked as soon as the competition schedule is available.
3. Instrument cases and other personal belongings may be left in a safe place during the performance.
4. Ensembles are requested to help with the set-up and removal of instruments and chairs. The competition and venue do not supply workers or take responsibility for moving large instruments and stands.
5. A schedule of performance times will be made available to the competitors two weeks before the competition date.
6. Finalists must hand in their program for Round 2 after the announcement at the end of each category in Round 1.
7. Banking details of the educators must be supplied to the organizers after the announcement of the finalists.
8. Participants and educators are responsible for their own travel arrangements and accommodation.
9. Financial assistance can be given to challenged entrants at the discretion of the organisers.
10. An entrance fee of R30 for spectators will be payable for Round 1.
11. The entrance fees for the Gala Concert will be determined nearer to the event.

11.ENTRY

1. The completed and signed electronic entry form must be submitted online.
2. Entry fees per ensemble are:

Age	2-4 participants	5-9 participants	10-16 participants
10 & under	R480	R680	R1080
13 & under	R580	R780	R1180
16 & under	R680	R880	R1280
19 & under	R780	R980	R1380
Open	R880	R1280	R1580

3. The non-refundable entry fees must be paid by electronic transfer, and proof of payment e-mailed to nspec.competition@gmail.com
4. Educators are responsible for the entries in the age categories.

5. Please check the spelling of names carefully.
6. Should substitution of a player be necessary under unforeseen circumstances, contact the organizers at least two weeks before the competition. No changes can be made thereafter.
7. A good resolution photo of the ensemble members must be attached to the entry.
8. Only entries accompanied by all supporting documents will be accepted for pre-selection.
9. No late entries will be accepted.
10. Banking details:

The South African Society of Music Teachers

FNB

Branch 250655

Current account: 63146203673

Reference: "NSPEC & name of ensemble".

Proof of payment to be sent to nspec.competition@gmail.com

12.ENQUIRIES

Roelien Holland-Müter 082 473 3542

Gisela Scriba 082 774 3027

nspec.competition@gmail.com