

**VII INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG PERFORMERS
OF WIND AND PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS
“WIND STARS 2026”
(In-person/Virtual)
REGULATIONS**

1. Organizers of the Competition

VII International Competition for Young Performers of Wind and Percussion Instruments “WIND STARS 2026” (further – the Competition) is organized by Mārupe Music and Art School in cooperation with Hungarian and Central-Eastern European Association of Bands and Ensembles of the WASBE, International Music Schools Association “CON ANIMA” and society “MMMS AB”.

2. Aims of the Competition

The aims of the Competition are:

- 2.1. to promote the professional development of young performers of wind and percussion instruments;
- 2.2. to promote cultural activities and visibility of Mārupe municipality in Latvia and in the world;
- 2.3. to improve the quality of musical school education, educational process, and the result of teachers’ and pupils’ work;
- 2.4. to establish a regular experience exchange between teachers and pupils of music schools in Latvia and other countries.

3. The Time and Venue of the Competition

The Competition will take place on 4–6 March, 2026 at Mārupe Music and Art School, Mazcenu aleja 39, Jaunmārupe, Mārupes novads, LV-2166, Latvia (10 km from the capital city of the Republic of Latvia – Rīga). The audition of participants from Groups A, B and C are **in-person**.

The competition jury will evaluate the performance of the participants from groups D, E, F, G and H **remotely** based on the submitted video recordings. The evaluation of the submitted video recordings will take place on 5–12 March 2026. The results of the competition will be announced by 7 April, 2026. Diplomas and Certificates of Participation will be sent electronically to the applicant’s e-mail. The results will be displayed on the web page of Mārupe Music and Art School: <http://www.muzikamakslamarupe.edu.lv/>

4. The Participants of Competition

4.1. The participants of the Competition are the pupils of wind and percussion instruments at music schools, music secondary schools and contestants of higher educational establishments divided into age groups according to the played musical instrument (blokfluite, flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, euphony, French horn, tuba, folk musical instruments – birbyne, lamzdelis (linear flute type) etc.). Percussion instruments players participate in the Competition only remotely.

5. In-person Participants

5.1. Category I “Soloists”

The participants of the Competition from music schools are divided into three age groups:

(The performance of the contestants is evaluated in each group separately.)

- Group AI – participants aged 7-8 and younger.
- Group AII – participants aged 9-10.
- Group AIII – participants aged 11-12.
- Group AIV – participants aged 13-14.
- Group AV – participants aged 15-16.

The participants of the Competition from music secondary schools are divided into two age groups:

- Group BI – participants aged 16-17.
- Group BII – participants aged 18-19.

The participants of the Competition from higher educational establishments are divided into two age groups:

- Group BIII – 1st–2nd year students of higher schools.
- Group BIV – 3rd–6th year students of higher schools; Master study programme and PhD students.

5.2. Category II “Ensembles”

- Group CI – participants aged 7-10.
- Group CII – participants aged 11-16.
- Group CIII – participants of music secondary schools aged 16-19.
- Group CIV – 1st–6th year students of higher schools; Master study programme and PhD students.

6. Virtual Participants

6.1. Category I “Soloists”

The participants of the Competition from music schools are divided into five age groups:

- Group DI – participants aged 7-8 and younger.
- Group DII – participants aged 9-10.
- Group DIII – participants aged 11-12.
- Group DIV – participants aged 13-14.
- Group DV – participants aged 15-16.

The participants of the Competition from music secondary schools are divided into two age groups:

- Group EI – participants aged 16-17.
- Group EII – participants aged 18-19.

The participants of the Competition from higher educational establishments are divided into two age groups:

- Group FI – 1st–2nd year students of higher schools.
- Group FII – 3rd–6th year students of higher schools; Master study programme and PhD students.

6.2. Category II “Ensembles”

- Group GI – participants aged 7-10.
- Group GII – participants aged 11-16.
- Group GIII – participants of music secondary schools aged 16-19.
- Group GIV – 1st–6th year students of higher schools; Master study programme and PhD students.

6.3. Category III “Orchestras”

- Group HI – Music school wind orchestra (participants aged 7-16).
- Group HII – Music secondary school wind orchestra (participants aged 16-19).
- Group HIII – Higher school wind orchestra.

7. The Requirements for the Participants

7.1. Category I “Soloists”

The participant of the Competition is required to perform two compositions different in character (virtuoso and cantilene).

The programme may include separate parts of a lengthy composition (for students of higher schools, including Master study programme and PhD students – two contrasting pieces, differing in both musical character and historical period. One or both pieces may consist of: complete works or individual movements from a concerto, sonata, suite, or other cyclic composition).

The duration of the performance including both musical compositions:

- Group AI, AII, AIII, DI, DII, DIII – the performance must not exceed 7 minutes.
- Group AIV, AV, DIV, DV – the performance must not exceed 10 minutes.
- Group BI, EI – the performance must not exceed 13 minutes.
- Group BII, EII – the performance must not exceed 15 minutes.
- Group BIII, BIV and FI, FII – the performance must not exceed 20 minutes.

7.2. Category II “Ensembles”

Programme for the Category II: minimum two compositions of different character; the category of the participants is determined by the oldest member of the ensemble. Programme duration:

- Group CI, GI – the performance must not exceed 8 minutes.
- Group CII, GII – the performance must not exceed 10 minutes.
- Group CIII, GIII – the performance must not exceed 12 minutes.
- Group IV – the performance must not exceed 14 minutes.

7.3. Category III “Orchestras”

Programme: minimum two compositions of different character; teachers and accompanists may be maximum 30% of the orchestra participation.

Programme duration:

- Group HI – the performance must not exceed 12 minutes;
- Group HII – the performance must not exceed 15 minutes;
- Group HIII – the performance must not exceed 20 minutes.

7.4. In case the performance exceeds the allotted time, the jury of the Competition have rights to stop the performance.

8. Requirements for video recording

- 8.1. Participants (Groups D, E, F, G and H) fill in Appendix 2 (for virtual participation) and provide a link to the video on the YouTube platform. The video recording must be uploaded to the YouTube platform (with public access), the title of the video must contain: WIND STARS 2026 – category, group D, E, F, G, H), Name, Surname. The programme must be specified in the description of the video. Video must be done in a single unedited take.

9. Evaluation

- 9.1. The jury of the Competition is approved by the Director of Mārupe Music and Art School. The decision of the jury is final and cannot be appealed.
- 9.2. The participants of Competition are evaluated in the frame of the group according to 25 points system. The evaluation criteria include:
- overall quality of the performance (sound, intonation, etc.);
 - technicality and precision during the performance;
 - artistry and originality of the performance.
 - The jury have the right to reduce the evaluation for non-compliance with the requirements of the competition regulations. Contestants agree that video recordings and information about the contestants may be made public.
- 9.3. Diplomas and Appreciation Certificates will be awarded based on the average rating by jury in each age and musical instrument group:
- First-level Diploma – 23-25 points
 - Second-level Diploma – 20-22.99 points;
 - Third-level Diploma – 18-19.99 points;
 - Appreciation Certificate – 17-17.99 points.
- 9.4. The jury of the Competition may award Grand Prix Diploma in groups AI-AIII, AIV-AV, DI-DIII, DIV-DV and in the following groups.
- 9.5. The jury members do not participate in the evaluation of their own pupils.
- 9.6. The jury have rights to award:
- Special Jury Award;
 - Appreciation Certificate to an accompanist.

10. Terms of the Participation

To register for the Competition a filled in Application Form (*Appendix 1* – for **in-person** participation; *Appendix 2* – for **virtual** participation) and registration fee payment order must be sent to Mārupe Music and Art School (wind-stars@inbox.lv) **until 10 February 2026**. (In the payment order, indicate the

contestant's name, surname, category, group, and the contest "WIND STARS 2026"). The participants are included in the Competition programme only after the registration fee has been paid. The registration fee is non-refundable.

The following papers must be submitted:

- the Application Form
- the registration fee payment order
- invoice details (for legal entities): payer, bank account number, number of the participants

The payment must be made to:

ORGANIZATION: Society MMMS AB

REGISTRATION NO: 40008122613

ADDRESS: Mazcenu aleja 39, Jaunmārupe, Mārupes novads, LV-2166, Latvia

BANK: SEB

SWIFT: UNLALV2X

BANK: LV36UNLA0050012017048

Payment details: Participation in the Competition "WIND STARS 2025", participant's name, surname, group

Registration fee:

Category I "Soloists"

Group A and D (music schools) – EUR 40.00

Group B and E (music secondary schools) – EUR 45.00

Group BIII, BIV and F (higher schools) – EUR 50.00

Category II "Ensembles", Group C and G – 25.00 EUR (for each participant in the ensemble)

Category III "Orchestras", Group H – 150.00 EUR.

Additional information:

- travel and accommodation expenses are paid by the participants themselves or by the educational establishment they represent;
- the performance timetable will be published on the school website <http://www.muzikamakslamarupe.edu.lv/> until **27 February 2025**.
- with the Competition organizers' permission, it is allowed to make audio and video recordings, and the participants are not rewarded for that.

Director of Mārupe Music and Art School

/ D. Štrodoha /

Director of the Competition (+371 26444898)

/ S. Kačāns /