

****Estonian Wind Orchestra Tournament 2026****

Competition Regulations

The aim of this competition is to promote wind music and gain insight into the current status of Estonian wind orchestras. The event is scheduled for March 28, 2026, at the Estonia Concert Hall, located at Estonia pst. 4, Tallinn.

Orchestras will be categorized into five groups, each with specified performance and setup times:

- Group A: Up to 12 minutes performance time; 5 minutes for orchestra setup.
- Group B: Up to 15 minutes performance time; 5 minutes for orchestra setup.
- Group C: Up to 15 minutes performance time; 5 minutes for orchestra setup.
- Group D: Up to 20 minutes performance time; 5 minutes for orchestra setup.
- Group E: Up to 20 minutes performance time; 5 minutes for orchestra setup.

Diplomas will be awarded based on average scores assessed by the jury, on a scale of one hundred points:

1. Gold Diploma: 80 - 100 points
2. Silver Diploma: 70 – 79.9 points
3. Bronze Diploma: 60 – 69.9 points

The competition will be judged by an international panel of experts, evaluating the following criteria:

1. Balance and dynamics
2. Musical design
3. Intonation
4. Articulation
5. Rhythm and tempo

Decisions made by the jury are final and not open to appeal. The orchestra with the highest points may be awarded the Grand Prix, in addition to special prizes.

****Mandatory Guidelines:****

- Group A: The entire program should be at a maximum difficulty level of grade 2. Only preparatory orchestras from music schools are eligible.
- Group B: The overall program should range in difficulty from grade 2 to 3.
- Group C: The entire program's difficulty level should range between 2,5 and 3,5.
- Group D: The entire program should range in difficulty from grade 3,5 to 4,5.
- Group E (including professional players): The entire program's difficulty level should be at least grade 4.

Professional players with a current employment contract within the last year may not participate in orchestras for Groups A, B, C, and D.

****Compulsory Works:****

- Groups A: Ott Kask – Lihtne lugu (A simple story) (Grade 1,5).

In Group A, the use of 5-voice instruments is also permitted.

- Groups, B, and C: Timo Steiner – Unistus, marss (Into the dream, march) (Grade 2,5)

- Groups, D, and E: Kristo Matson – Vanalinna legendid (Legends of the Old Town) (Grade 3,5).

In addition to the compulsory pieces, orchestras have the opportunity to select additional pieces within the designated time limit. Orchestrations exceeding the specified stage setup time will incur a deduction of 3 points from the orchestra's total score.

Orchestra registration for the competition is to be completed via a written application (preferably via email at ryytelmaa@gmail.com by December 31, 2025. Submissions can also be sent to Estonian Wind Music Association, Roosikrantsi 13, Tallinn 10119.

By February 15, 2026, each orchestra must submit a printed program containing the orchestra's name, conductor(s), authors, along with the pieces to be performed. Additionally, three copies of each score (excluding the test piece) must be provided.

Important Notes:

- Orchestras with a score of at least 88 points will participate in the next Estonian Wind Orchestra Tournament one group higher.

- Orchestras with a score less than 60 points will participate in the next competition one group lower.

- To secure first place, an orchestra must achieve a minimum of 80 points, 70 points for second place, and 60 points for third place.

- In case multiple orchestras are directed by the same conductor, the players of these orchestras may not overlap by 20% or more.