



National Choral Composition Competition 2026

Competition Rules

Mzansi Youth Choir · iPendoring · ATKV · SABC Radio · Brand South Africa · BBA Liminal

1. The Competition

1.1 The National Choral Composition Competition 2026 (“the Competition”) is presented by iPendoring in partnership with Mzansi Youth Choir, the ATKV and BBA Liminal.

1.2 The Competition has been established to mark thirty years of South Africa’s Constitution and to commission a new work of South African choral repertoire inspired by the Preamble to the Constitution.

1.3 The Competition invites composers to create an original choral composition that can be performed by Mzansi Youth Choir and subsequently made available to choirs and choral societies across South Africa.

2. The Commission

2.1 The Preamble to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa must be used as the source text for the composition. The Preamble articulates the Constitution’s vision of healing the divisions of the past, building a democratic and open society, improving the quality of life of all citizens, and building a united and democratic South Africa.

2.2 The work must be written for mixed choir (SATB: soprano, alto, tenor and bass) with piano accompaniment.

2.3 The work must have a duration of between four and seven minutes.



2.4 The composition must incorporate the indigenous South African languages specified in the official Competition Brief.

2.5 Reference audio recordings for the required languages will be made available to composers as part of the submission process.

2.6 The composition should be written with Mzansi Youth Choir in mind and must be practical for performance by the ensemble.

2.7 The work should bring together South Africa's diverse languages and voices in a composition that is celebratory, unifying and forward-looking.

3. Eligibility

3.1 The Competition is open to composers who meet the requirements set out in these Competition Rules.

3.2 Composers may enter individually or as a collaborative composing team.

3.3 Each composer or composing team may submit unlimited entry/entries.

3.4 The Competition is open to composers based in South Africa.

3.5 There is no age restriction on entrants.

3.6 Employees, directors and representatives of the organising partners who are directly involved in the administration or adjudication of the Competition may not enter.

3.7 Members of the adjudication panel, and anyone directly involved in judging a particular entry, may not enter that entry.





4. Originality and Previous Publication

4.1 All entries must be original works created specifically for this Competition.

4.2 The submitted composition **must not** have been previously published, commercially released or publicly performed.

4.3 The composer must confirm that the work is their original creation and does not knowingly infringe the copyright or other rights of any third party.

4.4 Where a composition is created collaboratively, all contributing composers must be identified at the time of submission.

5. Submission Requirements

5.1 Each entry must include:

- A completed PDF score.
- A MIDI or digital audio mock-up of the composition.
- The completed official submission form.
- Confirmation that the work is original and complies with these Competition Rules.

5.2 The score must clearly identify the title of the work and the name(s) of the composer(s).

5.3 The audio mock-up must correspond to the submitted score.

5.4 Entries must be submitted via the official Competition submission form.

5.5 Reference audio recordings for the required indigenous languages will be made available through the official submission process.





6. Submission Deadline

6.1 Entries must be received by **Wednesday, 14 October 2026**.

6.2 Entries received after the deadline may not be considered.

6.3 The organisers reserve the right to extend the submission deadline where circumstances require. Any change will be communicated through the official Competition channels.

7. Adjudication

7.1 Entries will be assessed by an independent panel with expertise in choral conducting, composition, indigenous languages and cultural practice.

7.2 Representatives of the organising partners may participate in the adjudication process, subject to the final composition of the panel.

7.3 Entries will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Musical originality and creativity**
- **Choral practicality and suitability for performance**
- **Musical and emotional impact**
- **Effective and respectful integration of the required languages**
- **Interpretation of the Preamble**
- **Alignment with the spirit and objectives of the Competition**

7.4 The adjudicators' decision will be final, subject to any procedural requirements determined by the organisers.

7.5 The organisers reserve the right not to award a winner if, in the opinion of the adjudication panel, no entry meets the required standard.





8. Winner and Premiere

8.1 The winning composer will be notified following the completion of the adjudication process.

8.2 The winning work is scheduled to be premiered by Mzansi Youth Choir at the iPendoring Awards on **26 November 2026** at the **UJ Arts Theatre, Johannesburg**, subject to final production and rehearsal arrangements.

8.3 The winning composer may be invited to work with Mzansi Youth Choir and the musical team during the preparation and rehearsal of the work.

8.4 The organisers may make reasonable editorial or performance-related adjustments to the winning composition in consultation with the composer where required for performance.

9. Prize

9.1 The winning composer will receive a **R6,000 cash prize**.

9.2 Any additional benefits, recognition or opportunities associated with the winning entry will be communicated to the winning composer.

10. Copyright and Use of the Winning Work

The winning composition is intended to become part of South African choral repertoire and to be performed and shared by choirs and choral societies across the country.

The final rights position will be confirmed by the organising partners and agreed with the winning composer before publication of the final Competition Rules.

10.1 The composer will retain copyright in the winning composition, subject to the rights and permissions granted to the organisers under the final agreement.





10.2 The organisers intend for the winning work to be made available for performance by choirs and choral societies across South Africa.

10.3 The final agreement will specify the rights granted to the organisers, which may include the rights to:

- Perform the winning work.
- Record the winning work.
- Photograph and film performances.
- Reproduce and distribute the score.
- Make the score and/or recordings available digitally.
- Promote the Competition and winning work across media and social platforms.
- Authorise performances by choirs and choral societies.

10.4 Any rights granted to the organisers will be subject to a separate written agreement with the winning composer where required.

11. Recording, Promotion and Publicity

11.1 By entering the Competition, composers agree that the organisers may identify them as entrants for reasonable Competition-related publicity.

11.2 The organisers may use the title of an entry and the composer's name in connection with the Competition, adjudication, announcement of the winner and promotion of the resulting work.

11.3 The premiere and related activities may be photographed, filmed and recorded for archival, editorial and promotional purposes.

11.4 Any commercial exploitation of recordings or other materials will be subject to the rights and agreements applicable to the winning work.

12. Disqualification

12.1 An entry may be disqualified if:





- It does not meet the requirements of the Competition.
- It is submitted after the deadline.
- It contains false or misleading information.
- It is found not to be original.
- It infringes the rights of another person or organisation.
- The entrant has failed to disclose a material conflict of interest.
- The entrant has otherwise breached these Competition Rules.

12.2 The organisers reserve the right to request clarification or supporting information from an entrant where necessary to verify eligibility or compliance.

13. Changes to the Competition

13.1 The organisers reserve the right to make reasonable changes to the Competition where circumstances require, including changes to dates, submission procedures, adjudication arrangements or the premiere.

13.2 Any material changes will be communicated through the official Competition channels.

14. Acceptance of the Rules

14.1 Submission of an entry constitutes acceptance of these Competition Rules.

14.2 By submitting an entry, the composer confirms that the information supplied is accurate and that the submitted work complies with the requirements of the Competition.

14.3 The organisers' interpretation of these Competition Rules will apply in the administration of the Competition, subject to applicable law.





Key Dates

Milestone	Dates
Competition Opens	14 August 2026
Submission deadline	14 October 2026
Adjudication	19–23 October 2026
Winner announced	26–27 October 2026
Premiere	26 November 2026

Venue: UJ Arts Theatre, Johannesburg

Official Contact

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