# RISING STARS COMPETITIONS 2027

BAY OF PLENTY SYMPHONIA

# GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

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## INTRODUCTION

The 2027 Rising Stars Competitions give young musicians the opportunity to present their talent to the public in a live concert with Bay of Plenty Symphonia. The Concerto and Composition Competitions are open to students who will be 18 years and younger on 28th August 2027, and are enrolled at any school (or home-schooled) in the Bay of Plenty. Note that e.g. Taupō is not part of the Bay of Plenty. Competition winners will be awarded a cash prize. The winner from the previous edition of the competition will be invited to perform with the Bay of Plenty Symphonia as a guest soloist outside the competition in the final, but can not enter the competition as a participant. They will be free to enter again in the following competition if they satisfy entry requirements.

## *A. CONCERTO COMPETITION*

### *Permitted instruments*

Permitted instruments are those covered by Trinity College exams, as listed in various syllabi accessible through https://www.trinitycollege.com/qualifications/music/grade-exams. However, voice and organ are not allowed as solo instruments. If in doubt, please contact Bay of Plenty Symphonia mentioning the instrument you would like to participate with, and - ideally - the piece you intend to perform. Concertos for more than one solo instrument are excluded from the competition.

Participants may submit entries for more than one instrument, but Bay of Plenty Symphonia reserves the right to limit each participant's entry in the competition final to one only.

# *Permitted works*

For the first round submission for this competition, you should play one movement of a concerto, or equivalent. The music should be written for solo instrument accompanied by symphony orchestra. Bay of Plenty Symphonia reserves the right to refuse entries if the music is excessively difficult, orchestration is unrealistic, or sheet music is excessively expensive or unavailable. In such cases, we will notify the contestants upon registration and give the opportunity to enter the competition with a different work.

# *First Round*

The first round submission will consist of a video recording of the contestant's performance of their piece. From the submissions, a number of finalists will be selected by a jury nominated by Bay of Plenty Symphonia. Finalists will perform their work with Bay of Plenty Symphonia at the final concert, when a winner will be selected and announced by an independent jury.

The movement you submit for the first round should be the same movement you'll play in the final. The entire movement must be recorded, though you may skip a cadenza if you wish (except for a cadenza written out by the composer). Note however that, should you make it to the final, a cadenza will be required where musically appropriate. Please observe the smaller rests (say, up to two bars), but there is no need to strictly observe the longer rests.

The recording may be **unaccompanied** or accompanied by a pianist.

***How to record?***

You should record video and audio. The camera should be positioned as close as possible to the performer, while still being able to observe his/her *entire* body. The recording should be a single-take recording of the entire movement. **Strictly no editing of the recording** is allowed (except for cutting at the start and the end of the movement). However, it is allowed to replace the *entire* sound track by that of a different (i.e. better) sound recorder, provided it is a recording of the same performance, and is itself unedited (in this case, minor synchronisation problems are acceptable).

***How to post on YouTube?***

You should post the video on YouTube using any YouTube account. You should then mark the video as "unlisted" (**not** public and **not** private). This means that the video will not show up in YouTube searches, and you need the full link to be able to see it. Please submit the full link to Bay of Plenty Symphonia as your entry. We kindly request you **not** to make the video public after announcement of the finalists, whether or not you are successful.

# *Timeline*

The following deadlines will be strictly observed:

- **By 5 pm Fri 27th March, 2027:** competitors must submit an Entry form showing an intent to take part in the competition. Bay of Plenty Symphonia reserves the right to cancel the competition if there are insufficient credible applicants.
- **By 5 pm Fri 28th May, 2027**: competitors must upload their audition clip to YouTube and email the link to Bay of Plenty Symphonia.
- **By Mon 7th June, 2027:** Bay of Plenty Symphonia will endeavour to announce finalists, but reserves the right to cancel or alter the concert if insufficient submissions of the required quality have been received. Finalists will be asked to submit a quality photo and a short biography for promotional purposes as well as short programme notes for inclusion in the concert programme.
- Concert performance: **Saturday 28th August, 2027** with rehearsal dates to be advised. Participants must be available for all rehearsals and concert as requested by Bay of Plenty Symphonia.

## *Judgement criteria*

First round competitors will be judged on musicianship, technical ability, presentation and their perceived ability to perform with Bay of Plenty Symphonia in concert.

For the final, judgement criteria will be at the discretion of the jury, which will consist of respected professional classical musicians.

### NOTE:

Participation in the Concerto Competition automatically implies permission for Bay of Plenty Symphonia to record the performance in the final for future promotional use. Any recordings will be made available to the winning performer for use as he/she sees fit. Recordings of the first round will not be made public.

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# B. COMPOSITION COMPETITION

## *Your composition*

***Duration***

The maximum duration for the composition is 5 (five) minutes.

***Resources***

The available musicians are as follows:

- Standard string orchestra (violin 1&2, viola, cellos, double bass) of approximately 25-30 players

- Double woodwind (2 flutes, clarinets, oboes, bassoons. Note that one of the flutes may double on piccolo. Cor anglais, bass clarinet and contrabassoon are not available)
- Timpani (up to 3 kettledrums played by 1 player, range from D2 up to F3). Note that the timpanist will not play percussion.
- Percussion (1 player only, playing any one or a combination of these: bass drum, snare drum, crash cymbals, suspended cymbal, tambourine, triangle, castanets, tam-tam, glockenspiel).
- Brass: 2 French horns, 2 trumpets, 1 trombone **or** bass trombone.

NOTE: It is **not** a requirement that all these players are used.

No other performers are allowed on stage (including the composer), except to operate electronic equipment and/or tape playback where needed.

***Style and difficulty***

The music should be playable by a community orchestra, without the need for excessive rehearsal time. The full score should be completely self-explanatory (include performance notes where needed), in such a way that the work can be rehearsed without further input by the composer.

Within reason, aleatoric or improvised sections are accepted, provided the instructions are clear and unambiguous. Within reason, electro-acoustic (backing-tape) or other electronic effects are permitted, but the composer will be responsible for ensuring all equipment is available for rehearsals and performance at no cost to the orchestra.

Within reason, the performances may include non-standard performance elements, provided these can be produced at no further cost to the orchestra, and provided they do not require excessive stage set-up/break-down time.

# *Coaching*

Two forms of coaching will be available to all participants free of charge:

- A qualified composer or composition student will provide artistic coaching, by communication via email. This coach will make suggestions to improve the composition in any way, by adding musical variety or clarity, changing the structure, suggesting instrumental colours, etc. It is recommended that the work is about 2/3 finished at the time this advice is sought.

- Michael Joel (Music Director, Bay of Plenty Symphonia) will provide a technical review, by communication via email. He will look at the technical aspects of the score, ensuring all instructions are clear and unambiguous with a clear lay-out, and check for difficulty and instrument ranges, etc. He will not comment on the artistic merits of the composition. It is recommended that the work is essentially finished at the time his advice is sought.

Although not compulsory, it is strongly recommended that participants make use of both opportunities for coaching, and plan their work accordingly, for their personal education and to maximize their chances for this competition.

# *Timeline*

The following deadlines will be strictly observed:

- **By 5 pm Fri 27th March, 2027**: composers must submit an Entry form showing an intent to take part in the competition. No composed music is required at this stage. Bay of Plenty Symphonia reserves the right to cancel the competition if there are insufficient applications at this stage.

- **By 5 pm Fri 30th April 2027** (OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED): deadline for submitting a *draft* score by email, preferably in Sibelius (version 7 or earlier) or else as PDF. The score will be reviewed by a composition coach, who will endeavour to complete the review within days of receiving the draft, so that there is time to incorporate any suggestions for improvement.

- **By 5 pm Fri 14th May 2027** (OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED): deadline for submitting a draft score by email in PDF format for free technical review by Michael Joel. He will endeavour to complete the review within days of receiving the draft, so that there is time to incorporate any suggestions for improvement.

- **By 5 pm Fri 28th May 2027**: composers must submit the final version of the full score (or equivalent) of their composition as:

  - one paper copy and
  - electronic version in PDF format (this may be e-mailed separately).

  At this point, parts are not yet required, but after this date no further revisions are allowed. Supporting files (e.g. Sibelius, Midi files, etc) are strongly encouraged but not strictly required. It is strongly recommended that the score is typeset by computer (e.g. Sibelius), but this is not strictly required.

- Bay of Plenty Symphonia will endeavour to announce the winner of this competition no later than **11th June, 2027**, but reserves the right to announce no winner if no submission of sufficient quality has been received.

- **By 9th July 2027**: the announced winner (only) will submit parts for all players. Parts need to be clear and readable and can be delivered in PDF format. If all parts have not been received by this date, Bay of Plenty Symphonia reserves the right to cancel the performance of the winning composition, in which case no prize will be awarded. The winner will be asked to submit a quality photo and a short biography for promotional purposes as well as short programme notes for inclusion in the concert programme.

- Concert performance: **Saturday 28th August 2027** with 2 prior rehearsals (dates to be advised).

# Judgement criteria

While the primary judgement criteria will be musical merit (musical interest, originality, form, effective use of instruments, etc), the presentation of the score will also be taken into account.

## NOTE:

Participation in the Composition Competition automatically implies permission for Bay of Plenty Symphonia to perform and/or record the winning work at no charge for a period of three years. Any recordings will be made available to the composer for use as he/she sees fit.

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# COMMUNICATIONS

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO bopssecretary@gmail.com with **Rising Stars 2027** in the Subject field.

For further assistance and related documents please contact bopssecretary@gmail.com or call 021 025 911 96.

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# RELATED DOCUMENTS

OVERVIEW

ENTRY FORM – CONCERTO COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM – COMPOSITION COMPETITION