

2027 National Big Band Composition Awards



Generations in Jazz (the worlds largest Big Band Festival and home of the National Stage Band & Vocal Awards)

Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra (Australia's leading youth Big Band comprising elite, auditioned musicians aged 18 – 25)

& **Jazz Composers Co-op** (a professional Big Band that meets monthly for reading sessions of new compositions by Australian composers) are thrilled to announce the **2027 National Big Band Composition Awards**.

Australia has an incredibly dynamic and internationally respected Big Band scene but opportunities for Jazz Composers to have their works professionally rehearsed, recorded and broadcast have become increasingly rare. This exciting initiative has been created to foster and celebrate the next generation of Australian jazz composers. and provide further pathways and a national platform for both youth and emerging Jazz composers to be heard. The Awards also aim to nurture composers whose work may one day become part of the GIJ Stage Band Awards set pieces repertoire and further supporting fresh, innovative voices to shape the future of Australian Jazz.

Through these awards, GIJ, AYJO & JCC continue their collective commitment to supporting excellence in jazz education, composition, and performance of excellent Big Band music for generations to come.

The 2027 NBBCA will consist of two divisions:- Division 1 (Emerging) and Division 2 (Youth).

Division 1 - Emerging

Division 1 Overview

Division 1 entries will be anonymously assessed by a Panel of Judges before Compositions are shortlisted and announced on Oct 22, 2026.

During Late October & November the Sydney based Jazz Composers Co-op will rehearse and record the shortlisted compositions. Shortlisted composers will receive feedback from both the judges and the Jazz Composers Co-op regarding their composition. These recordings will be further assessed and three finalists will be chosen to attend Generations in Jazz in May 2027 for the final stage of the awards.

Finalists are given a further opportunity to revise their compositions, taking judges feedback into account, before the final score submission on April 1, 2027 when the parts, with no further amendments allowed, will be disseminated to AYJO musicians for advance preparation for Generations in Jazz. Finalists will travel to Generations in Jazz and each composer will each be given a dedicated 40min rehearsal slot followed by a live recorded performance of their work by the 2027 Australian Youth Jazz Orchestra with the Judges in attendance.

After all the finalists have rehearsed & live recorded their work, the Judges will deliberate and the winning composer will receive a cash prize and have their work performed and broadcast quality audio & video recorded as part of the Generations in Jazz Festival closing concert in front of approximately 8,000 Big Band lovers.

- Eligibility:** Australian composers Aged 18 – 28
NB must be 18 on 1/1/27 OR 28 and under on 31/12/27
- Entry Fee:** \$30
- Due Date:** Oct 12, 2026
- Submit via:** www.ayjo.com.au
- Prizes:**
- \$5,000 cash prize
 - shortlist receives detailed feedback from Judges and a demo recording by the Jazz Composers Co-Op
 - an ABC Jazz Broadcast of winning Performance w/ AYJO
 - Finalists receive mentorship with Judges & AYJO AD's
 - Finalists rehearse & perform with AYJO at GIJ 2027
 - Finals compositions considered as GIJ Div 1 Test Piece
 - Finalists receive a subscription to Jazz Composers Present - an acclaimed online resource offering lessons, masterclasses and more
 - cost free attendance at GIJ Festival
- Rules:**
- submissions must be original and unpublished
 - be an original jazz composition between 6-8mins written by an Australian citizen (or permanent resident) for Big Band and a single improvised soloist
 - composed for the following instrumentation:-
 - Saxes x5 (Sop/Alto, Alto 2, Tenor x 2, Bari)
 - Trumpets x 4
 - Trombones x 4 (Tenor Trom x3, Bass Trom x1)
 - Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drums
 - compositions must be at least 2/3 orchestrated
NB orchestration includes backing figures
 - Judges decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding results
 - non-winning works may also be considered as future test pieces
 - all submissions must be anonymous and not contain any identifying file names. audio files must also not contain any identifying features such as speaking or count in. *NB Any identifying features will void submission*
 - winning composer grants GIJ performance and recording rights (as negotiated)



2027 NBBCA Broadcast Partner - ABC Jazz

Division 2 - Youth

Division 2 Overview

The Division 2 - Youth section of the awards is designed to foster and celebrate the next generation of Australian jazz composers (under 21yo) and provide a stepping stone to Division 1 by connecting developing composers with mentoring from NCCBA judges, rehearsal workshops with AYJO and networking with Div. 1 Finalists and Australia's leading youth practitioners of Big Band at GIJ, Australia's leading Big Band festival.

Division 2 provides a platform for creative growth and a pathway into the broader jazz community. This initiative also aspires to nurture composers whose work may one day become part of the Stage Band Awards set pieces repertoire, supporting fresh, innovative voices to shape the future of Australian Jazz.

Division 2 Submission Details

Instrumentation: Division 2 compositions are to be orchestrated for a Big Band comprised of the following instrumentation:-

Saxes x5 (Alto x, 2, Tenor x 2, Bari x1)
Trumpets x 4
Trombones x 4 (Tenor Trombone x 3 & Bass Trombone x 1)
Rhythm Section: Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drums
Aux: Vibraphone, Percussion (congas, bongos, shaker, chimes)
**auxiliary percussion may be omitted from swing compositions but is encourage across all styles where possible & appropriate*

all compositions may include featured soloist(s)

Div. 4 Instrumentation: If your composition is written for Div 4, the following alternate parts must also be submitted:-

Flute
Clarinet 1 (alternate for Alto sax 1)
Clarinet 2 (alternate for Alto sax 2)
French Horn (alternate for Trombone 1)
Tenor Sax (alternate for Trombone 2)
Tenor Sax (alternate for Trombone 3)
Tuba (alternate for Bass Trombone)

Style: The musical style is up to the composer and may incorporate styles idiomatic to jazz such as swing, bossa-nova, Afro- Cuban, funk, fusion or contemporary straight 8th grooves.

Technical Requirements: The purpose of the prize is to encourage the composition and performance of the highest quality big band music for a range of performance levels across the secondary school sector. Compositions should therefore be conceived and constructed to ensure effective performance by secondary school bands within the following prescribed conditions. Submissions will be assessed on their musical merits while also considering the playability of the composition according to the conditions of the division.

Eligibility:	Australian composers up to 20yo <i>NB you must be under 21yo on 1/07/2026</i>
Entry Fee:	no entry fee
Due Date:	Dec 31, 2026
Submit via:	www.ayjo.com.au
Prizes:	- Finalists receive one on one mentorship & tuition with NBBCA judges & AYJO AD's - Finalists rehearse with & have their composition played by AYJO at GIJ Festival - Finalist compositions are considered as GIJ Div 3 or Div 4 Test Pieces - Finalists receive a subscription to Jazz Composers Present - an acclaimed online resource offering lessons, masterclasses and more
Rules:	- submissions must be original and unpublished <i>NB works may have been previously performed</i> - be an original jazz composition between 5-8mins written by an Australia citizen (or permanent resident) and meet the specified technical requirements - composers can compete in multiple divisions but must submit a separate entry for each division - winning composer grants GIJ performance and recording rights (as negotiated) - GIJ & NBBCA reserve the right not to award or vary the prize - Judges decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding results - non-winning works may be also selected for performance or as test pieces. If selected a \$1,500 fee will be paid to composers for use - all submissions must be anonymous and not contain any identifying file names. audio files must also not contain any identifying features such as speaking or count in. Any identifying features will void submission
What to Submit:	- a single PDF file of a fully notated transposed score, generated using a music notation program. <i>NB handwritten sketches will not be accepted.</i> - an .mp3 file of your composition (live or midi). <i>NB Submissions are judged on their compositional merits, regardless of mp3 quality.</i> - scores and mp3's should be labelled identically with the division number and title of the composition <i>eg SBA Division 4 Walk in the Park</i>

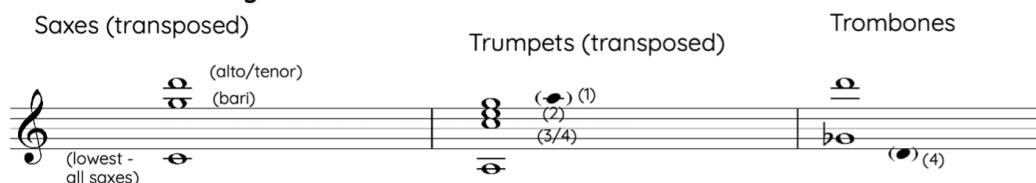
pro tip: prepare the above before submitting online entry

Technical Requirements (cont...)

COMPOSITIONS FOR DIVISION 3: Composition to be of an intermediate level - grade 3 to 3.5

Division Three is for bands at an intermediate level. Horn players' technical proficiency may be equivalent to that required for grade four (and above) A.M.E.B, Trinity or ABRSM examinations. Solos are to be written out with chord changes provided. Rhythm section parts should contain suggested voicings and rhythms. Guitar chord frames (aka Tablature) are required to assist young guitarists.

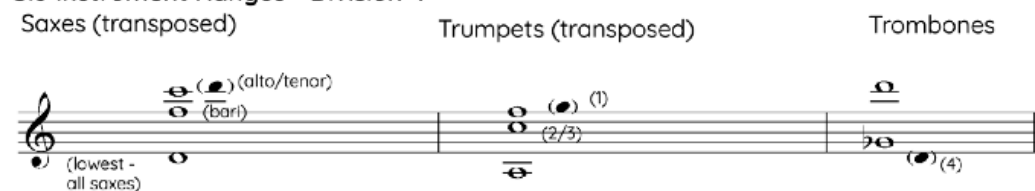
GIJ Instrument Ranges - Division 3



COMPOSITIONS FOR DIVISION 4: Composition to be of an upper junior level - grade 2 to 2.5

Division Four is for bands at an upper junior to lower intermediate level. Horn players' technical proficiency may be equivalent to that required for grade three (and above) A.M.E.B, Trinity or ABRSM examinations. Solos are to be written out with chord changes provided. Rhythm section parts should contain suggested voicings and rhythms. Guitar chord frames required to assist young guitarists.

GIJ Instrument Ranges - Division 4



Suggested Rehearsal Requirements:

It is suggested that the original composition should be such that a secondary school big band could reach performance standard after approximately 20 hours of 'full band' rehearsal. This approximation is not inclusive of instrument specific sectionals or individual practice.

Composition Length:

The length of the work should be designed for a performance duration of between 5 - 8 minutes.

Composition use as a Test Piece

In the event any submitted composition is chosen to be used as a test piece, a fee of \$1,500 will be paid by Generations in Jazz to the composer

Deadline:

The deadline for submission is 31/12/2026 by completing the online entry form www.ayjo.com.au and uploading a link to access your files

Division 2 Festival Participation:

If shortlisted; attendance at the GIJ Festival (31st April to 2nd May 2027) is required. A festival pass will be provided but accommodation and travel is at your own cost.