



## **COMPOSITION COMPETITION**

**presented by Generations in Jazz Inc.**

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FOR TO BE USED AS A GUIDE FOR THE 2026 COMPOSITION COMPETITION.  
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# GIJ Composition Competition

The Generations in Jazz (GIJ) Composition Competition is designed to foster and celebrate the next generation of Australian jazz composers. By connecting emerging composers with established composers, GIJ is providing a platform for creative growth and a pathway into the broader jazz community.

This initiative also aspires to nurture composers whose work may perhaps one day even become part of the Stage Band Awards set pieces repertoire - setting the stage for fresh, innovative voices to shape the future of Australian jazz.

Award recipients will gain exclusive access to:

- One-on-one mentorship and tuition with leading international jazz composers.
- A subscription to [Jazz Composers Present](#), an acclaimed online resource offering lessons, masterclasses, and inspiration from some of the world's finest jazz minds.

Through this award, GIJ continues its commitment to supporting excellence in jazz education, composition, and performance.

**The winning entry will be awarded up to \$2000 (AUD) in mentoring.**

**Entry Fee:** No Entry Fee Required

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be an Australian citizen and 25 years of age or younger as at June 1<sup>st</sup> 2025.

**Closing date:** 31.12.2025

**Questions:**

Questions can be directed to Generations in Jazz via email to [admin@generationsinjazz.com.au](mailto:admin@generationsinjazz.com.au)

**Compositions Details:**

**Instrumentation** - The compositions are to be orchestrated for a big band comprised of the following instrumentation:

5 Saxophones (alto sax 1, alto sax 2, tenor sax 1, tenor sax 2 and baritone sax)  
4 x Trumpets  
4 x Trombones  
1 x Piano  
1 x Drums  
1 x Bass (electric or double bass)  
1 x Guitar  
1 x Vibraphone  
1 x Percussion (congas, bongos, shaker, chimes)

Auxiliary percussion may be omitted from swing compositions but encouraged across all styles where possible and appropriate.

You will also be required to submit the following alternate parts if your piece is written for Division 4:

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)

**All Compositions may include featured soloist(s).**

## **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

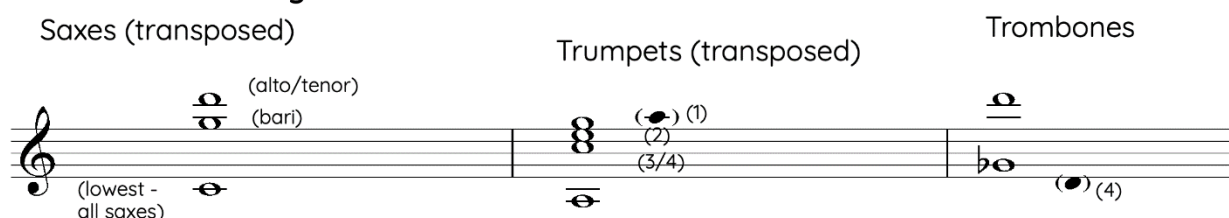
The purpose of the prize is to encourage the composition and performance of the highest quality big band music for a range of performance levels across the secondary school sector. Therefore, compositions should be conceived and constructed to ensure effective performance by secondary school bands within the 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.

### 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 required to assist young guitarists.

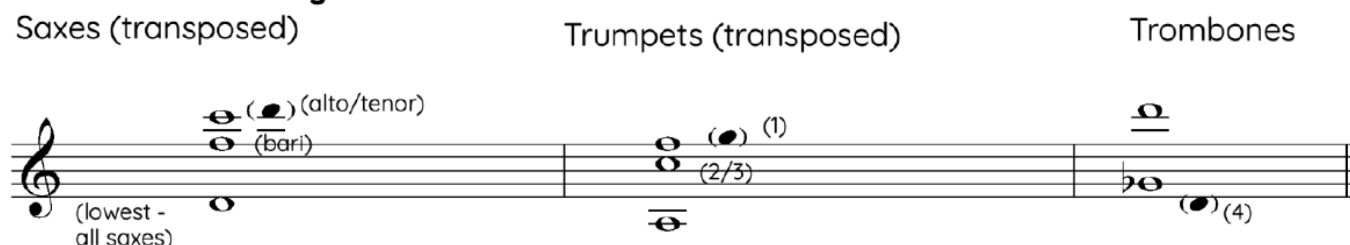
#### GIJ Instrument Ranges - Division 3



### 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.

## LENGTH

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

## DEADLINE

The deadline for submission is **31.12.2025** by completing the online entry form and uploading a link to access your files.

## SUBMISSION DETAILS

Submissions must:

1. Include a single PDF file of a fully notated transposed score, generated from a music notation program such as Sibelius, Finale, Dorico, Musescore (or other). Please note that handwritten sketches will not be accepted.
2. Include a single Mp3 file of a recording or audio representation of the original composition. While live recordings are encouraged, it is understood that live recordings may not be possible, therefore, Mp3 files of exported midi will also be accepted.

**Audio files must be submitted in mp3 format only.**

**Note:** All submissions will be judged on their compositional merits, regardless of performance and audio quality.

3. Be labelled identically with the division number and title of the composition e.g. SBA Division 4 *Walk in the Park*
4. **Be completely anonymous files.** The composer's name (or any other name) must not appear on the score or labelled on any submitted files. Additionally, any audible verbal count in or introduction should be omitted from the recording.

**Any identifying features of any submitted file will make the submission void.**

Submissions will be forward to judges for blind assessment.

5. Be submitted before 11:59pm AEST on 31.12.2025
6. Include a completed official entry form (to be completed online) [www.generationsinjazz.com.au](http://www.generationsinjazz.com.au)
7. Be submitted as two (2) separate labelled files - 1. PDF of score, 2. Mp3 audio file.
8. Be submitted separately for different divisions should an applicant be submitting more than one composition.

Please note: Submissions will not be returned under any circumstances to the sender and it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that they do not send any 'masters' of any notated files, audio files or any other content.

## PRIZE

The winning entry will be awarded up to \$2000 (AUD) in mentoring.

If shortlisted; attendance at the GIJ festival (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026) is required, a festival pass will be provided but accommodation and travel is at your own cost.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Submitted works must be original compositions, meaning it is the unassisted conceptual work of the composer other than receiving general guidance or advice from a teacher or mentor
2. Submitted works must be unpublished.
3. Submitted works must be limited to one original composition per division. Applicants may submit original compositions to more than one division. A single original composition cannot be submitted across multiple divisions.
4. Submitted works must not exceed the range requirements as specified for each division.
5. The composer must be an Australian citizen or have permanent resident status in Australia.
6. The composer must be 25 years of age or younger by **1 July 2025**.
7. Composition may have been previously performed.
8. A condition of accepting the prize will be granting performance rights to Generations in Jazz and exclusive performance, recording rights and use for up to one year after the festival or as negotiated.
9. The Generations in Jazz Board reserves the right not to award any prize, to reserve or partially distribute the prize money, and/or to negotiate modifications to submitted scores.
10. In the event that the judges deem that no submission has reached the required standard, the prize will be retained for a future competition. The judges' decisions are final in all respects.

No correspondence or communication will be entered into by the Generations in Jazz or the judges on any aspect of the competition.

11. Works other than the winning entry may be chosen for performance and or use; in which case a performing fee will be negotiated.