

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
2026 COMPOSITION COMPETITION
FOR PERFORMANCE WITH ORCHESTRA**

GUIDELINES

The Composition Competition for Performance with Orchestra is open to all full-time School of Music students majoring in Composition. Students who have had a work performed previously by the Boston University Symphony or Chamber Orchestra as part of this competition are not eligible to apply. The piece submitted for consideration must have been composed at Boston University and pieces that have had only a reading/recording session with the orchestra are eligible to be considered.

Students wishing to participate in the Competition must submit a composition for orchestra to the School of Music Curriculum Library by **12:00 noon on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.**

The following guidelines will apply:

1. The composition should be a maximum of ten minutes in length.
2. All works must be original (no arrangements are allowed).
3. The orchestra size is 2222 (woodwinds), 4331 (brass), timpani, percussion (two players), and strings. Woodwinds doubling 2nd parts may include piccolo or alto flute, but not both; English horn; E-flat clarinet or bass clarinet, but not both; and contrabassoon.
4. The piece may not include soloists (either vocal or instrumental) or chorus.
5. Composers may submit one piece only and **must submit parts** (only single string parts) as well as a score. Proper notation of both score and parts will be a factor in selecting the piece, and it is possible that no piece will be chosen for a performance.

In the hope of making the experience a valuable one for both the composer and the orchestra, students interested in entering are strongly urged to discuss the feasibility and appropriateness of the piece being considered with their teacher.