



TAMPA BAY
SYMPHONY

Tampa Bay Symphony 9th Annual INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION

The Tampa Bay Symphony is announcing a call for scores competition for living composers. One score will be selected for performance on our Winter 2026 concert series.* Finalists will be notified by October 21, 2025 and the symphony will read/rehearse the compositions by the finalists at a public event on Sunday, January 11, 2026. There is a cash prize of \$1,500 for the winning composer provided the composer attends at least one of the Winter 2026 performances in person. Up to three finalists will be chosen to have their works rehearsed by the orchestra. Each finalist is eligible for *up to* \$650 in travel reimbursement if they are able to attend the reading rehearsal on January 11, 2026.

TIMELINE

Deadline for submission of materials: September 30, 2025.

Finalists notified by October 21, 2025

Finalists must submit parts by November 15, 2025 (parts will not be returned)

Parts and Scores must follow the guidelines set forth by: [MOLA Guidelines for Music Preparation](#).

January 11, 2026: Reading/rehearsal of finalist compositions followed by announcement of selected composition for the Winter 2026 concerts*

Winter Series 2026 Performances are: February 13, 2026 8pm at New Tampa PAC, February 15, 2026 2:30pm at the Straz Center, Tampa and February 17, 2026 8pm at the Coliseum, St.

Petersburg - **Dates and venues are subject to change** (Winning composer must attend at least one of the performances to receive the cash award of \$1,500.)

***The Tampa Bay Symphony reserves the right to choose no winning selection. The Music Director will also consider all finalist works and submissions for possible future programming even if not chosen by the orchestra as the winning piece.**

ELIGIBILITY

- **The work must be composed in 2025.**
- **Compositions should be in the style of a lively concert opener and 2 - 5 minutes in length.**
- All interested composers at any stage in their career are eligible to apply. There are no age or citizenship restrictions.
- Only one submission per composer will be considered at this time. Please do not send multiple works.
- **Works shorter than 2 minutes or longer than 5 minutes are subject to disqualification at the sole discretion of the Tampa Bay Symphony.**
- Works that have been chosen as winners or finalists in previous years may not be resubmitted, however previous winners and finalists are encouraged to submit new works.
- All works must be original works solely written and scored by the composer. A work may not have more than one author.

PAST WINNERS

2017 – Season 1 – winner: Allen Molineux, *Trifles*

Link to TBS performance of 2017 winning composition:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X-0laYJOuU&feature=youtu.be>

2018 – Season 2 – winner: Daniel Despina, *Yetzer Hara*

Link to TBS performance of 2018 winning composition:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsFMHlfyxbA>

2019 – Season 3 – winner: Alejandro Ruty, *Waking Up Down at the Bottom of the Sea*

Link to TBS performance of 2019 winning composition:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWYMakqgYls>

2020 – Season 4 – winner: Kevin Wilks Lau, *Voices of Time: A Portrait of Lake Moraine*

Link to TBS performance of 2020 winning composition:

<https://youtu.be/O4sIbdHx-ww>

2022 – Season 5 – winner: Brenton Broadstock *Let There Be Light*, performed Winter 2022

Link to TBS performance of 2022 winning composition:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qQqgp5i2sJw&list=PLNrfTRQNYN9qPckL1bTvgGY7Kw8Jh_vJC&index=6

2023 - Season 6 - winner: Austin Ali *Defiant Overture*, Performed Spring 2023

Link to TBS performance of 2023 winning composition:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvsRsH0w9PA>

2024 - Season 7 - winner: Pasquale Tassone *Rhapsody for Flute and Orchestra*, Performed Fall 2024

Link to TBS performance of 2024 winning composition: TBD

Instrumentation

No more than 2 flutes (one doubling piccolo is OK)

No more than 3 oboes (one doubling English Horn or one English Horn/2 oboes OK)

No more than 3 clarinets (one doubling Bass Clarinet or one Bass Clarinet/2 clarinets OK)

No more than 2 bassoons

No more than 5 horns

No more than 3 trumpets

No more than 3 trombones (one is bass)

No more than 1 Tuba

No more than one set of Timpani

No more than 3 percussionists (in addition to Timpani)

Strings (current TBS string numbers are 28 violins, 11 violas, 10 cellos and 6 basses)

The submitted composition should include at least one full string section

WORKS WITH HARP parts ARE eligible!

WORKS WITH PIANO parts will NOT be considered!

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Submission of all materials is electronic. Please send an email to Susan Rhein at susan@tampabaysymphony.org using a subject line of *TBS Composition Contest*, including the following:

- PDF of the score of the submission
- PDF of program notes and performance history for the submission if it has previously been performed. New works that have not been performed are welcomed.
- Audio (.mp3) or video (.mov /.mp4) recordings of the work, or links to on-line recordings, if available (This is not required, MIDI representations are acceptable.)
- A brief bio of the composer submitting the work with contact EMAIL address and phone number
- A \$25 USD non-refundable application fee must be received by the Tampa Bay Symphony by September 30, 2025. This application fee must be paid via PayPal invoice. **Please do not submit your entry fee first!** Submit your materials to Susan Rhein first. You will then receive a PayPal invoice.

Files over 20MB should be submitted using a file-sharing service such as Google Drive or Dropbox. Please address questions to Susan Rhein at susan@tampabaysymphony.org using a subject line of *TBS Composition Contest*.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

The Tampa Bay Symphony is comprised of 80 + volunteer musicians of high skill level. Most standard orchestral repertoire is well-executed by the TBS. Samples of works performed over the last several years include:

Arutiunian Trumpet Concerto

Beethoven Symphony #6
Dvorak Symphony #8
Elgar Enigma Variations
Holst Beni Mora Suite
Liszt Piano Concerto #1
Puccini Highlights from Madama Butterfly
Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade
Shostakovich Symphony #5
Strauss (Richard) Four Last Songs
Sibelius Symphony #1
Tchaikovsky Symphony #2

The difficulty level of submitted works will be a consideration in the selection process. While challenging works in the standard repertoire are doable by the Tampa Bay Symphony, due to the limited rehearsal time and the unfamiliar nature of recently written compositions, composers are advised not to send works of exceptional difficulty level.

There are numerous videos on YouTube of the Tampa Bay Symphony performing in recent years.