



Women Band Directors International 2025 Commission Competition

Deadline for submission: October 1, 2024

Women Band Directors International (WBDI) is accepting proposals for a commission by female* composers for a grade 3 work for concert band that is 3 - 3.5 minutes in length. The composition should be of the quality that would be included in a state festival or contest list. The winner of the competition will be commissioned to write a piece for a WBDI member to perform with her band in the 2025-2026 academic year. The winning composer will receive a \$4,500 USD award. (This includes travel for the dress rehearsal and premier performance). The award will be funded through WBDI and 10 additional consortium members.¹

*This is an inclusive definition of female which includes cis- and trans-gendered women, those who are nonbinary, gender non-conforming, and anyone who identifies as female in a way that is significant to them.

The winning composer will be notified of the commission by November 1, 2024 and will have until July 1, 2025 to deliver the score and parts of the commissioned work to the conductor of the premiere. The selected composer is expected to collaborate with the premiering conductor and committee chairs throughout the process of composition. Additionally, the selected composer is expected to consult with the conductor of the ensemble during the rehearsal process via written comments and video conference sessions and to be physically present at the dress rehearsal and performance. Expected premier performance will be during the fall semester of 2025.

Inspiration: Celebration of WBDI's trailblazing founder, [Gladys Stone Wright](#)

Deadline for proposals: October 1, 2024 by 11:59 PM U.S. Eastern Daylight Time
All proposals received before the date above will be considered. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.

Entry Fee: \$0

Requirements for Entry: Applicants must be female*

Entry Process: Please submit all files listed on page 2 via [this form](#). Additional questions can be sent to Shayna Stahl at shayna.stahl@uky.edu.

¹ Consortium members must be WBDI members and can [join the consortium here](#).



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1. PDF document titled “(Composer’s Last Name Here)_Information_Sheet” including the following information:

Section 1:

- Composer’s name
- Composer’s email address
- Composer’s phone number
- Composer’s website: link to works list (or list of works sorted by ensemble type if website is unavailable)

Section 2:

- Brief Resume including commissions, prizes, and awards for previous compositions

Section 3:

- Proposal for new composition and how it celebrates WBDI’s founder, Gladys Stone Wright. (see instrumentation list at end of document)

Section 4:

- Title of 2 works submitted (see #2 below), under each title include:
- Instrumentation (at least one work must be for 8 or more instruments)
- Duration
- Program Note
- Name of performers/ensemble on recordings (see #3 below)

2. PDF of two scores representing the composer’s highest level of writing (these can be of any duration for any ensemble or instrumentation, but it is preferred to include works for winds/percussion); at least one score must be written for 8 or more instruments (Preferred grade range 2 - 4). Any personal identifying elements of the score will be removed from the score for blind judging purposes.

3. A recording of each score submitted (live performances preferred; studio and MIDI performances accepted) clearly labeled with your last name followed by the title of the piece in .mp3, .wav, or .aif format. All personal identifying elements of the recording will be removed for blind judging purposes.



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Details for selection process and commission award:

- Entries will be judged by the Commission Competition Committee in two rounds. Applicants' names will not accompany either round.
- The final round will determine the applicant to compose a new work for WBDI.
- Notification will be by November 1, 2024 via email.
- The duration of the new work must be 3-3.5 minutes and at a grade 3 level.
- The new work (score and parts) must be submitted to the premiering band director by July 1, 2025. (Composer will be given this information when the premiering band is determined.)
- The commission award is \$4,500 USD which includes travel expenses to attend dress rehearsal and premiere.
- The new work will be premiered by a WBDI member's band during the fall of 2025. (Ensemble will be selected via blind audio review by the competition committee. Director selected to premiere the work will be notified by May 1, 2025.)
- The composer will receive a professional quality audio recording of the performance.
- The composer will retain copyright and all rights to publication of the music.
- The composition score will list "Women Band Directors International" at the top of the consortium list followed by the schools/directors as part of the consortium.
- Additionally, the score front page will include "In celebration of Gladys Stone Wright, the trailblazing founder of Women Band Directors International." This will be written in italics above the title.
- The winning composer will be given honorary membership to WBDI. Formal presentation of membership will be done during the WBDI luncheon at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago in December 2025.
- Questions may be directed to Shayna Stahl, Commission Competition chair: shayna.stahl@uky.edu.

Instrumentation List for the grade 3 work

(Proposals may use any combination of the following instruments)

Piccolo	Baritone Saxophone
Flute (up to 2 parts)	Horn (up to 4 parts)
Oboe (up to 2 parts)	Trumpet (up to 3 parts)
Bassoon (up to 2 parts)	Trombone (up to 3 parts)
Bb Clarinet (up to 3 parts)	Euphonium
Bass Clarinet	Tuba
Alto Saxophone (up to 2 parts)	Percussion (up to 6 players)
Tenor Saxophone	