



# Women Band Directors International 2027 Commission Competition

Deadline for submission: August 1, 2026

Women Band Directors International (WBDI) is accepting proposals for a commission by female\* composers for a grade 4-4.5 work for concert band that is approximately 8 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 Fall of 2027. The winning composer will receive a \$7,000 USD award. (This includes travel for the dress rehearsal and premier performance). The award will be funded through WBDI with WBDI members as additional consortium members.<sup>1</sup>

The winning composer will be notified of the commission by October 1, 2026, and will have until June 1, 2027, 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. The expected premier performance will be in the fall of 2027.

**Inspiration:** Powerful women and the communities they build. Upbeat and uptempo (may have contrasting sections). Celebratory.

**Deadline for proposals:** August 1, 2026, 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](mailto:shayna.stahl@uky.edu).

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

\*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.



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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 a new composition and how it is inspired by powerful women and the communities they build. (see instrumentation list at the end of the 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 3 - 5). **Any personal identifying elements on the score will render the application void.**
3. A recording of each score submitted (live performances preferred; studio and MIDI performances accepted) clearly labeled with the title of the piece in .mp3, .wav, or .aif format. **Any personal identifying elements on the recording will render the application void.**



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## Details for the 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 which applicant will compose a new work for WBDI.
- Notification will be by October 1, 2026, via email.
- The duration of the new work must be approximately 8 minutes and at a grade 4-4.5 level.
- The new work (score and parts) must be submitted to the premiering band director by May 1, 2027. (Composer will be given this information when the premiering band is determined.)
- The commission award is \$7,000 USD, which includes travel expenses to attend the dress rehearsal and premiere.
- The new work will be premiered by a WBDI member's band during the fall of 2027. (Ensemble will be selected via blind audio review by the competition committee. The director selected to premiere the work will be notified by October 1, 2026.)
- 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 women and the communities they build." This will be written in italics above the title.
- The winning composer will be celebrated in both 2026 and 2027. In 2026, an announcement of the win will be posted on our website and in our Journal. Additionally, there will be a posting at the WBDI Booth at the Midwest Clinic. In 2027, the composer will be formally invited to join WBDI at our annual Luncheon and will be given honorary membership. The premier performance recording will be showcased at our booth, and the composer may provide copies of the score for perusal.
- Questions may be directed to Shayna Stahl, Commission Competition chair: [shayna.stahl@uky.edu](mailto:shayna.stahl@uky.edu).

## Instrumentation List for the grade 4-4.5 work

(Proposals may use any combination of the following instruments)

Piccolo	Bass Clarinet	Horn (4)
Flute (2)	Alto Saxophone (2)	Trombone (3)
Oboe (up to 2)	Tenor Saxophone	Euphonium
Bassoon (up to 2)	Bari Saxophone	Tuba
Clarinet (3)	Trumpet (3)	Percussion (5-6)