

3RD COMPOSITION COMPETITION

“ATENEU MUSICAL DE CULLERA”

Rules of the 3rd Ateneu Musical de Cullera Composition Competition

Organised by the *Societat Ateneu Musical de Cullera*.

Founding and Artistic Director of the International Composition Competition: **Ferrer Ferran**.

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Societat Ateneu Musical de Cullera*, with the aim of promoting creation and composition for band, orchestra, and choir, announces the 3rd “**Ateneu Musical de Cullera**” **Composition Competition**.

The aim of this competition is to promote composers from around the world, encouraging them to create new symphonic works and offering them complete freedom in their artistic and creative approach.

The main objective is to expand and disseminate the original symphonic repertoire for **symphonic bands, youth and children's bands, choirs and youth orchestras**, making use of various digital platforms that allow the new works to be heard and/or viewed.

2. PARTICIPANTS

Any composer, regardless of age or nationality, may take part in the competition.

Each participant may submit **one or more works**, whether previously premiered or not, provided they are original and the composer —and/or the publisher, where applicable— holds the rights thereto. Works must fall into one of the categories established in these rules.

The duration of the works is unrestricted and left to the composer's discretion. Works may be published or unpublished.

Entries may be submitted **under the composer's own name or anonymously**. In the latter case, the work must be submitted under an alias or pseudonym, without the composer's real name being disclosed to the panel of judges.

3. CATEGORIES

3.1. Category: Symphonic Concert Work

Works written for the standard **symphonic band** instrumentation (as chosen or required by the composer), with the option of including harp and/or piano.

- Difficulty level: **very high** (grade 5 on a scale of 1 to 5).
- Duration: unrestricted.

Works awarded an **Honourable Mention** may be performed in the winter concert cycle held in Cullera or at any other event determined by the Symphonic Band of the *Ateneo Musical de Cullera*.

3.2. Category: Concert Work

Works written for the standard **symphonic band** instrumentation (as chosen or required by the composer), with the option of including harp and/or piano.

- Difficulty level: **medium to very high** (grade 3 to 5).
- Duration: unrestricted.

Works awarded an **Honourable Mention** may be performed in the winter concert cycle held in Cullera or at any other event determined by the Symphonic Band of the *Ateneo Musical de Cullera*.

3.3. Category: Work for Youth Band

Works written for the standard **youth band** instrumentation (as chosen or required by the composer).

- Difficulty level: **low to medium** (grade 2 to 3).

- Duration: unrestricted.

Works awarded an **Honourable Mention** may be performed in the winter concert cycle held in Cullera or at any other event determined by the Youth Band of the *Ateneo Musical de Cullera*.

3.4. Category: Work for Limited or Children's Band

Works written for **limited bands**, using a four- or five-staff score-guide, in which the orchestration is indicated in all necessary transpositions to facilitate adaptation to any instrumental ensemble.

- Difficulty level: **very low** (grade 1).
- Duration: unrestricted.

Works awarded an **Honourable Mention** may be performed in any event determined by the Children's Band of the *Ateneo Musical de Cullera*.

3.5. Category: Work for Youth Orchestra

Works written for the standard **youth orchestra** instrumentation (as chosen or required by the composer).

- Difficulty level: **very low to medium** (grade 1 to 3).
- Duration: unrestricted.

Works awarded an **Honourable Mention** may be performed in the winter concert cycle held in Cullera or at any other event determined by the Youth Orchestra of the *Ateneo Musical de Cullera*.

3.6. Category: Work for Soloist and Band

Works written for **soloist and symphonic band**, with the solo instrument being at the free choice of the composer. The accompaniment must be for the standard symphonic band instrumentation, with the option of including harp and/or piano.

- Difficulty level and duration: unrestricted.

Works awarded an **Honourable Mention** may be performed, if deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, in the winter concert cycle held in Cullera or at any other event determined by the Symphonic Band of the *Ateneo Musical de Cullera*.

3.7. Category: Work for Choir

Works written for **mixed choir or treble choir**.

- Difficulty level: **very low to medium** (grade 1 to 3).
- Duration: unrestricted.

Works awarded an **Honourable Mention** may be performed, if deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors, at any event determined by the Choir of the *Ateneo Musical de Cullera*.

4. PRIZES

The panel of judges may award as many prizes as it deems appropriate, in accordance with the following scoring system:

- **First Prize:** works obtaining at least **95 points out of 100**.
- **Second Prize:** works obtaining at least **85 points out of 100**.
- **Third Prize:** works obtaining at least **80 points out of 100**.

Works awarded an **Honourable Mention** may be performed by the various bands, orchestras or choir, according to the corresponding category and at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the *Sociedad Ateneo Musical de Cullera*.

Works awarded an Honourable Mention in the categories **Symphonic Concert Work**, **Concert Work** and **Work for Youth Band** will be performed in concerts by the Symphonic Band and the Youth Band, which **will be recorded live in audio and video**. The total duration of these concerts will be approximately **one hour and thirty minutes**.

It is recommended that the works submitted to these categories not be excessively long, in order to include a greater number of Honourable Mentions.

All prize-winners will receive **a certificate and an official diploma** including the logo of the competition.

Composers awarded an **Honourable Mention** in the categories indicated will be provided with the **audio and video** recording of the performance of their awarded work, which will be promoted by the *Sociedad Ateneo Musical de Cullera* through its social media channels and website. These recordings may be freely used by the composer for personal or professional purposes.

Special Diplomas

The **GOLD DIPLOMA** will be awarded to:

- The composer with the highest score within each category of the competition.
- The female composer with the highest overall score in the competition.
- The composer from the Valencian Community with the highest score within each category.

The **PLATINUM DIPLOMA** will be awarded to the composer with the **highest overall score in the entire competition**.

5. REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF WORKS

The submission period opens upon publication of these rules and closes on **5 September 2026**.

As the panel's evaluation is not based on direct comparison between works but on their compositional level, participants are encouraged to submit their compositions as soon as they are completed, to facilitate progressive assessment. The panel's decision will be issued during **October 2026**.

Registration Fees

To complete registration, **proof of payment of the registration fee** must be attached. The amount depends on the category entered:

- **Symphonic Concert Work: €110**

- **Concert Work:** €90
- **Work for Youth Band:** €70
- **Work for Children's Band or Limited Band:** €50
- **Work for Youth Orchestra:** €70
- **Work for Soloist and Band:** €90
- **Work for Choir:** €40

Proof of payment must be attached along with the rest of the required documentation when submitting the work.

Works must be sent by email to:

concurscomposicio@ateneumusical.com

Required Documentation

1. **Proof of payment of the registration fee**, according to the category:
 - Please refer to the fees indicated in these rules.
2. **Bank details for payment:**
 - Bank: CAIXABANK
 - IBAN: **ES25 2100 8880 8113 0019 6446**
3. **Score in PDF format**, showing the title of the work.
 - If the author wishes to remain anonymous, the score must be submitted under an alias or pseudonym. The composer's real name will be known only to the Competition Secretariat and never to the panel of judges.
4. **Audio file in MP3 format**, generated from MIDI or from a real recording if the work has already been performed.
5. **A document containing the following information:**

- Email address
- Name of the composer, or alias/pseudonym
- City and country of origin
- Contact telephone number
- Category or categories entered
- Title of the work
- Approximate duration.

In the event of receiving an **Honourable Mention**, the composer undertakes to send all required parts in PDF format for proper performance.

6. EVALUATION OF WORKS AND PANEL OF JUDGES

The panel of judges will consist of a committee of renowned professionals in the fields of **composition, conducting and musical performance**.

The jury may grant any prizes it deems appropriate or declare any of them void.

Each work will receive a **brief written evaluation**, which will be sent to participants by email.

Evaluation criteria:

- Suitability of the work for the category and level for which it is submitted.
- Presentation and editing of the score.
- Creativity and originality.
- Quality of compositional elements: form, melody, harmony, counterpoint, orchestration, rhythm, textures, timbre, tempi, dynamics, registers and performance possibilities.

7. COMPETITION RESULTS

The works will be evaluated during the month of **September 2026**.

The panel's decision will be published on the website of the *Sociedad Ateneo Musical de Cullera* (www.ateneumusical.com) and will be communicated personally to the winners by email or telephone.

Participation in the competition implies **full and unquestionable acceptance** of the panel's decision. Any doubts or disputes will be resolved by the competition organisers.

8. WORKS WITH HONOURABLE MENTION

The **audio and/or video** performance of works receiving an **Honourable Mention** will be published and promoted through the official channels and social media of the *Sociedad Ateneo Musical de Cullera*. Likewise, the composer may freely disseminate these recordings by their own means.

The *Sociedad Ateneo Musical de Cullera* reserves the right to perform any of the works submitted to the competition at any time, whether awarded or not.

Composers whose works receive an Honourable Mention must provide the organisation with the **final performance materials in PDF format**, including all necessary parts. In all cases, composers retain **full ownership of the copyright** of their works.

The winning works may be programmed and, where appropriate, premiered worldwide at events and/or in the winter concert cycle, as part of the annual programme following the competition.

All scores that receive an Honourable Mention must include the following caption:

Work awarded in the 3rd Ateneo Musical de Cullera International Composition Competition, in the category _____, held in Cullera in 2026."

Participation in the competition implies **full acceptance of these rules** from the moment of registration.

For any queries regarding the competition, please contact:

concurscomposicio@ateneumusical.com