

Summary: National Youth Brass Band of America: Catalyst Composition Competition for Brass Band

Deadline: March 28, 2020

Entry Fee: \$25

Registration: Registration can be completed at www.nybba.net

OVERVIEW:

The National Youth Brass Band of America Catalyst Composition Competition's mission is to promote and foster the next generation of American-based composers that will create tomorrow's brass band music today.

This opportunity is open to high school or collegiate-level composers who are residents of the United States of America. The popularity of the 'British Style' brass band genre is increasing across the U.S.A., both in community and educational settings. The Catalyst Composition Competition provides a platform for aspiring composers to explore and create music that combines the core identity of the brass band with inspiration from future generations. The winning composition will be showcased by the National Youth Brass Band of America, as well as youth bands across America.

TYPE OF WORK: 5-7 minute concert opener or closer.

WHAT TO SUBMIT:

Fill our application at www.nybba.net. A Link to a folder with the below material will be required. The link should stay active for the whole duration of the Call and selection process. Accepted systems are Dropbox and Google Drive.

The required material for every work submitted is:

- Recording in mp3, may be electronic version
- Score in pdf
- Notes about the work in pdf/doc
- Notes about the composer (bio) pdf/doc
- Promotional photo of the composer

DIFFICULTY : Comparable to a US Grade 3-4 work. Please also reference 3rd Section 'test pieces' as a starting point to help attain the desired standard of difficulty.

PRIZE:

Winner

- \$1000
- World premiere by the National Youth Brass Band of America in June of 2020

LIMITS: There is no limit to the number of works that you can submit. If more than one work is submitted the Application Fee should be paid accordingly.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AT: helen@nybba.net

MORE INFORMATION

BRITISH STYLE BRASS BAND

If you are a composer that is new to the brass band genre you might be thinking 'What is a brass band.' A standard 'British' style brass band is a chamber ensemble consisting of 25 brass players plus 3-5 percussionists. Although these numbers can vary, especially for a youth brass band, it is with these numbers in mind for which we wish you to compose. A standard British style brass band is made up of the following instrumentation:

- 1 Eb Soprano Cornet
- 9 Bb Cornets divided as 4 solo cornets/1 Repiano Cornet/2 2nd Cornets/2 3rd Cornets
- 1 Bb Flugelhorn
- 3 Eb Tenor Horns (Solo/1st/2nd)
- 2 Bb Baritones (1st/2nd)
- 2 Bb Tenor Trombones (1st/2nd)
- 1 Bass Trombone
- 2 Bb Euphoniums
- 2 Eb Basses (tubas)
- 2 Bb Basses (tubas)
- 3-5 Percussionists

The instruments require unique roles and responsibilities. Many texts have been created on scoring for brass band are available for purchase. Dr. Denis Wright's 'Scoring for Brass Band' (Studio Music) and Andrew Duncan's 'Scoring and Arranging for Brass Band' (Lewis Music Press) are two quality examples.

To the left of this page is a quick reference guide to how the order of the instruments should appear on a brass band score, minus the percussion instruments which would appear below the Bb Bass. This chart also lists the number of performers on each instrument and includes recommended ranges for a younger band, which is what this particular competition calls for.

You'll notice that all of the parts are notated in treble clef, but the score is not in C. All instruments, minus the bass trombone, read in treble clef in the brass band and the score should be transposed. If you are wondering why all of the instruments are in treble clef, the short answer is that historically it was easier to move a performer between instruments if they weren't having to learn a new clef along with a new instrument. The long answer would have to do with the history and culture of the brass band movement from its genesis.

Here are some key facts about a brass band that you might find useful:

The term 'solo' may be used interchangeably with the word 'principal.' For instance *the solo euphoniumist from the 'xyz band' performed brilliantly on the concert.*

The terms tenor horn and alto horn mean the same instrument.

Brass bands have both baritones and euphoniums. The terms have been used incorrectly and interchangeably in the United States since the 1800's. They are very different instruments.

Tubas are referred to as basses in the brass band. Both Eb and Bb versions of the instruments are utilized. Although the mechanics of tubas and basses are the same, the term bass more accurately describes its role in this homogenous ensemble.

RESOURCES FOR BRASS BAND

Examples of scoring and voicing for brass at the appropriate level for the composition competition include:

Impromptu, Eric Ball
Little Suite for Brass, Malcolm Arnold
Partita, Edward Gregson
Partita for Band - Postcards from Home, Philip Wilby
A Celtic Suite, Philip Sparke
The Journal of Phileas Fogg, Peter Graham

Examples of writing for percussion and brass at the appropriate level for the composition competition include.

Olympus, Philip Harper
Home of Legends, Paul Lovatt-Cooper
Flashback, Jan de Haan
The Raid, Oliver Waespi

Understanding the roles and expectations of each part in a brass band will be beneficial in writing a successful work for advanced youth group. Great resources include:

Scoring for Brass Band Paperback by Denis Wright
Publisher: Studio Music Co.

Colour and Texture in the Brass Band Score by Ray Steadman-Allen.
Publisher: SP&S

Scoring and Arranging for Brass Band, Anderw Duncan
Publisher: Duncan Music Press

How to Write for Brass Bands, by Nigel Horne
Published: NJH Music: <https://www.bandsman.co.uk/writing.htm>

JUDGING

Submissions will be judged for their originality, artistic promise, technical skill and effectiveness in performance. The decision of the judging panel will be final. The National Youth Brass Band of America reserves the right to recommend that no award be given. Decisions will be announced during April 2020.