

April 2026

The Annual Buchmann – Mehta School of Music Competitions – 2026 (Including the Arianne Katcz Piano competition)

Terms and Conditions

1. The Buchmann – Mehta School of Music competitions are open to students of the school **who are enrolled at the school during** the academic year in which the competition is taking place. The competitions cover the following fields: vocal, piano, string, wind, percussion, harp, chamber music, contemporary music and composition. In the 2026 academic year, the competitions will take place according to the following specifications:

Piano

18-20.05.2026

Register till – 04.05.2026

[Register Here](#)

Vocal

25.05.2026

Register till – 10.05.2026

[Register Here](#)

Strings

26-27.05.2026

Register till – 12.05.2026

[Register Here](#)

Wind, Percussion and Harp

14-15 05.2026.

Register till – 29.04.2026

[Register here](#)

New Music

17.05.2026

Register till – 03.05.2026

[Register Here](#)

Chamber Music

21-22.06.2026

Register till – 03.06.2026

[Register Here](#)

REGISTRATION ONLINE!

2. Participation

Personal teachers must approve their student's participation and program in writing and sign the application form. An unsigned application form will be disqualified and the student will not be allowed to participate in the competition. Students must be in good academic standing to participate in the competitions.

- a. **Instrumental departments** – all students are allowed to apply, with the exception of students who previously won the first prize (in the same field)
- b. **Vocal department** – 2nd, 3rd and 4th year, as well as M.Mus. students are allowed to apply provided they have not previously won the first prize during the same course of studies (**1st year students are allowed to apply under special circumstances only and must be able to demonstrate proven skills and achievements in the field, and with the approval of the Studies Committee.**)
- c. **Composition department** – 2nd year and above students are allowed to apply provided they have not won the first prize in previous years.
- d. **Chamber music department** – ensembles of at least 3 students are allowed to apply if they meet regularly and have a permanent instructor. Participation in the competition is pending on the approval of the ensemble instructor and the head of the department.

The following ensembles will not be allowed to compete:

- 1) The school representative ensembles
 - 2) A trio including one student who has previously won the first prize in this competition
 - 3) A quartet/quintet with at least two students who have previously won the first prize in this competition.
 - 4) A sextet or larger ensemble with at least three students who have previously won the first prize in this competition.
- e. **Contemporary music competition** – all soloists and chamber music ensembles are allowed to apply. An ensemble of at least 2 students who won this competition previously will not be allowed to apply.

Ensembles can apply with the same piece to only one of the two competitions – Chamber music or Contemporary music.

3. Application dates

- a. Participants must submit their program using an online application form. Appropriate timing for each movement / piece must be specified.

The forms must be submitted online **up to three weeks prior to competition date.**

Online Applications Only!

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The application forms will be checked by the appropriate head of department after the deadline.

4. In the event of less than 4 participants in a specific field, the competition will be canceled. The competition management reserves the right to combine fields if there are not enough participants.
5. The order of participation in the competition will be determined by a draw at least 10 days before the competition. The date of the draw will be announced at a later stage.
 - a. In large competitions participants will be invited to take part in the draw.
 - b. In small competition a public draw may be substituted by an internal process requiring at least two staff members to be present.
6. The order of participation cannot be changed after the draw. Exceptions:
 - a. Two participants may exchange places independently.
 - b. Force Majeure or significant restrictions will be taken into account only after participant has exhibited efforts to solve the problem independently.

Accompanist restrictions **are not** just reason for rescheduling after the draw.

The competition management reserves the right to change the schedule due to cancellations or other unforeseen constraints that may arise.

7. The competition program

Each program is subject to the approval of the head of the relevant department. In the event of previous participation, the student must submit a brand new program that does not include any pieces from previous years.

- a. **Wind instruments, percussion and harp** – the program must include pieces from at least 2 different periods (at least one Classical and one Romantic) one of which must be a concerto or Sonata. It is recommended to choose one 20th Century piece. Program duration – 30 minutes. Should the program run over 30 minutes – the judges will listen to a selection of pieces from the program at their discretion.
- b. **String instruments** – the program must include 3 pieces from different periods one of which must be a concerto or Sonata. Program duration – 30 minutes. Should the program run over 30 minutes – the judges will listen to a selection of pieces from the program at their discretion.

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- c. **Vocal** – The program must include at least 10 pieces according to the following specifications: a classical piece, a modern piece, an Israeli piece, at least 3 arias (from an opera or an oratorio) and at least 4 Lieder. The duration of each piece should not be more than 8 minutes, adding to a total of 40 minutes maximum. Program must include at least 5 languages. Candidates must choose a program on an appropriate level which demonstrates his/her entire range.

The competition will be conducted in 2 stages:

Stage 1: the participant will perform 2 pieces of his/her choice from the program; however, the panel members might ask the participant to perform an additional piece (~10').

Stage 2: Participants who have been selected to perform in the second stage will be required to sing the remainder of their program (~30').

Candidates will submit a detailed program in English and original language, list of languages sung, timing for each piece and timing of entire program.

- d. **Chamber music** – the program must include one full chamber music piece from the standard Chamber repertoire. Students wishing to play a piece that is not included in the standard repertoire must obtain the permission of the head of the chamber music department.

- e. **The Arianne Katcz piano competition** – the competition will be conducted in 2 stage:

Stage 1: the participant will prepare 3 pieces according to the following specifications – a full classical sonata (or the equivalent of a classical sonata), a romantic piece (in the case of a multi-movement piece, the participant is not required to prepare the full piece) and another piece from a different period of the participant's choice. There is no time limit on the length of the program; however, the judges will listen to a 30 minute selection of their choice.

Stage 2: a multi-movement full piano concerto chosen by the participant. The judges will select 3-6 participants to progress to this stage.

(There are separate terms and conditions for the Arianne Katcz piano competitions regarding the judge's selection, the judicial process and the level of financial prizes).

- f. **Composition** – the participants must submit a piece for an ensemble of 4-14 players. The piece can include instrumental or vocal soloists (not a choir). Required length – 15 minutes (pieces must be printed and bound in 5 copies, submitted anonymously).

- g. Contemporary music competition** – the competition aims to focus on the performance of modern music in various styles that have evolved over the second half of the 20th century. Pieces that were written after 1950 can be performed in the competition. Each player/ensemble must prepare a piece/program that is at least 12 minutes long. The central piece cannot be from a composition student. The repertoire must be submitted to the competition committee for approval no later than the date that was specified in section 3b. The competition committee reserves the right to disqualify pieces that do not correspond with the aims of the competition. The participants must prepare 3 copies of the score for the judges. It is not obligatory to perform the piece by heart.
8. The competition management will approve or disapprove participation in the competition. In the event of the latter, an explanation will be given in writing.
9. A participant that will not arrive on time to the competition will be disqualified. Participants must arrive at least an hour prior to their allocated time.

10. Competition prizes

- a. 3 prizes will be given – first, second and third in each competing field. The amount of the prize money will be determined nearer the competition time. The competition management reserves the right to reduce the number of prizes in special circumstances. Participants who are not enrolled students of the School (Chamber Music and Contemporary Music competitions) will not be awarded prize money.

- b. In the event of identical evaluations for the first place prize, the first and second place prize money will be combined and divided between the contestants. In such cases there will be no second place prize. The third place prize will be given as usual.

In the event of identical evaluation for the second place prize, the second and third place prize money will be combined and divided between the contestants. In such case there will be no third place prize.

In the event of identical evaluation for the third place prize, the money will be divided between the contestants. The competition management will strive when possible to match the prize money for both third-place winners to the sum of the single third place prize.

11. Judges Panel

- a. The judges' panel will include well-known musicians who are not members of the teaching staff in the subject department. In special circumstances, the competition management reserves the right to include judges from the same department, under the specific condition that their own personal students are not participating in the competition which they will judge.

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- b. The judges will be selected by the head of the school in consultation with the different department heads. There will be at least 3 judges for each competition.
 - c. The judge's identity will not be kept secret.
12. Prior to the Competition, judges will participate in an orientation session conducted by the Competition Manager or someone on her behalf. Judges who do not participate in the orientation session will not be able to serve in the panel.
 13. After each competition session, the judges will give their marks to the competition management who will calculate and summarize the results. Grading includes verbal evaluations as well as a numeric scale from 1 through 100.
 14. The judges' grades are confidential and will be archived after the competition; however, the head of the school is allowed to go over the evaluations as part of the supervision and revision process.
 15. The judges' decisions are personal, discreet, given without consultation, and are not appealable.
 16. The judges will sit at a sufficient distance from each other in order to prevent the possibility of consultation or conferring.
 17. Results of the competition will be advertised on the school social media and announced by the chairman of the judges' panel at the end of each competition.
 18. Competitions are open to the general public. The school reserves all its rights to stream online the competitions.
 19. At the conclusion of the competitions, there is a possibility of a concert that will be held with the participation of the winners. The Winners are obliged to attend the concert and to play. Winners who will be absence cannot receive the prize.
 20. The competitions will be managed by the competition manager.
 21. Any problems that are not addressed in this terms and conditions document will be discussed between the competition manager and the head of the school or his representative(s). Changes in the judging process will be conducted by the Studies Committee through an organized and thoughtful deliberation.
 22. **The school reserves the right to make any changes or amendments!**