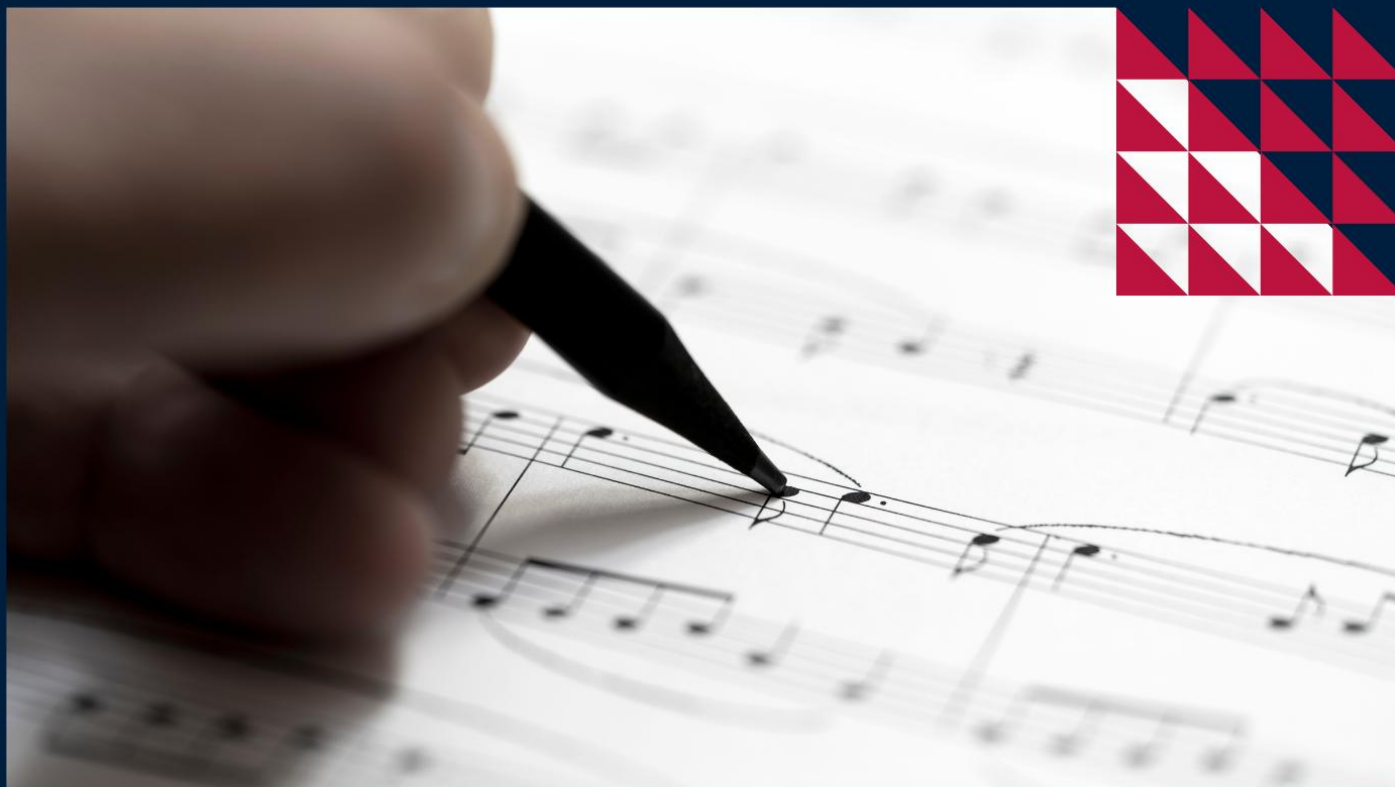




ISA COMPOSER COMPETITION

Open to KS2 - KS5



DEADLINE

Tuesday 18 May 2027

isaschools.org.uk | isaarts@isaschools.org.uk
Competition open to ISA Members Schools only

This competition offers pupils an opportunity to use both mathematical and creative thinking by composing an original piece of music.

Year Groups and Eligibility

Only schools whose Head is a Member with ISA are eligible to enter ISA competitions. Any pupils competing must be on the main school's admissions register on the date of the event.

Our year groups follow the UK National Curriculum. For guidance on selecting the correct year group for your student(s), please refer to the UK system [here](#). When completing your application, please enter students according to the UK year group, even if your school uses a different age or stage structure.

Access and Inclusion

At ISA, we are committed to making our opportunities as accessible as possible. We warmly welcome applications from all students, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities.

If a student (including those with an EHCP or on the SEND register) is working at a level that does not align with their chronological year group, or if your school prioritises developmental stages, skills, or personalised progression rather than fixed year groups, please do get in touch with us at the following email address hannah.lovegrove.campion@isaschools.org.uk. We are happy to discuss individual circumstances and advise on the most appropriate way to apply.

Accessible Formats

Alternative formats of these guidelines are available on request. Please let us know as early as possible if you require this, so we can provide the information in a format that works for you.

Judging Criteria

- Overall effectiveness of the piece in portraying the message or emotion.
- Suitability of the composition for the chosen instrument(s).
- Demonstrating good musical understanding, including awareness of musical conventions, rhythm, melody, harmony, structure, and compositional devices.
- Technical control and coherence.
- Show an understanding of the chosen style/genre.

If you have any questions, please contact isaarts@isaschools.org.uk

HOW TO ENTER

Entries must be submitted via the online form on the ISA website [here](#) by **Tuesday 18 May 2027** at the latest. Please note you will need to be logged in to your account to access the entry form.

Schools are invited to film and submit a URL link of a performance. Videos must not be edited as we need to be able to see the bands, groups and ensembles playing live in one take as if we were in the audience.

- For individual video entries, **students must say their name and school at the beginning of the recording**. The time limit will start from the beginning of the performance not at the start of the recording.
- Manuscripts (handwritten or computer generated) should be sent as full score via **PDF** or **Word** format only. There is no need to generate individual playing parts. All files need to be submitted with the **school's name followed by the student's name e.g. SchoolName_JohnSmith**. This helps us identify clearly each student's entry that has been submitted.
- **A working URL link must be given** for the video and accessible for at least 3 months, without a required password. ISA will not accept any files to download or links via SharePoint. Please ensure to check the sharing permissions with your school:
 - YouTube videos will need to be **unlisted**
 - Vimeo videos will need to be **unlisted** and **age rated**
 - Google Drive will need to be set to **anyone with the link**
 - OneDrive needs to be set with a **share link to anyone**

The videos are only for judging purposes and will not be shared elsewhere

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Schools can submit a **maximum of 5 entries in each category (Solo Instrumental, Group Instrumental & Instrumental and Voice)** across all year groups (from Year 3 to Year 13), making **15 entries in total** per school.

We encourage schools to run a competition in house and submit their best projects. Please note that some year groups might be combined for the judging process.

- Solo Instrumental
- Group Instrumental
- Instrumental and Voice

Rules

- Any style of music is welcome; examples, including classical, contemporary, alternative, pop, jazz, film score, orchestral, minimalism, gospel, folk & indie.
- The copyright ownership of the piece is retained by the composer and must be an original piece, not an arrangement.
- Use of music production software is allowed.
- There is no limit in group sizes.
- Mixed age groups must be entered into the oldest pupil's year group.
- The maximum length of composition is **5 minutes** (no minimum).
- Entries must include a video or audio recording of the piece being played.
- You may use any instrument you choose, including computer generated sound - conventional or not – i.e. a piano, guitar, or even kitchen utensils. Be as creative as you like.
- Entries with lyrics can be written in any language, provided an English translation is given.
- Paired or group compositions may be submitted to any age class. These may be judged separately from the individual works.
- Students submitting group work must be from within the same key stage.
- It is possible to submit a composition written for an external exam.
- Entries previously submitted to ISA Arts Competitions will not be accepted.
- Staff must confirm that all work submitted is the student's own.
- **AI generated entries will not be allowed in the competition.**