

MUSICA SACRA NOVA 2026

22th International Composers Competition

Organizers:

Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra,
Vatican
Erzbistum Köln, Germany
Freundeskreis Abtei Brauweiler,
Germany
Polski Chór Kameralny, Gdańsk, Poland
Instytut Musica Sacra, Warszawa,
Poland
Stiftung Magnificat, Munich, Germany

Co-Organizers:

Carus-Verlag, Stuttgart, Germany
Municipal Choir "Jauna Muzika",
Vilnius, Lithuania
Associazione Musica Ficta, Rimini, Italy

Director of competition:

Michael Utz (Germany)

Conditions of the competition:

1. The competition is open to composers of any nationality.
2. Prize winners from 2025 (Categories A and B) are not eligible for entries.
3. Age limit: up to **35 years old** (on 31 January 2026).
4. More than one score per composer is permitted (maximum three compositions per category).
5. Submitted compositions must be unpublished, should not have been performed in public previously and should not have been awarded a prize at any other competition.

6. Applicants can submit compositions to the categories below:

Category A:

A composition for unaccompanied mixed choir (up to a maximum of 16 voices) to a Latin Christian text.

Category B:

A liturgical composition for mixed choir (4 to 6 voices) with organ ad lib. to a Latin liturgical text.

Category C:

A composition for children's choir (1 to 3 voices) a cappella or with instrumental accompaniment (up to three instruments), aimed at offering children a strong foundation in the Christian faith through communal prayer and singing in the church, to a Latin or English Christian text. Body percussion is possible. If the composition is for one voice only, instrumental accompaniment is obligatory

7. Duration of the composition:
Cat. A: 3 – 8 minutes; Cat. B: 3 - 5 minutes, Cat. C: ca. 3 minutes.

8. The texts in all categories must be free of copyright.

9. The organizers reserve the rights for the first performance of the prize-winning compositions.

Prizes:

The following prizes will be awarded:

Category A - works for choir

1st Prize: 2.000 Euro

First performance in Brauweiler (Germany) by the KammerChor Saarbrücken directed by Georg Grün, further performance in Vilnius

(Lithuania) by the Municipal Choir "Jauna Muzika" directed by Vaclovas Augustinas.

2nd Prize: 1.500 Euro

First performance in Brauweiler (Germany) by the KammerChor Saarbrücken directed by Georg Grün, further performance in Vilnius (Lithuania) by the Municipal Choir "Jauna Muzika" directed by Vaclovas Augustinas.

3rd Prize: 1.000 Euro

First performance in Brauweiler (Germany) by the KammerChor Saarbrücken directed by Georg Grün, further performance in Vilnius (Lithuania) by the Municipal Choir "Jauna Muzika" directed by Vaclovas Augustinas.

Category B – Liturgical piece for choir (and organ ad lib.)

1st Prize: 1.500 Euro

Published by Carus-Verlag,
First performance in Gdańsk (Poland) by the Polski Chór Kameralny directed by Jan Łukaszewski

2nd Prize: 1.250 Euro

First performance in Gdańsk (Poland) by the Polski Chór Kameralny directed by Jan Łukaszewski

3rd Prize: 1.000 Euro

First performance in Gdańsk (Poland) by the Polski Chór Kameralny directed by Jan Łukaszewski

Category C – Composition for children's choir

1st Prize: 1.500 Euro

Published by Carus-Verlag,
First performance in Brauweiler (Germany)

2nd Prize: 1.250 Euro

First performance in Brauweiler (Germany)

3rd Prize: 1.000 Euro

First performance in Brauweiler (Germany)

In case of ex-aequo, the prize will be split in two parts.

The Jury reserves the right not to award a prize.

The decision of the Jury is final.

Entries:

1. The score should be submitted anonymously and marked with a letter emblem online as pdf file.

2. Another file marked with the same letter emblem should also be attached containing the following information:

- a) composer's full name
- b) date and place of birth
- c) nationality
- d) address, telephone and e-mail
- e) title of the composition

3. The submission must also enclose the following signed and dated declaration: "I declare that this composition, submitted to the Musica Sacra Nova 2026 competition, has not yet been published, performed in public or awarded a prize in any other competition."

4. The entries may be sent online:

<https://www.db-kimu-ebk.de/anmeldeformular-kompositionswettbewerb-musica-sacra-nova/>

The deadline for submission of scores is 31 January 2026.

Results will be announced by the end of February 2026.

Entry Fee:

20 € for each composition submitted.

The fee can be paid by credit/debit card via PayPal at

www.musicasacranova.com

The entry fee is not refundable.

Final Provisions:

1. By participating in the Competition you accept the terms and conditions above

2. Compositions not meeting the requirements stated in the above terms and conditions will not be admitted to the Competition.

3. Contentious cases will be resolved based on the English version of the terms and conditions of the Competition.

Jury Members 2026:

Robert Mehlhart - Vatican

Stephen Layton – Great Britain

Jan Łukaszewski – Poland

Pawel Łukaszewski – Poland

Enjott Schneider – Germany

Friederike Stahmer – Germany

Andrea Angelini - Italy

Vaclovas Augustinas – Lithuania