

# ISCM World New Music Days 2026

## Columna Infinita

Bucharest, Romania, 23 – 31 May 2026

### Call for Works

If you require this document in any other format, please contact  
[Grace.Bailey@SoundAndMusic.Org](mailto:Grace.Bailey@SoundAndMusic.Org)

ISCM British Section Deadline: Monday 8 September 2025, 23.59 GMT

Apply here:

<https://airtable.com/appgC1LLqSuh8YOF5/shryGgDY35v0InMEc>

### General Information

#### Summary

The International Society for Contemporary Music (ISCM) World New Music Days festival is an annual international showcase of new music from around the world, attended by many international delegates as well as composers, producers and programmers.

Sound and Music is the official British Section of the ISCM. We select and submit six works that meet the specified categories and criteria, for consideration by an international jury. One of these works is guaranteed a performance during the festival. We will publicise the six shortlisted composers and works via our website and communication channels, as well as the final selected work(s) in due course. We will also offer advice to the selected composer(s) on how to secure sufficient funding to attend the ISCM World New Music Days 2026 in Romania.

Subtitled “Columna Infinita” after the famous sculpture by 20th-century Romanian art icon Constantin Brâncuși (whose 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated in 2026), the

2026 World New Music Days will take place from 23 – 31 May at multiple concert venues.

This year there are 14 categories ranging from symphony orchestra, string quartet, and choir to audio-video and electroacoustic compositions as well as music for solo cimbalom (a hammered dulcimer that is central to Romanian folk music). You can submit works by sending a PDF version of the score plus an audio or video recording of the work (if available), or audio/video documentation if the work does not have a written score. Please see the Work Categories section below for further information on the categories and what you need to include with your submission.

By submitting works to this Call, you agree that if your work is selected for performance/presentation that you grant automatic permission for the ISCM performance/presentation of your work to be recorded, broadcast and streamed from the website without additional financial liability to the ISCM or the Festival Organisers.

The ISCM British Section shortlisting and selection process is run in line with our [Fair Access Principles](#).

This call represents the latest information from the Romania festival organisers but the situation may change. We will communicate all further information received and ask for your understanding.

### **ISCM British Section**

The ISCM British Section, administered by Sound and Music, exists to promote the aims of the ISCM, both within the UK and in co-operation with other Sections.

The ISCM aims to promote contemporary music and raise its public profile, through effective global networking, communication and facilitation of multilateral activities between the members.

The ISCM's published mission is to:

- Raise the profile of contemporary music through the collective strength of the Society's global network and membership makeup
- Pursue exposure, research and performance of contemporary music through initiatives by its membership, as well as collaboration with affiliated bodies
- Showcase the diversity of contemporary music worldwide through the World New Music Days festival.

## **Submission information**

The Union of Composers and Musicologists from Romania (UCMR) and ISCM Romanian Section invite the ISCM Sections, Members, and Individual Applicants to submit works for the festival. Please note, the ISCM has pledged to realise equitable representation in the programming of the WNMD, including of nationality, ethnicity,

gender and age of composers and musicians. Young composers (under 35) whose works are selected for performance in the WNMD could also be eligible for the ISCM Young Composer Award.

**ISCM International Jury members:**

Dan Dediu – Artistic director

ISCM Romania team – Diana Rotaru (president), Irinel Anghel, Gabriel Mălăncioiu, Alexandru Murariu, Constantin Basica

In the selection process, the jury will give preference to pieces that are up to 10 minutes long, as well as to works created in the last 10 years, with maximum priority being given to the works created in the last five years. The submissions can include already premiered, performed, and yet-to-be-premiered works; the submitted pieces can be published or unpublished.

By submitting works in response to the ISCM WNMD 2026 Call for Works, composers agree that if their work is selected for performance/ presentation, then they grant automatic permission for the performance, as well as for the recording, broadcasting, and streaming the ISCM performance/presentation of their work without additional financial liability to the ISCM or the ISCM WNMD 2026 organisers.

**Guidelines for making an official submission to the ISCM British Section:**

- Applications via the official ISCM British Section's call must be made by the composer directly, as opposed to via their publisher/agent or another third party
- Composers of any age or point in their career may apply, whether or not they have a publisher or have had international performances previously
- Our aim is to submit a balanced and representative shortlist of six high quality works to the ISCM. Therefore, we particularly welcome submissions from composers from under-represented backgrounds, including composers who are women and minority gender, LGBTQI+ composers, composers who are from backgrounds that experience racism, disabled composers and composers from lower socio-economic backgrounds. We recognise the many barriers that can prevent composers from accessing opportunities and are working hard to address them
- Works must fall into one of the 14 category requirements below. The relevant category (and subcategory if applicable) for the work must be stipulated on the application for the application to be eligible
- Works submitted to the British Section may not include a work by any composer whose work was performed during the 2025 World New Music Days in Portugal
- The submissions can include already premiered, performed, and yet-to-be-premiered works; the submitted pieces can be published or unpublished

- To submit a work to the Sound and Music/ISCM British Section (as opposed to directly to the ISCM International Jury) you **must currently live in the UK and plan to remain in the UK for at least one year**
- Composers from Northern Ireland are permitted to apply to either the Irish or the British Section, bearing in mind the stipulation that composers may only submit one work in total. Anyone living and working on the island of Ireland is encouraged to apply via the Irish Section which is administered by the [Contemporary Music Centre](#)
- Composers from Wales are eligible to apply to either the Welsh Section or the British Section, bearing in mind the stipulation that composers may only submit one work in total. Anyone living and working in Wales is encouraged to apply via the Welsh Section which is administered by [Ty Cerdd](#)
- Composers from Scotland are eligible to apply to either the Scottish Associate Section or the British Section, bearing in mind the stipulation that composers may only submit one work in total. Anyone living and working in Scotland is encouraged to apply via the Scottish Associate section which is administered by the [Scottish Music Centre](#) and [New Music Scotland](#)

#### **Information we need from you to apply:**

##### **Personal and contact information:**

- Given names
- Family name
- Name as it should appear in the programme
- Date of birth
- Full mailing address
- Gender you identify as
- Phone number
- Email address
- Website (if applicable).

##### **Work information:**

- Title
- Submission category
- Accurate duration
- Year of composition
- Statement of whether the work has been previously performed
- For categories 1-12, please submit a PDF with the score and an audio file with a recording or a MIDI realisation (possible file formats: m4a, mp3, mp4, flac, wav, aiff). For recordings, please provide the date, venue, and names of performers

- For categories 13-14, please submit sound files with the finished work (possible file formats: mp3, mp4, wav, mov). Please provide a stereo version for multi-channel works (up to 8 channels)
- Programme notes for the submitted work in English (maximum 150 words)
- Technical rider specifying the accurate instrumental set, equipment and means necessary for the performance of the submitted work
- Short biography of the composer in English (maximum 150 words)
- High-resolution digital photograph of the composer

This data will only be used for the purposes of this submission, in accordance with [our Data Protection and Privacy Policy](#).

### **Selection of works**

Two panellists will review submitted pieces and select six works for submission to the International Jury. Our submissions need to cover at least four of the listed categories. Provided Sound and Music meets these requirements, it is guaranteed that at least one work submitted by the ISCM British Section will be included in the World New Music Days festival. For more information about previous works selected for World New Music Days festival, see our website [here](#).

This year's confirmed panellists are:

**Joyce Lam**, Programme Manager, Composers, London Symphony Orchestra  
**Sam Hayden**, Composer, and ISCM 2025 British Section selected composer

### **Deadline for applications**

**Monday 8 September, 23:59 GMT**

Due to time constraints around selection and subsequent submission to the ISCM Member Portal, late applications cannot be considered.

We will let you know no later than 25 September 2025 whether your work has been shortlisted for submission. Feedback will be offered by request to those not shortlisted.

### **Applying directly to the ISCM**

Composers (or publishers or agents working on their behalf) may apply directly to the ISCM international jury. An entry fee of €55.00 applies to Individual Submissions, and composers may only apply via one route.

More information on how to apply via this route can be found [here](#).

# Work Categories

**Please note:** the jury will give preference to pieces that are up to 10 minutes long, as well as to works created in the last 10 years, with maximum priority being given to the works created in the last five years.

## **Category one: SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (with or without soloist[s])**

Possible soloists from the following instruments: flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, cimbalom

- The Romanian National Radio Orchestra (max. 3.3.3.3. – 4.3.3.1. – 3 perc. – piano – harp – 14.12.10.8.6)
- The George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra (max. 3.3.3.3. – 4.3.3.1. – 3 perc. – piano – harp – 14.12.10.8.6)
- Doubling possibilities: 1 cor anglais, 1 bass clarinet, 1 contrabassoon
- For this category, no electronic/fixed media is possible.

## **Category two: CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

- The Romanian Chamber Radio Orchestra (max. 2.2.2.2. – 2.2.0.0. – timpani (1 player) – piano – 6.5.4.2.1)
- For this category, no electronic/fixed media is possible.

## **Category three: STRING ORCHESTRA (with or without stereo fixed media – “tape music”)**

- The Concerto Orchestra of the National University of Music in Bucharest (max. 8.6.5.4.2)

## **Category four: LARGE ENSEMBLE – 10-16 musicians (with or without stereo fixed media – “tape music”)**

- PROFIL Sinfonietta (max. 1.1.1.1. – 1.1.1.1. – piano – harp – 1 perc – 2.1.1.1.)

## **Category five: MEDIUM ENSEMBLE – 6-8 musicians (with or without stereo fixed media – tape music)**

- Ensemble Couleurs (fl, cl, 2 vn, vla, cello, pno, 1 perc)

## **Category six: SMALL ENSEMBLE (with or without stereo fixed media – “tape music”)**

- 6.a. ATEM Ensemble – 5 musicians (fl, cl, vn, cello, pno)
- 6.b. LARSON Trio – 3 musicians (vn, cello, pno)

## **Category seven: SMALL PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

- Ensemble PULSAR(T) – 2-4 musicians
- List of instruments: 2 Bass Marimbas (C2-C7), 2 Vibraphones (F3-F6, tuning 442), 2 Concert Bass Drums, 2 Xylophones (F3-C7), 2 Glockenspiel (G3-C6), 1 set of chromatic Crotales, 1 pair of Congas, 2 pairs of Bongos, 2 pair of Tom-Toms, Tamn-Tam, unpitched gongs, small percussions

- For this category, no electronic/fixed media is possible.

#### **Category eight: STRING QUARTET (2vn, vla, cello)**

- Arcadia String Quartet
- Gaudeamus String Quartet
- For this category, no electronic/fixed media is possible.

#### **Category nine: DUO (with or without stereo fixed media – tape music)**

- 9.a. Viola and clarinet
- 9.b. Any duo combination between: flute (can double Piccolo, Alto, Bass Flute), clarinet (can double Bb Bass Clarinet), violin, cello, piano

#### **Category 10: SOLO WORKS (with or without live electronics\* / stereo fixed media – tape music)**

- From: flute (can double Piccolo, Alto, Bass Flute), clarinet (can double Bb Bass Clarinet), violin, cello, piano
- \*Recommended DAWs: Reaper, Ableton Live or Max/MSP and an up-to-four-channel loudspeaker system. Any additional plug-ins should be freeware and/ or be supplied by the composer.

#### **Category 11: SOLO CIMBALOM (with or without stereo fixed media – tape music)**

#### **Category 12: CHOIR (a cappella or with piano accompaniment; possible small percussions)**

- 12.a. Madrigal Choir – SATB Choir (35 singers, with a division option of 6-12 voices)
- 12.b. Madrigal Children Choir (24-30 children, with a division option of 3-4 voices)

#### **Category 13: AUDIO-VIDEO WORKS (up-to-eight-channel loudspeaker system)**

- Video file formats: mp4, mov

#### **Category 15: ELECTRONIC WORKS (up-to-eight-channel loudspeaker system)**

## **Key dates**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Monday 8 September 2025	Deadline to submit your application
Thursday 25 September 2025	We will let you know the outcome of your application
Wednesday 1 October 2025	Official ISCM portal closes
January 2026	The official announcement of the selected works will occur in January 2026, exact date not specified by the ISCM

23 – 31 May 2026

| World New Music Days festival 2026

## Contact us

If you have any questions about the form or application and selection process, or if you would like to discuss your access needs and any support we can offer at the application stage, please contact Grace Bailey: [Grace.Bailey@SoundandMusic.org](mailto:Grace.Bailey@SoundandMusic.org)

