



**Stellenbosch**

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# SU NATIONAL ENSEMBLES COMPETITION 2025

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### ABOUT

The SU National Ensemble Competition aims to:

1. Develop young musicians through collaborative participation and by encouraging the enjoyment of performing with others.
2. Encompass a wide range of musical genres, including Western Classical and Jazz music.
3. Make a valuable contribution towards the promotion of music in South Africa by creating a platform for skills and career development of young musicians.

The competition takes place over two rounds where:

1. Round 1 (qualifying round) is hosted online via pre-recorded performance submissions.
2. Round 2 (final round) is hosted in the form of public performances in the Konservatorium building at Stellenbosch University.

The recording, travel, and accommodation arrangements, as well as the costs thereof, are the responsibility of the respective ensembles. Limited financial assistance for participation in the final round is available for ensembles that are not based in the Western Cape.

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 31 JULY 2025**

**RECORDINGS FOR ROUND 1 TO BE SUBMITTED BY: 31 JULY 2025**

**ROUND 1 (ONLINE): 4-8 AUGUST 2025**

**FINAL ROUND (IN PERSON): 27 SEPTEMBER 2025**

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# SU NATIONAL ENSEMBLES COMPETITION 2025

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Participation is open to ensembles who compete in different Sections within two main Categories:
  - School Category (ages 12-18 years on 31 December 2025)
  - Open Category (ages 19-27 years on 31 December 2025)
- There is no restriction on the number of ensembles within which an individual participant may enter the competition.
- A member of an ensemble may not be replaced by someone else in the final round, unless permission is obtained from the organiser, under extraordinary circumstances.
- There is a maximum limit of 12 members for large Classical and Jazz ensembles, and a maximum limit of four members for Small Classical ensembles.
- All performers must be within the respective age restrictions (i.e. no teacher-accompanist)
- No conductors/teachers/non-performers are allowed on stage before or during the performance.

### COMPETITION ROUNDS

The FIRST ROUND adjudication takes place online. Recordings for Round 1 must be submitted by **31 July 2025**.

#### FOR BOTH SCHOOL AND OPEN CATEGORIES:

- The programme should include at least two contrasting works and have a **total duration of 12-15 minutes**. Time limits must be strictly adhered to. Failing to adhere to time limits may result in penalization.
- Arrangements and newly composed works may be performed, provided that a score is presented.
- Single movements from larger works are accepted.
- All members of the ensemble must be clearly visible in the video.
- Videos do not have to be of professional standard, but poor quality might have a negative impact on adjudication.
- Videos must be uploaded on YouTube, and the link e-mailed to [sunec@sun.ac.za](mailto:sunec@sun.ac.za)
- **NB** – The performance must be recorded in **one single take** and preceded by a **spoken introduction** by an ensemble member, stating the name of the ensemble and mentioning participation in the SU National Ensemble Competition.

The results for the Round 1 (online) will be made known between 4-8 August 2025.

# SU NATIONAL ENSEMBLES COMPETITION 2025

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### COMPETITION ROUNDS (cont.)

The FINAL ROUND of the competition takes place in form of public performances in the Konservatorium building, at Stellenbosch University, on **Saturday 27 September 2025**.

#### FOR BOTH SCHOOL AND OPEN CATEGORIES:

- The programme should include at least two contrasting works and have a **total duration of 15-20 minutes**. The repertoire from Round 1 must be repeated and extra work(s) included to adhere to the time requirement.
- A single or more movements from one work will be regarded as ONE of the works in the programme.
- An ensemble may perform a work which was not originally composed for that specific combination of instruments, provided a score is made available to the panel.

**CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 31 JULY 2025**

**RECORDINGS FOR ROUND 1 TO BE SUBMITTED BY: 31 JULY 2025**

**ROUND 1 (ONLINE): 4-8 AUGUST 2025**

**FINAL ROUND (IN PERSON): 27 SEPTEMBER 2025**

# SU NATIONAL ENSEMBLES COMPETITION 2025

## CATEGORIES & PRIZES

The SU Ensemble Competition invites participants to enter in the following Sections within the two main Categories, with any combination of instruments and/or voice:

SCHOOL CATEGORY: Age 12-18 years		OPEN CATEGORY: Age 19-27 years	
Classical Small Ensemble (max 4 members)		Classical Small Ensemble (max 4 members)	
Classical Large Ensemble (max 12 members)		Classical Large Ensemble (max 12 members)	
Jazz Ensemble (max 12 members)		Jazz Ensemble (max 12 members)	
PRIZES		PRIZES	
Overall winner	*R14 000	Overall winner	*R18 000
Best Classical Small Ensemble	R8000	Best Classical Small Ensemble	R8000
Best Classical Large Ensemble	R8000	Best Classical Large Ensemble	R8000
Best Jazz Ensemble	R8000	Best Jazz Ensemble	R8000
Runner-Up Classical Small Ensemble	R4000	Runner-Up Classical Small Ensemble	R5000
Runner-Up Classical Large Ensemble	R4000	Runner-Up Classical Large Ensemble	R5000
Runner-Up Jazz Ensemble	R4000	Runner-Up Jazz Ensemble	R5000
<b>TOTAL PRIZE MONEY</b>	<b>R47 000</b>	<b>TOTAL PRIZE MONEY</b>	<b>R61 000</b>

\* Overall winner prize-total includes the respective section prize.

## ADJUDICATION

- The performances will be adjudicated by a panel of widely recognised and experienced professional musicians.
- The panel reserves the right to withhold prizes based on standard of performance.
- The panel's decisions are final and not open to enquiry.
- Any uncertainties or questions regarding the competition regulations will be addressed and settled by the organiser.
- Adjudication will take place over two rounds; the Final Round being adjudicated entirely separately.
- The exact performers and combination of instruments/voices and performers must remain the same throughout both rounds.
- All ensembles will be adjudicated for Round 1 in an online format.
- The finalists will compete in the Final Round, which takes place in the form of a public performances in the Konservatorium building, at Stellenbosch University.
- The prize winners will be announced at the end of all the performances.

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### ENTRY FORM & FEE

- Please complete the online Teams form on our website <https://sunec.co.za>
- Entry fee of R300 (VAT included) per ensemble is payable.
- A proof of payment of the entry fee must accompany the entry form.

### PAYMENT DETAILS

Clearly indicate **R1394-[name of ensemble]** on all payments done electronically or by bank deposit.

Account name: Stellenbosch University  
Bank: Standard Bank  
Branch code: 050610  
Account number: 073006955  
Email proof or payment to: [sunec@sun.ac.za](mailto:sunec@sun.ac.za)

### CANCELLATION POLICY

Should an ensemble wish to withdraw from the competition, the organizer must be notified in writing, and the entry fee will NOT be reimbursed.

### GENERAL

Stellenbosch University, as well as our sponsors, accept no responsibility for copyright infringements if copies of sheet music are used.

For any enquiries related to the competition please contact  
Francesca Levenderis on +27 79 879 8539 or email [sunec@sun.ac.za](mailto:sunec@sun.ac.za)