



Tunescribers Arranging Competition 2026: Terms and Conditions

1. Overview

The Tunescribers Arranging Competition 2026 (“the Competition”) is a skill-based contest. Participants are invited to create an original arrangement based on a provided public domain melody.

The Competition includes three categories:

- **Piano (Solo)**
- **Ensemble (3–6 performers)**
- **Choral (SATB, no divisi, no accompaniment)**

By entering the Competition, participants agree to comply with these Terms and Conditions.

2. Eligibility

2.1. The Competition is open worldwide to individuals aged 16 and above.

2.2. Participants under the age of 18 must have parental or guardian consent to enter. Proof of consent may be requested.

2.3. Employees of Tunescribers and their immediate family members are not eligible to enter.

2.4. Participants may enter more than one category, but must purchase a separate ticket for each entry.

3. Entry Fees and Discounts

3.1 Entry Fees (USD)

Tier	Early Bird	Standard
Standard Entry <i>(per category)</i>	\$15	\$18
Standard + Critique <i>(per category)</i>	\$50	\$55
Concessionary Entry <i>(per category)</i>	\$10	\$12
Concessionary + Critique <i>(per category)</i>	\$25	\$30
Bundle Entry	\$30	\$36
Bundle Entry + Critique	\$100	\$110

All prices are shown in USD.

3.2 Pricing Periods

- **Early Bird Entry:** 1 March 2026 – 14 March 2026 (23:59 UK Time)
- **Standard Entry:** 15 March 2026 – 14 May 2026 (12:00 midday UK Time)

3.3 Concessionary Entry

Available to:

- Participants aged 16–21
- Those in full-time education
- Those aged 65 or over

Proof of eligibility may be requested.

3.4 Fee Waivers

A limited number of free entries are available for participants experiencing financial hardship. These will be allocated on a no-questions-asked, first-come, first-served basis. Participants should email info@tunescribers.com to request one.

3.5 Refunds

Refund requests made before **12:00 midday UK Time on 1 April 2026** (the prompt release date) will be processed.

From that time onwards, no refunds will be issued.

4. Submission Guidelines

4.1. Entries must be the participant's own original work, created specifically for this Competition.

4.2. Submissions must be based on the provided public domain melody and follow the additional creative prompt. The melody must be incorporated in some form but need not be immediately recognisable. If substantially transformed, participants should briefly explain how it has been used.

4.3. Duration:

- Maximum length: **2 minutes**
- Entries exceeding this duration may be disqualified.

4.4. Category Requirements:

Piano Category

- Must be playable by a single human pianist.

Ensemble Category

- Must be written for 3–6 performers, specific lineup at the entrant's discretion.
- Clear instrumentation must be specified.
- All parts must be performable by real musicians.

Choral Category

- Must be written for a cappella SATB choir, without divisi.
- Text must be public domain or original.
- All vocal parts must be practically singable.

4.5. Anonymity

Participants must not include their name or identifying information within submitted files.

4.6. Public Sharing

Submissions must not be publicly shared until after the winners have been announced.

4.7. Required Submission Formats

All entries must include:

- Native notation file (e.g. Sibelius, Dorico, MuseScore, Finale, etc.)
- PDF score (individual parts not required for ensemble/choral entries)
- Audio mockup (MP3 or WAV)
 - Export from notation software is more than acceptable; we are not looking for a professional recording.
 - A recording of a live performance is acceptable, if there is a technical problem preventing export.

4.8. Submission Deadline

Entries must be submitted via the designated platform by:

12:00 midday UK Time on 14 April 2026

Late submissions will not be accepted.

5. Judging Process

5.1. Initial Review

All entries will be reviewed anonymously by the Tunescrivers team to ensure compliance. Non-compliant entries may be disqualified.

5.2. Professional Judging

Entries will be evaluated by a professional judging panel based on:

- Creativity and originality
- Development of the provided melody
- Playability and practicality
- Notational clarity and presentation
- Adherence to the brief

5.3. Audience Prize

Selected entries may be featured on Tunescrivers' platforms for a public vote. The mechanism for determining the winner will be decided and communicated at the time of voting.

5.4. The judges' decision is final and binding. No correspondence regarding results will be entered into.

5.5. Critique Tier

Participants who purchase a Critique ticket will receive at least half a page of written feedback. Feedback will be delivered via email no later than 6 weeks after the winners are announced.

6. Prizes

Prizes are awarded **per category (Piano, Ensemble, Choral)**.

6.1 First Prize (per category)

- \$250 cash
- Publication on Tunescrivers
- Category-specific software prize:
 - **Piano:** Graphical MIDI Tools Gold Pass
 - **Ensemble:** NotePerformer license
 - **Choral:** Cantai lifetime license

6.2 Second Prize (per category)

- Transcribe! software license
- \$100 Tunescrivers credit

6.3 Third Prize (per category)

- \$50 Tunescrivers credit

6.4 Audience Prize

- \$50 Tunescrivers credit

6.5. Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for alternatives unless stated.

7. Intellectual Property

7.1. Participants confirm their submission is original and does not infringe third-party rights.

7.2. Participants retain copyright of their arrangement but grant Tunescrivers a non-exclusive, perpetual, royalty-free license to use the work for purposes related to the Competition, including promotion and marketing.

7.3. AI Policy

Entries must be created without the use of generative AI tools (either wholly or partially). All musical and notational content must be created manually by the participant. Entries found to use AI assistance may be disqualified.

8. Key Dates

- Early Bird Pricing: 1 March – 14 March 2026
 - Prompts Released: 1 May 2026 (12:00 midday UK Time)
 - Submission Deadline: 12:00 midday UK Time, 14 May 2026
 - Judging Period: May–July 2026
 - Winners Announced: Summer 2026 (date to be confirmed)
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9. Data Protection

9.1. Personal data will be used solely for administering the Competition and processed in accordance with applicable data protection laws.

9.2. Anonymity will be maintained during judging.

10. General

10.1. Tunescrivers reserves the right to disqualify any participant who breaches these Terms and Conditions.

10.2. Tunescrivers reserves the right to amend or cancel the Competition if circumstances beyond its control make this unavoidable.

10.3. These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of England and Wales. Any disputes will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.
