



International Society for Contemporary Music
Société Internationale pour la Musique Contemporaine
Internationale Gesellschaft für Neue Musik

Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland

ISCM World New Music Days 2023
Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa
24 November - 3 December 2023

Call for works

CMC/ISCM Irish Section Deadline: 23:00, 7 March 2023

Summary

The ISCM World New Music Days Festival is an annual festival of new music from around the world, attended by many international delegates, composers, producers, promoters and programmers.

The Contemporary Music Centre, Ireland, as the official Irish member of ISCM, is entitled to select and submit 6 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.

For this festival, there are 16 categories for different ensembles and specified groups listed below. You can submit works by sending a PDF version of the score along with an audio or video recording of the work (if available), or audio/video documentation if the work does not have a written score.

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

Work Categories

Priority will be given to works shorter than 10 minutes in duration and composed after 2013, with the highest priority given to works composed after 2018. Only one work per composer may be submitted, either by Individual (see below for details on how to apply directly) or Official Submission via CMC.

It is possible to submit works in any of the categories that include dance, either alongside the music or performed by the musicians and/or singers themselves. While this might reduce performance opportunities, the organisers will do their best to give such works equal consideration with those that do not include dance. Other interdisciplinary works (i.e. including theatre or visual arts) are also possible and should be submitted in the category corresponding to their musical/instrumental necessities.

1. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (with or without soloist[s])

- max. 3 fl. (of which 1 alto flute and 1 piccolo are possible), 3 ob. (of which 1 cor anglais is possible), 3 clar. (in Bb or A, with 1 bcl. possible), 3 bsn. (of which 1 contrabassoon is possible), 4 hrn., 3 tpt., 3 tbn. (of which 1 bass tbn is possible), 1 tuba, 3 perc. (of whom 1 player can perform on timp.), 1 hrp., 1 pno. and/or electric kbd., string orchestra

2. CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

- 13 musicians or more drawn from the following: 1 flute (incl. piccolo, alto flute), 1 oboe (incl. cor anglais), 1 clarinet (incl. bass clarinet), 1 bassoon (incl. contrabassoon), 1 horn, 1 trumpet, 1 trombone, 1 tuba, 2 pianos and/or keyboards, 1 harp, 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello, 1 contrabass, 2 percussion* (see below), live electronics (mono or stereo only), voice(s) (up to 2, male or female)

3. LARGE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

- 8-12 musicians drawn from the following: 1 flute (incl. piccolo, alto flute), 1 oboe (incl. cor anglais), 1 clarinet (incl. bass clarinet), 1 bassoon, 1 horn, 1 trumpet, 1 trombone, 1 tuba, 2 pianos and/or keyboards, 1 harp, 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello, 1 contrabass, 2 percussion*(see below), live electronics (mono or stereo only), voice(s) (up to 2, male or female)

4. MEDIUM CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

- 5-7 musicians drawn from the following: 1 flute (incl. piccolo, alto flute), 1 oboe (incl. cor anglais), 1 clarinet (incl. bass clarinet), 1 bassoon, 1 horn, 1 trumpet, 1 trombone, 1 tuba, 2 pianos and/or keyboards, 1 harp, 2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello, 1 contrabass, 2 percussion*(see below), live electronics (mono or stereo only), voice(s) (up to 2, male or female)

5. STRING QUARTET

- 2 violins, viola, cello

6. BRASS QUINTET (or trio or quartet)

- drawn from the following instruments: horn, 2 trumpets, trombone, tuba

7. TRIOS OR QUARTETS

- drawn from the following instruments (one of each): flute (incl. piccolo, alto flute), clarinet (incl. bass clarinet), alto saxophone, violin, viola, cello, contrabass, piano, accordion, percussion*(see below), voice(s) (up to 2, male or female)

8. DUOS

- drawn from the following instruments (one of each): voice (male or female), flute (incl. piccolo, alto flute), oboe (incl. cor anglais), clarinet (incl. bass clarinet), bassoon (incl. contrabassoon), alto saxophone, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, violin, viola, cello, contrabass, piano, accordion, guitar, percussion*(see below), live electronics (up to 4 channels - no fixed-media electronics as these should be proposed in category 11)

9. SOLOS

- of the following instruments: voice (male or female), flute (incl. piccolo, alto flute), oboe (incl. cor anglais), clarinet (incl. bass clarinet), bassoon (incl. contrabassoon), alto saxophone, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, violin, viola, cello, contrabass, piano, organ, harpsichord, accordion, guitar, percussion*(see below), live electronics (up to 4 channels - no fixed-media electronics as these should be proposed in category 11)

10. CHOIR SATB

- a cappella or with piano accompaniment.
- The choir that is likely to perform most pieces consists of 22 singers; divisi possible (2 per voice); sub-groupings (such as female voices only, etc.) are possible.

11. ELECTRONIC MUSIC WITH FIXED MEDIA

- acousmatic works, fixed media alone, or fixed media plus up to 2 performers of any instrument listed in categories 8 or 9, or supplied by composer
- up to 8 channels/speakers

12. COMPOSER-PERFORMER

- on any instrument supplied or brought by the performer, or on an instrument provided by the venue (possibilities are piano, vibraphone, marimba).
- For electronic composer-performers, a p.a. system (up to 8 channels/speakers) will be provided.

13. JAZZ and/or IMPROVISING ENSEMBLE

- Instrumentation should be drawn from the following list: voice (male or female), flute, oboe, clarinet (incl. bass clarinet), bassoon, horn, trumpet, trombone, tuba, violin, viola, cello, contrabass, piano, accordion, guitar, percussion* (see below)
- additional instruments include: saxophone (up to two players - soprano, alto, tenor, baritone possible), electric keyboards, electric guitar, electric bass guitar, various African or Latin percussion, steel pan, drum set, live electronics (up to 4 channels).

14. SOUND INSTALLATIONS

- to be shown in gallery spaces or other environments, or outside.
- It should be possible to set up and tear down the installation within 20 minutes each. Installations with more complex setups will be accommodated where possible; the Festival Organizers can be contacted in case of questions.

15. COLLABORATIONS WITH AFRICAN TRADITIONAL MUSICIANS

- African musicians usually do not read scores; it is possible to develop music and learn it by rote, but also to develop new notation systems or in some cases use existing ones.
- Each such collaboration will require its own approach and strategy for development.
- Please submit a written project description. If you know (a) musician(s) you would like to collaborate with, let us know; if not, describe your ideas and we will try to match you with (a) collaborator(s).
- In order to rehearse and perform the music, it may be necessary to attend the festival in South Africa and to arrive several days prior to the festival's opening.
- Smaller numbers of musicians will make projects easier to realize - duos or trios are ideal.
- Possible African instruments can include, but are not limited to, lesiba, sekhankula/mamokhorong, Southern African musical bows (uhadi, umrhubhe, umqangala, xitende, etc.), guitar played using African techniques, timbila, Southern African marimba, balafon, amadinda, endongo, djembé, kora, mbira, kalimba, drums from various Southern African locations.
- Electronics and voice(s) can be included in these collaborations.

16. MARIMBA ORCHESTRA

- Compositions for youth or professional ensembles consisting of Southern African marimbas (n.b., this is not the Western concert marimba, but a single-row instrument usually with "white notes" plus the f#) of different sizes.
- Ensembles usually consist of 4 voices, soprano, tenor, baritone, bass, each played by multiple musicians.
- Please submit a score or get in touch with the Festival Organizers to discuss instrument details.

* for works including percussion, it should be noted that, while instruments used in the standard symphonic repertoire are available (timpani, snare drums, tom toms, marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, glockenspiel, triangle, tubular bells, etc.), locating more unusual percussion instruments might be challenging. In some cases, it may be necessary for the composer to provide such instruments, either by sending them via courier or by attending the festival and bringing the instrument. NewMusicSA will liaise with the composer should there be problems locating necessary instruments. In addition to standard orchestral percussion, a wide variety of African traditional percussion instruments is available, as well as Southern African marimbas, which are neotraditional (not traditional!) instruments from Zimbabwe and South Africa that are usually diatonic with "white notes" plus the f#.

Guidelines for making an Official Submission to the ISCM Irish Section

- All CMC-represented composers, and composers who were members of the Association of Irish Composers (the previous ISCM Irish Section) in 2022 are eligible to submit works.
- Only one work per composer may be submitted, by either official submission or individual submission
- CMC strives to be representative of all society in Ireland in all of our activities, and inclusive of all social backgrounds, ethnicities, traditions, sexual orientations, genders, disabilities and religions. It is our aim to submit a balanced and representative shortlist of six high-quality works
- Works submitted to the joint CMC/AIC call for the previous ISCM Festival (China 2021) are not eligible
- Composers of works performed at the previous two ISCM World Music Days Festivals are not eligible to apply

If you wish to apply, please supply the following documents and information [here](#).

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 1-10, please submit a pdf of the score and a recording or MIDI realization.
- For categories 11-16, please submit a project proposal, score, or lead sheet, soundfiles, and/or other material that will allow the selection panel to gain a clear understanding of the musical, and technical aspects and requirements of the work.
- Programme notes for the submitted work in English (maximum 100 words).

- Technical rider specifying all equipment necessary to perform the work.
- Short biography of the composer in English (maximum 100 words).
- High-resolution digital photograph of the composer.

Selection of works

Each submission will be reviewed by a selection panel, which will select six works for submission to the International Jury. The submissions need to cover at least four of the listed categories. Provided CMC meets these requirements, it is guaranteed that at least one work submitted by the ISCM Irish Section will be included in the World New Music Days Festival.

For queries, please contact Jonathan Grimes at CMC: jgrimes@cmc.ie

Deadline for applications:

7 March 2023

Late applications will not be accepted.

We will let you know no later than 22 March 2023 if your work has been shortlisted for submission.

CMC will publicise the 6 successfully submitted composers and works via our website and communication channels, as well as the final selected work(s) in due course. We will also work with the selected composer(s) with the aim of securing sufficient funding to attend the ISCM World New Music Days in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

Applying directly to the ISCM

Composers (or publishers or agents working on their behalf) may apply directly to the ISCM international jury.

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