



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

# 2026 UCT strings COMPETITION

**R135 000  
IN PRIZES  
TO BE WON**

**JUNIOR &  
SENIOR  
CATEGORIES**



ONLINE ENTRIES  
**CLOSE**  
15 June 2026

SEMI-FINALS

**Seniors | 7 September**  
**Juniors | 9 September**

10am onwards, Baxter Concert Hall

FINAL ROUND

**11 September** (BOTH CATEGORIES)  
6pm, Baxter Concert Hall

**THE  
BAXTER**

**web tickets**  
AVAILABLE AT **PicknPay**



**SACM**  
SOUTH AFRICAN COLLEGE OF MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

# SENIOR CATEGORY COMPETITION GUIDELINES

The 2026 UCT Strings Competition is to be held on:

**SEMI-FINALS:** Monday 7 September 2026 (Senior category - aged 28 and under)  
Baxter Concert Hall

**FINAL ROUND:** Friday 11 September 2026, Baxter Concert Hall

Deadline for **entries** along with pre-screening video to be received: Monday 15 June 2026  
(You will be informed by 30 June if you are selected to take part in the 2026 Competition.)

**ENTRY FEE R100.** Payable in cash or via EFT to Fiona Grayer before Monday 15 June 2026.

Banking details:

Cape Chamber Music Collective

Nedbank current account

Account number: 1220795836

Reference: Your initials and surname

## HOW TO ENTER:

Step 1 - complete the online entry form found [here](#)

Step 2 - pay the R100 entry fee (details above)

Step 3 - email the link of your video recording to [concerts@uct.ac.za](mailto:concerts@uct.ac.za) before Monday 15 June.

## GENERAL:

- To be eligible for the Senior Category of the UCT Strings Competition, candidates must be 28 years of age or younger on the date of the Competition Finals.
- Accompanists: Competitors are kindly asked to provide their own accompanist. If you do not have an accompanist in Cape Town, the competition organisers will be happy to recommend two pianists from whom you may choose. Please note that any accompanist fees are the responsibility of the competitor.
- The jury's decision is final.
- By entering, competitors agree that their performances may be recorded and that their images, names, and recordings may be used for promotional purposes.
- The overall winner from the previous year's competition may not enter in the following year.
- Accommodation and travel at the expense of the competitor.

## PRE-SCREENING / VIDEO ROUND

- Each competitor is to record two contrasting movements / pieces.
- Works may be recorded with or without piano accompaniment.
- Each video recording must be made from start to finish without cuts or edits.
- Recordings can be submitted by 15 June in the form of an unlisted YouTube link.
- Duration of pre-screening round music: Minimum length of performance 8 minutes; maximum length of performance 12 minutes.

# SENIOR CATEGORY COMPETITION GUIDELINES (cont.)

## SEMI-FINAL ROUND

- Minimum of one UNACCOMPANIED piece.
- Minimum of one ACCOMPANIED piece.
- Maximum of four pieces / movements in total.
- One Baroque/Classical piece or movement(s) of a pieces.
- One, two, or three contrasting pieces or movements of pieces, one of which may be a movement from a concerto.
- Please note that a prize will be awarded for the best performance of a work by a South African composer.
- Duration of semi-final round music: Minimum length of performance 20 minutes; maximum length of performance 25 minutes.

## FINAL ROUND

- A recital programme: Minimum length of performance 25 minutes; maximum length of performance 30 minutes.
- The programme can involve unaccompanied and accompanied pieces.
- The final round takes the form of a public concert at the Baxter Concert Hall.
- Please note that time in the Baxter Concert Hall may be booked for a final run-through for all finalists by contacting Fiona Grayer. Time slots will be allocated fairly on Tuesday, 8 September (Senior category only), and Thursday, 10 September (Both categories).

## REPERTOIRE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:

- Participants may repeat a work presented in the Pre-Screening Round in either the Semifinal or the Final Round. However, no single piece may be performed more than twice throughout the competition.
- Repeats are permitted but not mandatory.
- Competitors may play with or without music, regardless of the repertoire.
- In the semi-final round, orchestral tuttis may be cut.
- Competitors are free to decide their performance order for each round, but those who do not abide by the time limits may be stopped by the jury.
- Copies of sheet music (electronic pdfs) must be provided for the panel and should be emailed to the Competition Organiser, Fiona Grayer on [concerts@uct.ac.za](mailto:concerts@uct.ac.za) before 17 August.

**For further enquiries, please contact the Competition Organiser,  
Fiona Grayer, on [concerts@uct.ac.za](mailto:concerts@uct.ac.za)**

# JUNIOR CATEGORY COMPETITION GUIDELINES

The 2026 UCT Strings Competition is to be held on:

**SEMI-FINALS:** Wednesday 9 September 2026 (Junior category)  
Baxter Concert Hall

**FINAL ROUND:** Friday 11 September 2026, Baxter Concert Hall

Deadline for **entries** along with pre-screening video to be received: Monday 15 June 2026  
(You will be informed by 30 June if you are selected to take part in the 2026 Competition.)

**ENTRY FEE R100.** Payable in cash or via EFT to Fiona Grayer before Monday 15 June 2026.

Banking details:

Cape Chamber Music Collective

Nedbank current account

Account number: 1220795836

Reference: Your initials and surname

## HOW TO ENTER:

Step 1 - complete the online entry form found [here](#)

Step 2 - pay the R100 entry fee (details above)

Step 3 - email the link of your video recording to [concerts@uct.ac.za](mailto:concerts@uct.ac.za) before Monday 15 June.

The winner will be offered a performance opportunity with the UCT Symphony Orchestra, a cash prize, and will be considered for a bursary to study at the South African College of Music.

## GENERAL:

- Applicants for the Junior Category must have attained a minimum performance standard equivalent to Grade 7 or higher.
- Accompanists: Competitors are kindly asked to provide their own accompanist. If you do not have an accompanist in Cape Town, the competition organisers will be happy to recommend two pianists from whom you may choose. Please note that any accompanist fees are the responsibility of the competitor.
- The jury's decision is final.
- By entering, competitors agree that their performances may be recorded and that their images, names, and recordings may be used for promotional purposes.
- Accommodation and travel at the expense of the competitor.
- Under 18s are to be accompanied by a parent / guardian.

## **JUNIOR CATEGORY COMPETITION GUIDELINES (cont.)**

### **PRE-SCREENING / VIDEO ROUND**

- Each competitor is to record two contrasting movements / pieces.
- Works may be recorded with or without piano accompaniment.
- Each video recording must be made from start to finish without cuts or edits.
- Recordings can be submitted by 15 June in the form of an unlisted YouTube link.
- Duration of pre-screening round music: Minimum length of performance 8 minutes; maximum length of performance 12 minutes.

### **SEMI-FINAL ROUND**

- Maximum of four pieces / movements in total.
- One Baroque/Classical piece or movement(s) of a piece.
- One, two, or three contrasting pieces or movements of pieces, one of which may be a movement from a concerto.
- Please note that a prize will be awarded for the best performance of a work by a South African composer.
- Duration of semi-final round music: Minimum length of performance 8 minutes; maximum length of performance 12 minutes.

### **FINAL ROUND**

- A movement of a concerto or concert piece written originally with orchestral accompaniment (the score needs to be readily accessible in South Africa).
- A short contrasting accompanied or unaccompanied piece.
- Duration of final round music: Minimum length of performance 15 minutes; maximum length of performance 20 minutes.
- The final round takes the form of a public concert at the Baxter Concert Hall.
- Please note that time in the Baxter Concert Hall may be booked for a final run-through for all finalists by contacting Fiona Grayer. Time slots will be allocated fairly on Thursday, 10 September (Both categories).

### **REPERTOIRE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:**

- Participants may repeat a work presented in the Pre-Screening Round in either the Semifinal or the Final Round. However, no single piece may be performed more than twice throughout the competition.
- Repeats are permitted but not mandatory.
- Competitors may play with or without music, regardless of the repertoire.
- In the semi-final round, orchestral tuttis may be cut.
- Competitors are free to decide their performance order for each round, but those who do not abide by the time limits may be stopped by the jury.
- Copies of sheet music must be provided for the panel and should be given to or emailed to the Competition Organiser, Fiona Grayer on [concerts@uct.ac.za](mailto:concerts@uct.ac.za) before 17 August.

**For further enquiries, please contact the Competition Organiser, Fiona Grayer, on [concerts@uct.ac.za](mailto:concerts@uct.ac.za)**