



***THE MALTA INTERNATIONAL SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL***  
***12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023***

**International Competition for Concert Bands and Wind Orchestras**

EuroArt Production srl and Leon Promotions are organising this **International Bands Competition** as part of **The Malta International Spring Music Festival 2023**, in order to provide the participating groups a golden opportunity of enhancing their musical talents and explore the various European cultural diversities.

Wind band music is one of the most popular musical traditions in Malta. In almost every Maltese town and village, one can find one or two and sometimes even three, band clubs. These clubs' annual highlight is their village feast celebration – a whole week of religious celebrations in honor of their patron saint.

All bands can take part in this competition, regardless of the number of musicians within their band. The bands must not only be professional ones.

**The competition is divided in the following categories:**

- ***Category A***
- ***Category B***
- ***Independent category*** (not competitive)

Each group can choose to join one of the above categories.

A band can only share up to 5 musicians with another Band, but only if these are in different categories.

Only percussion and wind instruments are allowed (or else specific instruments which may be required to perform certain musical scores)

Keyboards can only be used to replace instruments which are not provided by the Festival Organisation, but only after authorisation. Details of instruments to be provided by the Festival can be found further down under the General Information heading (No. 4)

Any changes and / or edits to the instrumentation scores, must be submitted to be evaluated by the Organisation/Jury, at the moment of admission for the actual Festival Competition Day.

## 1) Music Scores

All bands participating in this competition must perform:

### *Compulsory Music Score*

#### **CATEGORY A:**

Gustav Holst, "**FIRST SUITE in Mi b**" op. 28 n.1

Publisher: Boosey & Hawkes

#### **CATEGORY B:**

Jacob de Haan "**CONCERTO D'AMORE**"

Publisher: De Haske

### *A music selection of the band's choice*

This should respect the International music parameters of difficulty:

Category A: parameters of difficulty 3.5 – 5

Category B: parameters of difficulty 2-3

Groups can perform a short piece of music as warm-up (out of the competition), that should not last more than 3 minutes.

For the Bands taking part in categories **A** and **B**, the overall performance, including the warm-up intro and the chosen repertoire, must not exceed the maximum duration of 35 minutes. The maximum time on stage must not exceed 40 minutes.

There will be a penalty for those groups who exceed the mentioned duration on stage. The jury panel will be strict on this issue and performances will be timed. This 40 minute period will commence the moment first musician gets on stage, till when the last musician gets off stage.

## 2) The Independent Category

The Independent Category is intended for groups who opt to be out of competition.

Only in this Category the bands will be provided, in private form, a written assessment by one of the qualified International jury members. This assessment will deal with the artistic and technical skills of the band. It will propose valuable tools and suggestions for further improvement in musical arts.

The main aim of this category is to serve as a first step for groups aiming to participate in actual competitions in future years.

There are no prizes in connection with this Category.

The bands taking part in this Category must perform two music scores of their choice.

They can also perform a short music score as warm-up, that should not last more than 2 minutes.

For the Bands taking part in this category, the presented programme, including the warm-up piece and their chosen pieces of music, must not exceed the maximum duration of 20 minutes. Their maximum stage appearance must not exceed a total of 25 minutes.

All music scores expenses are to be incurred by the respective band.

### **3) Applications**

The application form which a group must submit, in order participate in any of the above mentioned category, must include the following documents:

- Band's CV
- Band's Director CV

All details submitted in the application form, including musician personal details, can be verified by the Festival Organisation anytime during the Festival.

When the group received the official participation confirmation, the group must then provide:

- A photo of the band (possibly in concert formation) in jpg format.
- Information about each individual musician including info about their respective instruments.
- For Categories A and B - 3 original copies of the music score of their choice.

For those participating in the Independent Category - 1 original copy of both pieces to be performed.

After the performance one copy of the music scores will be held by the Organisation. Given that photocopies are prohibited by law where music

scores are involved, please note that the each respective group is responsible for any photocopying of music scores.

- Detailed plan of the musicians formation on stage.

#### **4) General Information for Applicants**

- Admission in the competitions is at the discretion of the Jury Panel and Festival Organisation, who may even opt to suggest a group to participate in a different category from that requested.
- The running order of performances will be determined by the Organisation and the Jury Panel on basis of organisational and technical necessities and this will be communicated in writing to the participating groups.
- Directors may only conduct one band in the same category. A band can have two alternating Directors. The Orchestra Directors can conduct two bands only if these are participating in two different categories.
- Participant groups can make amendments to their list of musicians submitted with the application. These have to be communicated with the Festival Organisation by not later than the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- In the event of insufficient number of participants in a category, (minimum 8 bands entered in the competition) the Organization reserves the right to cancel the competition. The definitive confirmation will be communicated by 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- If, due to reasons beyond the control of the Organisation, the promoted Theatre will be not available, the competition will be organised in a different venue, suitable for such an event.
- The Organisation will provide the participating bands with 40 lecterns, 3 timpani (26-29-32), bass drum, cymbals, snare drum, suspended cymbal, tambourine, wind chimes, bongos, glockenspiel, xylophone, a drum kit set. Percussion mallets and any percussion instruments which are not mentioned here must be brought by each respective band.
- The Organisation reserves the right to hold also further performances and parades during the Festival days, apart from those scheduled in connection with the competition. These performances can take place in other venues around the island. The detailed programme will be coordinated with each

group. (Transfers from the Hotel to these venues will be provided by the Organisation).

- Participating groups should opt only for the Festival accommodation packages.
- The Organisation is not responsible for any accident to persons or equipment during their journey to Malta and even during the Festival Days in Malta.
- All performances will be held either on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> or Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May.
- All costs connected with travelling and accommodation must be totally borne by the respective participants.

## 5) The Competition judging

- **The Jury Panel** is going to be formed up of three famous International Directors of Bands/Orchestras.
  - **J. De Haan - Holland (Chairman)**
  - **Alfio Zito - Italy**
  - **Archibald Mizzi - Malta**

(see curriculum).

- If for some reason or another, one of the above judges cannot make it, the Festival Organisation will provide a substitute, coming also from the International music sector.
- The jury panel will cast their votes on these parameters:
  1. Intonation
  2. Quality and balance of sound
  3. Technique and articulation
  4. Ensemble and rhythmic
  5. Expression and dynamic
  6. Interpretation
- For each Category, the ranking will be based on the final scores. The band that will achieve the highest score in all categories will win **“The Malta International Spring Music Festival Trophy”**
- The final classification for each category will start with the first, then second, then third place.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the Categories A & B will be awarded to the Band receiving the highest score, higher than 85.01/100.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for Categories A & B will be awarded to the Band receiving the second highest score, higher than 80.01/85.00.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for Categories A & B will be awarded to the Band receiving the third highest score, higher than 75.01/80.00.
- The final classification for each category will be compiled to scroll, it will be considered first the band that has achieved the highest score regardless of the merit.
- The way in which the Jury Panel will do their work, is regulated by internal rules of procedure. The jury's decisions are unquestionable and final.
- For the band to be eligible for adjudication of the above mentioned categories, its score has to be at least in the range between 60.01 and 75.00.
- The bands participating in all the above mentioned categories and which will exceed the maximum time set on stage, will be penalised by deducting 0.5 points from their final score, for every minute they exceed the agreed time on stage.
- A group which is not on site at their scheduled performing time, without any valid justification will be disqualified from competition/participation.
- All results will be announced at the end of the event.
- For the Independent Category, the Jury Panel will judge each group respective performance, so that each group will be able to know their respective musical level within the categories of this competition. The Jury Panel will also prepare a written evaluation, in private form, according to the following parameters: intonation, sound quality and balance, technique and articulation, ensemble and rhythm, expressiveness and dynamic, and interpretation.
- The results and of the written evaluations will both be provided by the Jury Panel at the end of the event, during the closing ceremony.
- As already stated, there will be no prizes for those who register in the Independent Category. The groups in this category will receive a certificate of participation.
- The groups participating in the Independent category may be asked by the Jury Panel, to interrupt their performance if they will exceed the time set for their stage appearance.

## 6) **The Festival Workshop**

- This workshop will be conducted by Maestro Jacob De Haan. All those who love the music of this famous Dutch composer will be able to participate in these meetings, regardless of number and ages. Participants will also have the opportunity to know the creative process that leads to his music.
- The workshop will be divided in two sections:

### **A) Theoretical**

### **B) Practical (Concert lesson)**

In the application form, the group must communicate if it intends to participate in this workshop. If the group wants to participate, it is mandatory to communicate the number of participants.

The workshop will be held in English and Italian.

- **Theoretical Section**

This is dedicated for the Band Directors and with a maximum of 4 components from each band as listeners. In this meeting, Jacob De Haan, through a detailed musical analysis of his scores, will make the participants discover the creation of his music scores, from the moment that these were commissioned to the moment when these were performed.

Participants will also discover, step by step, the various musical passages that characterise all his compositions.

- **Practical Section**

A band will be composed from musicians of different participating groups in the competition/festival. These musicians will be selected by their own respective Band Director, in collaboration with the Organisation, in order to create a balanced band, for a minimum number of 6 to a maximum of 10 musicians from each formation.

All participants, therefore, will have the opportunity to observe, practice, and listen how Jacob De Haan works with a Band and what the concertation technique is in assembling the pieces to be performed in public.

In addition to the selected musicians, it will be also possible for all the other musicians to participate at the “Concert lesson”, but only as listeners.

## 7) Prizes

### **Category A**

**1<sup>st</sup> place:** A total amount of **€1,700** to be redeemed as follow:

- ✓ A **€ 1,200** voucher to be spend on musical instruments from ‘Oltremusica’ via their online portal [www.oltremusicashop.com](http://www.oltremusicashop.com)
- ✓ A **€ 500** discount voucher, to be used before December 2024, to participate in the festivals that the Organisation holds annually in Malta, Malgrat de Mar (Spain) and Taormina (Sicily- Italy).

**2<sup>nd</sup> place:** A total amount of **€ 1,000** to be redeemed as follow:

- ✓ A **€ 600** voucher to be spend on musical instruments from 'Oltremusica' via their online portal [www.oltremusicashop.com](http://www.oltremusicashop.com)
- ✓ A **€ 400** discount voucher, to be used before December 2024, to participate in the festivals that the Organisation holds annually in Malta, Malgrat de Mar (Spain) and Taormina (Sicily- Italy)

**3<sup>rd</sup> place:** A total amount of **€ 500** to be redeemed as follow:

- ✓ A **€ 500** discount voucher, to be used before December 2024, to participate in the festivals that the Organisation holds annually in Malta, Malgrat de Mar (Spain) and Taormina (Sicily- Italy).

### **Category B**

**1<sup>st</sup> place:** A total amount of **€ 1,300** to be redeemed as follow:

- ✓ A **€ 1,000** voucher to be spend on musical instruments from 'Oltremusica' via their online portal [www.oltremusicashop.com](http://www.oltremusicashop.com)
- ✓ A **€ 300** discount voucher, to be used before December 2024, to participate in the festivals that the Organisation holds annually in Malta, Malgrat de Mar (Spain) and Taormina (Sicily- Italy)

**2<sup>nd</sup> place:** A total amount of **€ 800** to be redeemed as follow:

- ✓ A **€ 500** voucher to be spend on musical instruments from 'Oltremusica' via their online portal [www.oltremusicashop.com](http://www.oltremusicashop.com)
- ✓ A **€ 300** discount voucher, to be used before December 2024, to participate in the festivals that the Organisation holds annually in Malta, Malgrat de Mar (Spain) and Taormina (Sicily- Italy)

**3<sup>rd</sup> place:** A total amount of **€ 400** to be redeemed as follow:

- ✓ A **€ 400** discount voucher, to be used before December 2024, to participate in the festivals that the Organisation holds annually in Malta, Malgrat de Mar (Spain) and Taormina (Sicily- Italy).

The mentioned discount voucher is not transferable and it is valid only if the group participates in the chosen festival (not only for taking a holiday). Voucher cannot be used as payment for the competitions registration fee.

Groups will be responsible for all shipping charges.

The Bands that will only get a final score of 60.01 to 75.00 will not be eligible for any prize. However, all the participating bands will receive a certificate of participation.

The Festival Organisation reserves the right to award additional prizes for performances of particular interest or to Band Directors who will have demonstrated special artistic skills.

During the awards ceremony, there must be a representative for each participating Band, who will collect the participation certificate and also a technical document including details of the votes for each song and criteria and even awards if any.

## 8) General Conditions for Participation

- The Festival Organisation reserves the right to make any changes to the programme established, as may be necessary, for reasons beyond their control, if however this should prove necessary for the success of the festival itself. The Organisation, in such cases, will make the choices with the upmost respect for all the participating groups and with the sole aim of the Festival successful outcome.
- The Organisation reserves the right to use photographic and/or audiovisual material and use it for advertising and promotional purposes. So the participating groups when confirming their participation, will automatically authorise the production of such material for the purposes specified above and are therefore not entitled to any payment for the photographic, audiovisual, radio broadcasts, and any recordings which will be used.
- The Organisation accepts no liability regarding any accidents or injuries to persons or property during the course of the Festival and even during travelling for this Festival. The groups, therefore, be held liable for any damage caused by their members to persons and/or property (including the Hotel where they will stay), during performances and permanence, while travelling to reach Malta and to return to their respective countries of origin. The groups will also be responsible for any health problems, accidents, accidents that may occur to their members during the event. The groups will also be responsible for their minors.
- If a group, could not arrive for the Festival, for reasons not attributable to the Organisation, the same group would lose the amount paid at the time of defection.
- The Festival Organisation – EuroArt production srl (Giuseppe Corsaro) and Leon Promotions (Noel Castillo) is released from any liability under the above as described and specified.

## 9) Participation Fees

For the local concert Bands and wind orchestras (Malta) that want to take part in the competition, the participation fee is €500.

The registration fee for the workshop, held by Mro. J De Haan, is €100 per person.

For International bands who opt to participate and who will take the Festival Organisation Package, will not pay the above mentioned fees of participation and for workshop registration.

**Deadline for submissions of applications: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

A big thank you to our partner:

**Oltremusica** *Music store*  
[www.oltremusicashop.com](http://www.oltremusicashop.com)



Sicily - Italy

Communications and contacts:

EuroArt production srl.  
Via Regione Siciliana, 41  
95030 Mascalucia (Ct), Italy



Tel/Fax (+39) 095 7278224

Mobiles/WhatsApp: (+39) 393 9982680 – (+39) 393 9273425

E-mail: [info@euroartproduction.com](mailto:info@euroartproduction.com)

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