

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

17 - 21 August 2026

Venue: Church Unlimited Mbombela
R40 towards Barberton, Maggiesdal, Mbombela

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Please read the general rules, as well as the specific rules

PLEASE NOTE: The sheet music MUST be handed in at registration for both the classical and light music sections.

ENTRY FEES

Solo	R 145-00
Duet	R 90-00 pp
Group 3-10	R 70-00 pp
Group 11+	R 50-00 pp
Competitive Items	R 300-00 pp
Rock Groups	R 500-00



CLASSICAL MUSIC SECTION

Classical Music Specific Rules

- The maximum **duration of each item** is 4 minutes, unless indicated otherwise. Participants who exceeds the maximum duration will be penalized.
- **A copy of the sheet music must be handed in at registration.**
- Acoustic or backtrack accompaniment will be allowed.
- **Please note: acoustic accompaniment is any unplugged instrument.**
- **Participants** will not be allowed to **perform more than once** in an item with the exception of items **IMC43 to IMC55**
- Only **1 work** may be presented in the **non-competitive**, except where more than 1 instrument is entered.
- **The minimum standard for awards is 85% in the competitive items.**
- **No singing is allowed in this section.**
- **DUET INFORMATION: A duet is where both parts have equal weight, therefore, if one of the parts has a solo it no longer qualifies as a duet.**



NON-COMPETITIVE CLASSICAL SECTION

INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS

- A maximum of **4 minutes** per participant will be allowed.
- **All instruments may be entered in this section.**
- Participants must present **1 work** per item. (Unless otherwise stated)
- Beginner participants will be allowed to present **2 pieces**.
- Participants must make sure they enter for the right style period.
- **Participants entering for items IMC 37 and IMC 38 must cover the cost of the duet. (unless arranged otherwise with the teacher)**

INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS – BEGINNERS

ITEM IMC 1	BEGINNERS: Piano
ITEM IMC 2	BEGINNERS: Other instrument (eg. Guitar / cello etc.)
ITEM IMC 3	OLDER BEGINNER: Piano (12 years)
ITEM IMC 4	OLDER BEGINNER: Other instrument (12 years)

INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS – PRIMARY SCHOOL

ITEM IMC 5	SONATA/SONATINA (only 1 movement)
ITEM IMC 6	PRE-BAROQUE
ITEM IMC 7	BAROQUE (Prelude and Fugue may be presented as 1 work)
ITEM IMC 8	CLASSICAL
ITEM IMC 9	ROMANTIC
ITEM IMC 10	IMPRESSIONISTS
ITEM IMC 11	TWENTIETH CENTURY
ITEM IMC 12	CONTEMPORARY
ITEM IMC 13	SOUTH AFRICAN COMPOSERS
ITEM IMC 14	STUDIES / ETUDES

INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS – SECONDARY SCHOOL

ITEM IMC 15	SONATA/SONATINA (only 1 movement)
ITEM IMC 16	PRE-BAROQUE
ITEM IMC 17	BAROQUE (Prelude and Fugue may be presented as 1 work)
ITEM IMC 18	CLASSICAL
ITEM IMC 19	ROMANTIC
ITEM IMC 20	IMPRESSIONISTS
ITEM IMC 21	TWENTIETH CENTURY
ITEM IMC 22	CONTEMPORARY
ITEM IMC 23	SOUTH AFRICAN COMPOSERS
ITEM IMC 24	STUDIES / ETUDES

ITEM IMC 34

INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS – OPEN



INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

- A maximum of **4 minutes** per group will be allowed.
- Items must be entered under the age of the oldest participant. (except for items IMC 38 and IMC 39)
- Only one piece per item may be presented.
- Teachers may form part of the Ensemble in items IMC 40 and IMC 41 and may NOT take the part of a conductor.

ITEM IMC 35	DUET – Primary School (Piano)
ITEM IMC 36	DUET – Secondary School (Piano)
ITEM IMC 37	DUET – Pupil with teacher on any instrument – Primary School
ITEM IMC 38	DUET – Pupil with teacher on any instrument – Secondary School
ITEM IMC 39	FAMILY DUET
ITEM IMC 92	FAMILY ENSEMBLE
ITEM IMC 93	OPEN ENSEMBLE
ITEM IMC 40	ENSEMBLE (group) 3-10
ITEM IMC 41	ENSEMBLE (group) 11+
ITEM IMC 42	PERCUSSION BANDS (Orff, etc)

COMPETITIVE CLASSICAL SECTION

INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS

- No participant **will be allowed to perform work which has been entered in other sections.**
- Each participant must present a programme of **3 contrasting works and style periods.**
- A **maximum of 12 minutes** will be allowed for this program. Participants who exceed the maximum duration will be penalized.
- In this section, an award will be given to the best participant achieving a minimum of **85%**.

ITEM IMC 43	U/7 - U/11	PIANO
ITEM IMC 44	U/12 – U/15	PIANO
ITEM IMC 45	U/16 – U/19	PIANO
ITEM IMC 46	OPEN	PIANO
ITEM IMC 47	U/7 – U/13	ANY OTHER INSTRUMENT
ITEM IMC 48	U/15 –U/19	ANY OTHER INSTRUMENT
ITEM IMC 49	OPEN	ANY OTHER INSTRUMENT



INNIBOS NATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- In addition to awards made by the Eisteddfod, the Innibos National Arts Festival offers the following annual awards:

PRIMARY SCHOOL SECTION (SCHOOL GRADE 1-4):	R 800.00
PRIMARY SCHOOL SECTION (SCHOOL GRADE 5-7):	R1,000.00
SECONDARY SCHOOL SECTION: (SCHOOL GRADE 8-12):	R1,200.00

Conditions of the Innibos Achievement Awards:

- Participants must perform 2 pieces, 1 of which must be composed by a South African composer.
- A **maximum duration of 8 minutes** will be allowed for this section. Participants who exceed the maximum duration will be penalized.
- Pieces do not have to be memorized.
- In this section, the award will be given to the best participant achieving a minimum of **85%**.

ITEM IMC 50	PRIMARY SCHOOL (SCHOOL GRADE 1-4)
ITEM IMC 51	PRIMARY SCHOOL (SCHOOL GRADE 5-7)
ITEM IMC 52	SECONDARY SCHOOL (SCHOOL GRADE 8-12)

OWN COMPOSITION INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

- Participants can perform **1 or 2** pieces in this section.
- A **maximum duration of 3 minutes** will be allowed if the participant performs **1 piece** and a **maximum duration of 7 minutes** will be allowed if the participant performs **2 pieces**. Participants who exceed the maximum duration will be penalized.
- **Take note: Improvisation of an existing piece WILL NOT be accepted and will immediately be disqualified.**
- The award will be granted to the participant who achieves an average of **85%** or higher.

ITEM IMC 53	PRIMARY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL
ITEM IMC 54	SECONDARY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL
ITEM IMC 55	OPEN INSTRUMENTAL



LIGHT MUSIC SECTION

Light Music Specific Rules:

- Maximum time per item is **4 minutes**, unless otherwise indicated. Participants who exceeds the maximum duration will be penalized.
- **No participant** will be allowed to perform more than **once in an item** *except in items IML 56 to IML 89.*
- The same **piece** may not be presented **more than once.**
- **A copy of the sheet music must be handed in at registration for the adjudicator. Except for item IML 73.**
- **The use of a microphone is optional.**
- Please ensure that pieces entered as "Own Composition" are indeed, original. Where a poem is set to music, the poet's name must be indicated at registration. Participants found guilty of plagiarism will be disqualified.
- **Electronic keyboards** must be played with both hands, similar to a piano. **No pre-programmed electronic keyboards** will be allowed as accompaniment.
- **No singing is allowed in this section (unless stated otherwise)**
- **Take note:** The guitar as accompaniment (chord playing without a melody) will not be accepted in this category. The technical abilities and musicality of the participant will be adjudicated.
- **NB: NO WORK THAT HAS BEEN PERFORMED PREVIOUSLY MAY BE PERFORMED AGAIN.**

Compatible electronic devices:

Information on compatible electronic devices:

- USB flash drives or any other device (Smart phone, Tablet etc.) containing backtracks will be accepted. **NOTE: Backtracks may not contain any vocals. Pre-recorded voices, enhancing the melody line of the voice, are not allowed.**
- The repertoire must be suitable for the candidate's age.
- Imitation is sternly rejected.
- The duration of the item may not exceed the stipulated **4 minutes**. The sound technician will reserve the right to fade the music.
- Each device must be clearly labelled with the participant's name, track number and item number.
- The device must be handed to the sound engineer 30 minutes prior to the performance, or just after registration.
- The sound engineer will not be responsible for returning devices, so please make sure that they are collected at the end of the session.



NON-COMPETITIVE LIGHT MUSIC

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

- A backtrack or acoustic accompaniment may be used (see **Compatible electronic devices:** information).
- **1 or 2** pieces may be presented. Each piece will be adjudicated separately.
- **All forms of light music genres are welcome** (Pop, Rock, Jazz, Blues, Gospel, Traditional, etc)

ITEM IML 56	PIANO
ITEM IML 57	WOODWIND AND BRASS INSTRUMENTS (Without backtrack)
ITEM IML 58	WOODWIND AND BRASS INSTRUMENTS (With backtrack)
ITEM IML 59	BAND INSTRUMENTS (Guitar, Drums, Etc. without backtrack)
ITEM IML 60	BAND INSTRUMENTS (Guitar, Drums etc. with backtrack)
ITEM IML 61	STRINGED INSTRUMENTS (e.g. Violin, Cello, etc.)
ITEM IML 62	PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS (Xylophones, excluding Marimbas and drums)
ITEM IML 63	ELECTRONIC KEYBOARD (see specific rules)
ITEM IML 64	IMPROVISATION (no sheet music required)

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

- A backtrack **or** acoustic accompaniment may be used (see **Compatible electronic devices:** information).
- In this section the **voice** will also be seen as an instrument.
- **This section includes school orchestras and all instruments (Marimbas, Bottles, Xylophones, etc.).**
- Teachers may form part of the Group in items IML 78 and IML 79 and may take the part of a conductor.



ITEM IML 74	DUET – Primary School
ITEM IML 75	DUET – Secondary School
ITEM IML 76	DUET – Pupil with teacher on any instrument – Primary School
ITEM IML 77	DUET – Pupil with teacher on any instrument – Secondary School
ITEM IML 90	FAMILY DUET
ITEM IML 92	FAMILY ENSEMBLE
ITEM IML 94	OPEN ENSEMBLE
ITEM IML 78	GROUP 3-10
ITEM IML 79A	GROUP 11+

THE NELSPRUIT EISTEDDFOD MARIMBA AWARD:

In addition to awards made by the Eisteddfod, the following award is sponsored for marimba ensembles, given that they achieve a minimum of **85%** in the item.

Each marimba band will be allocated a strict **5-minute performance time limit**. Performances exceeding the time limit may result in a penalty at the adjudicators' discretion.

The title of **Best Marimba Band** in both the Primary and High School will be awarded at the **adjudicators' discretion**, based on overall musical excellence, ensemble cohesion, stage presence, and performance impact. The adjudicators' decision will be final.

A floating trophy will be awarded to the **Best Primary School Marimba Band** and the **Best High School Marimba Band**. Each winning school will keep the trophy for one year, after which it must be returned prior to the next Eisteddfod. The winning school will be responsible for arranging and covering the cost of engraving their school's name and the year victory, building a legacy of excellence over time. The floating trophies remain the property of the competition and must be cared for responsibly while in the school's possession.



COMPETITIVE LIGHT MUSIC

SOLO INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAMME

- A backtrack or acoustic accompaniment may be used (see **Compatible electronic devices:** information).
- **2 Works of contrasting character, style and tempo, must be presented**
- **Time allocation of 10 minutes per participant**
- In this section, an award will be given to the best participant achieving an average of **85%** or higher

ITEM IML 79	PIANO - PRIMARY SCHOOL
ITEM IML 80	PIANO - SECONDARY SCHOOL
ITEM IML 81	KEYBOARD - PRIMARY SCHOOL
ITEM IML 82	KEYBOARD - SECONDARY SCHOOL
ITEM IML 83	OTHER INSTRUMENTS - PRIMARY SCHOOL
ITEM IML 84	OTHER INSTRUMENTS - SECONDARY SCHOOL
ITEM IML 85	OPEN

SOLO OWN COMPOSITION INSTRUMENTAL

- **1 or 2** works may be presented.
- A maximum **duration of 4 minutes** will be given if participant performs 1 piece and a maximum **duration of 7 minutes** will be given if participant performs 2 pieces. Participants who exceed the maximum duration will be penalized.
- **Take note: Improvisation of an existing piece WILL NOT be accepted and will result in immediate disqualification.**
- The award will be granted to the participant who achieves an average of **85%** or higher.

ITEM IML 86	PRIMARY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL
ITEM IML 87	SECONDARY SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL
ITEM IML 88	OPEN INSTRUMENTAL

