

ISCM 2023 submission categories

*Please note: 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 organizers 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#.