

# GRADING RUBRIC

## 2026 ORCHESTRATION COMPETITION AT COMPOSITION & ITS ALLIES

### QUALITY OF THE SUBMISSION (60 points\*)

	<b>Exceptional</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Deadline Expectations</b>  (20 pts)	<i>3 months in advance</i>  (30 pts)	<i>1 month in advance</i>  (20 pts)	<i>1 week in advance</i>  (10 pts)	<i>Before the deadline</i>  (5 pts)	<i>After the deadline</i>  (disqualification)
<b>4 Documents Sent</b>  (20 pts)	<i>All documents are present, in the correct format, correctly labelled, and labelled in order</i>  (30 pts)	<i>All documents are present, in the correct format, correctly labelled</i>  (20 pts)	<i>All documents are present, in the correct format, but are not correctly labelled</i>  (10 pts)	<i>All documents are present, but some are not in the correct format or correctly labelled</i>  (5 pts)	<i>Not all documents are present, or in the correct format, or correctly labelled, a follow up is required</i>  (0 pts)
<b>Submission Form is Complete</b>  (20 pts)		<i>All information is filled out, required boxes are checked, form is dated and signed</i>  (20 pts)		<i>Most information is complete, required boxes are checked, form is signed, some missing information, but no follow up required</i>  (10)	<i>Not all required information is completed, form is not signed, required boxes are not checked, a follow up is required</i>  (0 pts)

### QUALITY OF THE WORK (40 pts\*)



	<b>Exceptional</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Describe the Problem</b>  (10 pts)		<i>The composer starts with a clear problem and cites specific examples. The information is presented from most important to least important</i>  (10 pts)	<i>The composer includes a problem and examples, but the order of information is not from most important to least important</i>  (5 pts)	<i>The composer states multiple problems or does not include specific examples</i>  (3 pts)	<i>The composer does not state a problem, or the problem is very hard to understand, or the information is very difficult to follow</i>  (0 pts)

## GRADING RUBRIC

(continued)

### 2026 ORCHESTRATION COMPETITION AT COMPOSITION & ITS ALLIES

	<b>Exceptional</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>	<b>Poor</b>
<b>Proposed Solution</b>  <b>(10 pts)</b>		<i>The composer states a solution that corresponds exactly with the problem and the specific examples</i>  <b>(10 pts)</b>	<i>The composer states a solution that mostly corresponds with the problem and the specific examples</i>  <b>(5 pts)</b>	<i>The composer states a solution that only partially addresses the problem, leaves doubt if the problem can be fixed</i>  <b>(3 pts)</b>	<i>The composer does not state a solution or states a solution that has no clear relationship to the problem or the details</i>  <b>(0 pts)</b>
<b>Verification of the Problem</b>  <b>(10 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner can immediately verify the problem and the details when looking at the score</i>  <b>(15 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner can quickly verify the problem and the details when looking at the score</i>  <b>(10 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner must spend several minutes verifying the problem and details when looking at the score</i>  <b>(5 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner has difficulty verifying the problem and the details when looking at the score</i>  <b>(3 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner is unable to verify the problem or the details when looking at the score</i>  <b>(0 pts)</b>
<b>Verification of the Solution</b>  <b>(10 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner can immediately verify that the problem and the details were resolved when looking at the score</i>  <b>(15 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner can quickly verify that the problem and the details were resolved when looking at the score</i>  <b>(10 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner must spend several minutes verifying that the problem and details were resolved when looking the score</i>  <b>(5 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner has difficulty verifying that the problem and the details were resolved when looking at the score</i>  <b>(3 pts)</b>	<i>The examiner is unable to verify that the problem and the details were resolved when looking at the score</i>  <b>(0 pts)</b>

\*Scoring in the 'Exceptional Category' will allow you to get a maximum of 130 points. Anyone who gets more than 100 points will automatically have their work featured and reviewed in an *Orchestration for Beginners* video.

I will choose the top 3 scoring submissions + anyone who scores above 100. Submissions will be featured in a video for *Orchestration for Beginners* which will be published on YouTube and the website for *Composition & Its Allies*: [www.barneyjmusic.com/orchestration](http://www.barneyjmusic.com/orchestration). In the event of a tie, I will look at the professionalism of the notation of the score to make a decision. Thank you for your submission.

Barney B. Johnson, Director of Composition & Its Allies.