

German Open 2023

Competition rules

1. Purpose

At the German Open 2023, both German and International brass bands will have the opportunity to have their performance assessed by an internationally recognised jury of experts in a competition. The aim is to improve the performance level of the participating bands and at the same time to help the brass band music genre to become more popular in Germany. The German Open takes place in alternation with the German National Brass Band Championship. Accordingly, the qualification for the starting places of the Championship Section and the Youth Section at the European Brass Band Championship (EBBC or EYBBC) takes place in the same cycle for the following year.

2. Organiser

The German Open is organised by the German Brass Band Association e.V. (DBBV) in cooperation with the International Brass Festival Sauerland-Herbst. The organiser is the German Brass Band Association (hereinafter called the "organiser").

3. Target groups

German and International brass bands, regardless of their association membership, can take part in the German Open.

4. Conditions of participation

The participating brass bands must fully recognise the competition regulations by signing the registration form.

5. Categories/Classification/Competition Literature/Eligibility

5.1. Categories

The competition will be carried out in three categories according to the requirements listed below.

5.1.1. Category/level of difficulty

A-Section (Championship Division, also open to bands in the 1st Division) - 6 starting places *

B-Section (1st/2nd division, also open to bands in the 3rd/4th division) - 8 starting places *

C-Section (3rd/4th Division and Youth Division) - 6 starting places *

** The organiser can adjust the number of starting places if necessary.*

When registering, each brass band should classify itself into one of the three advertised sections based on their own choice of test piece. After the registration period has expired, the organiser's music committee will decide on the band's admission to the German Open together with confirmation of their self-classification in the section. In particular, if there are too many applications for a section, the organiser is entitled to adjust the number of starting places or to reject

registrations at its own discretion. Specific registration time, membership of the DBBV and suitability for the chosen level of difficulty category will be taken into account in the evaluation by the organiser's music committee. The admission of registered bands can only take place via the official invitation by the organiser.

5.1.2 Eligibility requirements

A-Section max. 35 band members (including percussion)

B-Section max. 35 band members (including percussion)

C-Section max. 35 band members (including percussion)

If a youth band wishes to participate in the qualification round for the European Brass Band Championship (Section 8), all band members must be under 22 years of age on the day of the competition (but up to three [3] band members are exempt from this age limit).

Musicians are allowed to participate in two [2] bands but only as a temporary member in one of the two bands. A band can have a maximum of three [3] temporary members. The bands themselves must decide in which band the musician is listed as a temporary member.

Conductors are only allowed to direct one band within a section.

5.2. Competition literature

The participating brass bands will perform a self-selection programme according to the following guidelines:

- A-Section
 - o Must include a solo piece featuring the band's own soloist *
 - o Must include a test piece (at least 13 min)
 - o A maximum of 35 mins - total length
- B-Section
 - o Must include a Hymn Tune (Chorale) or March
 - o Must include a test piece (min. 10 min)
 - o A maximum of 25 mins - total length
- C-Section
 - o Must include a test piece
 - o A maximum of 25 mins - total length

The level of difficulty of the selected test piece has to correspond to the respective category and in terms of its musical and technical requirements, to the requirements of an international competition. There are no additional requirements ie. transcriptions, arrangements, premieres, etc. are permitted.

Entertainment elements/choreography are permitted but are not included in the evaluation.

5.3. Time schedule

If the total duration of the short programme is exceeded, points will be deducted. Each band should not spend more than 10 minutes in total for assembly and dismantling to ensure that the competitive performances run smoothly and fairly. While a band is being dismantled, the next band in the course of the competition may begin to set up. Intentional or grossly negligent violations of this regulation may result in a point deduction by the expert jury. Should it be necessary for organisational or hygienic reasons, the organiser can deviate from the aforementioned schedule.

* Musicians must compete in the entire competition with the band and may not only be used for individual solo parts.

6. Jury and basis of evaluation

The jury is composed as follows :

- A Section: three [3] jurors
- B Section: two [2] jurors
- C Section: two [2] jurors

Assessment is by open adjudication and based on the CISM criteria.

After the conclusion of all performances in a section, the expert jury will hand over the final, secret evaluation to the organiser's Jury Secretary.

Each juror will evaluate the test piece and the rest of the short programme separately awarding up to 100 points for each, independently of the other jurors. A band can, therefore, achieve a total of up to 200 points per juror. At the end, the organiser's Jury Secretary will add up the final judges' scores per band and then divide them by the number of jurors. This overall average of a band performance forms the basis for the placements of the bands participating in each individual section. The band with the highest overall average in a division wins that division. In the event of a tie in the total number of points the band with the higher number of points for the test piece will take precedence.

After the conclusion of each performance, the expert jury will prepare an educationally valuable, as meaningful as possible assessment sheet for the performance that has been heard, which is intended to assist band development.

As part of the award ceremony, the scores of each juror will be published. In addition, each band receives its written assessment sheet.

The jury also awards the following special prizes:

- best solo performance (A-Section)

- best march or chorale (B-Section)
- best program composition (C-Section)

Further special prizes could be awarded in consultation with the organiser's competition commission.

The assessments of the expert jury are final.

7. Special regulations in the Youth Division

Contrary to section 5.1.2, there is no limit to the number of temporary members in the Youth Division Bands, i.e. if there are musicians who take part in other divisions they do not apply to temporary members in the Youth Division Section 5.1.2. However, the age limit does apply to such musicians.

8. Classification into the categories; Right to start European Brass Band Championships

The performance of the highest rated test piece by a German brass band in the A section entitles the band to participate in the EBBC of the following year, provided that the band is a member of the DBBV. If the band is not a current member of the DBBV, the band can immediately join the DBBV (for a minimum of two [2] years) in order to receive the starting place at the European Brass Band Championships. Otherwise the starting place will be given to the DBBV member band participating in the German Open in the A-Section with highest rated test piece.

The presentation of the highest-rated test piece by a German youth brass band in the C-Section with an average of more than 90 points entitles it to participate in the EYBBC of the following year, provided that it is a member of the DBBV and meets the participation requirements of the EBBA. If the band is not a member of the DBBV, they will only receive this starting place at the European Youth Brass Band Championships if they immediately become a member of the DBBV for at least two [2] years. Otherwise, the starting place will be given to the youth band participating in the German Open in the C-Section with the highest rated test piece, provided they receive over 90 points for the test piece.

9. Organisational information

9.1. Draw for order of play

The starting order of all categories is determined by pre-draw at an online meeting. The participation of one delegate per band in this meeting is mandatory. The exact date will be announced with the final invitation.

The competition schedule :

C Section : Friday (October 20th, 2023)

B Section : Saturday (October 21st, 2023)

A Section : Saturday (October 21st, 2023)

Gala Concert : Sunday (October 22nd, 2023) at 11am given by the 3BA Concert Band concluding with the awards ceremony.

If it is necessary for organisational reasons (e.g. number of participants), the organiser can alter the schedule.

9.2. Music stand and instruments

Each participating band has to submit a seating and assembly plan (percussion) with the registration. The chairs and music stands are provided by the organiser and prepared according to the assembly plan.

If the percussion instruments are provided by the organiser, they must be used by all bands. All bands receive a list in advance with the equipment supplied and a stage plan. Bands will be required to send in a full seating and percussion plan at least two [2] weeks before the competition. No alteration is possible after the plans have been submitted. Additional instruments that are necessary for the performance of the self-selected pieces according to the score may be supplemented by the brass band. The use of electronic instruments is only permitted if the score expressly prescribes it.

9.3. Presentation of programme and scores

The short programme selected in each case must be submitted in full to the organiser's music committee by August 15, 2023 together with the corresponding scores (A section 4 copies each, B + C section 3 copies each). The bars are to be numbered consecutively (5, 10, 15 ...), unless the editor has given suitable orientation aids (bar numbers, letters, etc.). In the case of first performances, the legal status must be clarified in advance and documented accordingly with the organiser.

9.4. Registration document/name list

Each participating band must submit a list of names according to the requirements in section 5.1.2 at the latest one week before the commencement of German Open competition. In the Youth Division, the average age of the band at the time of the competition performance as well as the age of the youngest player must be clearly indicated on the

list of names. The members who are exempt from the age limit (Section 5.1.2) are not to be taken into account in the calculation.

9.5. Warm Up

Each band will be given the opportunity to rehearse on a separate rehearsal stage before their competitive presentation. The duration of this warm up period is the same as the duration of the band's performance in accordance with Section 5.3.

9.6. Certificates / Remark Sheets / Prize Money

Each brass band taking part in the competition receives a certificate and a detailed assessment sheet from the expert jury. The first placed band in each section will receive prize money. The prize money can be awarded in the form of vouchers from sponsors (e.g. instrument manufacturers) and rewarded concert engagements by the international Brass Festival Sauerland-Herbst. Further special and promotional prizes may be offered by the organiser. The prizes are divided between the different sections.

9.7. Audio and video recordings

Private audio and video recordings during the competition are strictly prohibited. If the organiser has professional recordings made centrally, these can be purchased after they have been edited and prepared.

With the registration, each participating band grants the organiser an exclusive, irrevocable, free and unlimited right to use your performance with regard to all known and unknown types of use. In particular, the organiser is authorised to make audio and video recordings of the competition performances, to play them back in public and to distribute such recordings. Organisers cannot guarantee that performances will be recorded. Due to labour law requirements (compliance with breaks / total working hours), it may not be possible to record and publish all competition performances. Should a selection be necessary, this will be done by the organiser.

9.8. Registration deadline; Participation fee

Registration for the German Open 2023 must be received by the organiser by June 15, 2023. The final invitation will be issued by the organiser by July 15, 2023. After the invitation has been issued, the participation fee is due.

The registration fee for members of the Deutsche Brass Band Verband e.V. is €250.00 and for all other bands €400.00. Youth bands pay €150.00.

Registration can be withdrawn free of charge until July 31, 2023. If the registration is withdrawn after August 1st, 2023, the registration fee will not be refunded.

10. Binding nature of the regulations; Exception requests

By registering, the participating brass bands undertake to observe and adhere to the current version of the competition regulations.

Requests for exceptions to the aforementioned regulations can only be submitted to the organiser in writing at least two [2] weeks before the start of the German Open, stating reasons. If it is necessary for organisational reasons, the organiser can adjust these regulations afterwards. The organiser will immediately inform all registered bands of any such changes.