

MTU
Ceol-Scoil Chorcaí
Cork School of Music

Competitions

General Entry Regulations

The following rules apply to all competitions:

1. Competition entries must be made via the official online form and submitted **by 4.30pm** on the relevant closing date. Late entries cannot be facilitated. Application forms can be found here: https://csm.mtu.ie/competitions

2. Competition fees must be paid online ahead of submitting an entry form, tickets for entry to the competitions can be purchased at https://events.mtu.ie/. Exact links will be provided on the online application forms.
    a. The competition entry fee is €20 for the drama competition and €30 for the music competitions.
    b. Chamber ensembles pay a single fee.

3. Age limits are determined from, and inclusive of, the date of the competition.

4. An individual or ensemble awarded first place in any competition may not re-enter the same competition the following year.

5. No competitor may perform repertory that they have performed in any CSM competition in the previous three years (inclusive of the current academic year).

6. Competitions are not open to members of staff.

7. All participants must play with an accompanist where required. An accompanist must be secured before applying, please discuss this with your instrumental teacher.

Junior Concerto Competition

Date of Competition	Friday 27 November 2026
Age Limit	14 years (15 years if wind, brass, percussion or double bass candidate)
Entry Fee	€30
Entries Open	Tuesday 10 November 2026
Entries Close	Friday 20 November 2026, 16:30 hrs

The Junior Concerto Competition is open to Conservatoire students who are currently enrolled in the school to study the instrument chosen for the competition. Candidates are required to perform, with keyboard accompaniment, a complete movement (or movements) from a concerto, to include cadenzas where appropriate. Chosen programmes must be between 8 and 15 minutes duration.

The winner is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €50.

Speech and Drama Competition

Date of Competition Saturday 28 November 2026
Category one: Students currently studying for Grades 1 - 4
Category two: Students currently studying for Grades 5 – 8
They will be run one after another with prizes in both categories.

Entry Fee €20
Entries Open Tuesday 10 November 2026
Entries Close Friday 20 November 2026, 16:30 hrs

The Speech and Drama Competition is open to Conservatoire students who are currently enrolled in the school on speech and drama programmes. Entrants are required to perform a monologue from any published play. For category one, the monologue must be 2-4 minutes in length, and for category two the monologue must be 4-6 minutes in length. Use of simple costume and props is encouraged where appropriate. Students need to provide the title of the play, playwright and a brief paragraph outlining the context of the scene.

The winner of category one is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €50. The winner of category two is awarded a One For All Voucher to the value of €100.

Senior Concerto Competition

Date of Competition	Thursday 21 January 2027
Age Limit	19 years
Entry Fee	€30
Entries Open	Tuesday 8 December 2026
Entries Close	Wednesday 23 December 2026, 16:30 hrs

The Senior Concerto Competition is open to students who are currently enrolled in the school to study the instrument chosen for the competition. Candidates are required to perform, with keyboard accompaniment, a complete concerto, to include cadenzas where appropriate.

The winner is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €100 (presented to the School by the Bridget Doolan Trust) and, where possible, given an opportunity to perform as a soloist with one of the school's orchestras.

Advanced Concerto Competition

Date of Competition Friday 22 January 2027

Entry Fee €30
Entries Open Tuesday 8 December 2026
Entries Close Wednesday 23 December 2026, 16:30hrs

The Advanced Concerto Competition is open to students who are currently enrolled in the school to study the instrument chosen for the competition. Candidates are required to perform, with keyboard accompaniment, a complete concerto, to include cadenzas where appropriate. Chosen repertoire must demonstrate an advanced level of technical skill and musical ability.

The winner is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €150 and, where possible, given an opportunity to perform as a soloist with one of the school's orchestras.

Junior Recital Competition

Dates of Competition	Wednesday 27 – Friday 29 January 2027
Age Limit	14 years (15 years if wind, brass, percussion or double bass candidate)
Entry Fee	€30
Entries Open	Monday 4 January 2027
Entries Close	Wednesday 13 January 2027, 16:30 hrs

The Junior Recital Competition is open to Conservatoire students who are currently enrolled in the school to study the instrument chosen for the competition. Candidates are required to perform a programme of not more than 15 minutes duration, showing an ability to interpret a range of styles. Competitors may not include more than one movement from a concerto* in their programme or perform repertoire requiring more than one other collaborator.

The winner is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €100.

The runner-up is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €75.

Where applicable, a One For All voucher to the value of €50 will be awarded to each of the following: highest-placed pianist, violinist, violist, cellist/double bassist, guitarist, woodwind player, brass player, singer and percussionist.

* With reference to **Rule 5**, no competitor may perform repertory that they have performed in any CSM competition in the previous three years (inclusive of the current academic year).

Senior Recital Competition

Dates of Competition	Wednesday 10 – Friday 12 March 2027
Age Limit	19 years
Entry Fee	€30
Entries Open	Wednesday 10 February 2027
Entries Close	Wednesday 24 February 2027, 16:30 hrs

The Senior Recital Competition is open to students who are currently enrolled in the school to study the instrument chosen for the competition. Candidates are required to perform a programme of not more than 20 minutes duration, showing an ability to interpret a range of styles. Competitors may not include more than one movement from a concerto* in their programme or perform repertoire requiring more than one other collaborator.

The winner is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €150.

The runner-up is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €100.

Where applicable, a One For All voucher to the value of €50 will be awarded to each of the following: highest-placed pianist, violinist, violist, cellist/double bassist, guitarist, woodwind player, brass player, singer and percussionist.

* With reference to **Rule 5**, no competitor may perform repertory that they have performed in any CSM competition in the previous three years (inclusive of the current academic year).

Advanced Recital Competition

Dates of Competition Tuesday 11 – Friday 14 May 2027

Entry Fee €30
Entries Open Tuesday 13 April 2027
Entries Close Tuesday 27 April 2027, 16:30 hrs

The Advanced Recital Competition is open to students who are currently enrolled in the school to study the instrument chosen for the competition. Candidates are required to perform a programme of not more than 25 minutes duration, showing an ability to interpret a range of styles. Competitors may not include more than one movement from a concerto* in their programme or perform repertoire requiring more than one other collaborator.

The winner is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €200.

The runner-up is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €150.

Where applicable, a One For All voucher to the value of €50 will be awarded to each of the following: highest-placed pianist, violinist, violist, cellist/double bassist, guitarist, woodwind player, brass player, singer, percussionist, traditional Irish performance and period performance.

* With reference to **Rule 5**, no competitor may perform repertory that they have performed in any CSM competition in the previous three years (inclusive of the current academic year).

Piano Accompaniment Competition

Date of Competition Monday 17 May 2027

Entry Fee €30
Entries Open Monday 19 April 2027
Entries Close Monday 3 May 2027, 16:30 hrs

The Piano Accompaniment Competition (formerly the May O'Neill Scholarship for Piano, instituted in memory of the late May O'Neill, staff member at the school for over forty years) is open to students who are currently enrolled in the school. Candidates are required to accompany a singer or an instrumentalist in a programme of 15 to 20 minutes duration, showing an ability to interpret a variety of styles. The programme must include works and/or movements from at least two of the following periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic, post-1900 (singers must include at least one example of French chanson or German Lied). Candidates will also be provided with a quick-study piece approximately 24 hours before the competition.

The minimum number of entries required for the competition to take place is three.

The winner is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €150.

The runner-up is awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €75.

Vanbrugh Chamber Music Competition

Date of Competition Saturday 22 May 2027

Entry Fee €30
Entries Open Friday 23 April 2027
Entries Close Friday 7 May 2027, 16:30 hrs

The Vanbrugh Chamber Music Competition is open to ensembles whose members are currently enrolled as students in the school. Eligible ensembles may contain from two to nine members, and no change in membership will be permitted after the closing date for entry. Ensembles may perform one complete work and/or an appropriate number of movements from different works*. The total programme should not exceed 25 minutes duration.

The winners are awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €200.

The runners-up are awarded a One For All voucher to the value of €100.

*With reference to **Rule 5**, no competitor may perform repertory that they have performed in any CSM competition in the previous three years (inclusive of the current academic year).

With reference to **Rule 6,** members of staff cannot form part of the ensemble.