



**ZÜRICH
FILM
FESTIVAL**

**TONHALLE
ORCHESTER
ZÜRICH**

forumfilmmusik****

14TH INTERNATIONAL FILM MUSIC COMPETITION

filmmusiccompetition.ch

DATES AND DEADLINES

31 March 2026	Competition film available for download
14 April 2026	Registration and upload area activated
05 May 2026	Deadline for early-bird registration
02 June 2026	Deadline for uploading competition documents (see below)
27 July 2026	Announcement of the 3 finalists (at the latest)
16 August 2026	Finalists: deadline for the submission of performing material (see below)
01 October 2026	World premiere performance of the 3 finalists' compositions

SUPPORT

Support for competition participants: support@filmmusiccompetition.ch

Please make sure that your question is not already answered on filmmusiccompetition.ch/en/support.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. General

The 14th International Film Music Competition takes place during the 22nd Zurich Film Festival (24 September – 4 October 2026). The competition and the film music concert are organised by Zurich Film Festival, Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG, and Forum Filmmusik. Three entries will be nominated and world-premiered in the Zurich Tonhalle on 1 October 2026 by the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich under the baton of Frank Strobel. The winner will be chosen by an expert jury and awarded the “Best International Film Music 2026” Golden Eye endowed with CHF 10 000.

2. Registration

2.1. Eligibility

Composers of any age, nationality and place of residence are eligible to enter, provided that they have no more than three records on www.imdb.com (key date: 2 June 2026) as “composer” or “orchestrator” in films with a duration of more than 60 minutes. Records as “composer (additional music)” or “orchestrator (additional music)” or similar mentions will, however, not be taken into account.

In serials, every episode is considered as one separate film. Films that are still in production on 2 June 2026 will not be taken into account.

Winners of the “Best International Film Music” Golden Eye from previous years are excluded from the competition.

It is possible to submit compositions made in a team as long as all the collaborators are eligible to enter.

2.2. Registration fee

The competition entry handling fee is CHF 90, which has to be paid by 2 June 2026. Participants who pay until 5 May 2026 pay a reduced early-bird fee of only CHF 60.

The competition fee cannot be refunded to participants who fail to submit all the required documents until the deadline of 2 June 2026.

2.3. Documents to be submitted

The following documents must be submitted to the competition administrators by 2 June 2026:

- Fully completed online application form on filmmusiccompetition.ch
- A score (which must be performable with the orchestration defined in 3.1. below) as a PDF file and also as a Finale, Sibelius, Dorico or MusicXML document (if the score cannot be submitted as a Finale, Sibelius, Dorico or MusicXML document, then the whole performing material has to be submitted as a PDF file). Hand-written scores cannot be submitted. The score must contain a so-called “conductor stave” with information about timecodes, hitpoints and the click track (for more information see filmmusiccompetition.ch/en/support).
- An MP3 audio file with a mockup of the submitted score. This file is supposed to present the desired mix between the participant’s music and the sound track of the film to be scored. The beginning of the MP3 file must coincide with the beginning of the downloaded video file.
- An MP3 or WAV audio file with a clicktrack.
- If an additional electronic track is used (cf. section 3.2), please submit this as one separate MP3 file.

A code name that doesn’t allude to the identity of the candidate has to be chosen upon registration. All submitted documents must only contain this code name and not the real name.

After the submission deadline (2 June 2026) the composition entered can no longer be withdrawn.

The film to be scored may be used solely for the term and purpose specified within the rules and regulation of this competition, and for no other term or purpose whatsoever. The participants are obliged to refrain from exhibiting the film in any form and from passing it on to third parties. After the announcement of the nominees, the participants who are not nominated are allowed to use the competition film together with their music for their portfolio or website (via the participant’s Vimeo or YouTube channel). For this purpose, they are only allowed to use the video file (with burnt-in timecode) that was available for download on filmmusiccompetition.ch. The nominees are allowed to publish their music only after the world premiere on 1 October 2026. In any case the event “14th International Film Music Competition” must be mentioned, and “Miyu Distributions”, the right holder of the film, must be duly credited.

By registering, the participants confirm that they have read and accepted the competition’s Terms and Conditions. The entrants also confirm that they are the authors of the submitted music and that they hold all rights to the submitted music (including any third-party rights). Compositions that contain plagiarisms will be disqualified. The use of generative AI tools for the compositional process is not permitted. AI tools are only allowed for the production of the audio files.

2.4. Obligations if nominated

If nominated, the participants commit themselves to deliver the following material by 16 August 2026:

- Complete performing material as PDF files.
- All the audio files needed for the performance (click track and, if applicable, additional audio track)
- A MIDI file with a complete and correct tempo map of the composition
- Optional: a QuickTime movie with streamers and punches for the conductor

If the required material is not delivered on time or if it is unusable, the nominee might be required to pay for external preparation costs.

Furthermore, if nominated, the composers commit themselves to grant Zurich Film Festival AG the permission — and until 31 October 2026 the exclusive rights — to perform the film music during Zurich Film Festival without limit and free of charge and in this respect to use it for promotion and advertising purposes. Zurich Film Festival AG can, for the same purpose, also grant these rights to third parties.

On 1 October 2026 a live recording of the nominated compositions will be made. After listening to this recording, Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG reserves the right to exercise the power of veto. If the recording is cleared, Tonhalle-Gesellschaft will hand it over to the nominees 3 weeks after the performance at the latest. The nominees can use this material for documentation purposes on their personal website, but they are not allowed to publish it on a generally accessible audio or video platform. On their personal website they are obliged to mention the production copyright “Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG” and to always mention the event “International Film Music Competition (Zurich Film Festival)”. They furthermore agree that the live recording during the concert may be published by Zurich Film Festival or by Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG.

Video or audio recordings in the concert venue are only allowed if they are commissioned by Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG or by Zurich Film Festival.

3. Implementation of the competition

3.1. Instrumentation

3(picc).3(ca).3(bcl).3(cbn) / 4.3.3.1 / timp, 3 perc / pno or cel / harp / str (14.12.10.8.6)

An explanation of this shorthand notation can be found on filmmusiccompetition.ch/en/support.

The submitted composition may use only a part of this instrumentation. However, a composition that is not performable with this instrumentation cannot be nominated.

3.2. Additional audio tracks

It is possible to use one additional electronically or digitally produced audio track.

3.3. Selection of the finalists

A committee of experts is responsible for pre-selecting the entries and establishing a shortlist. A jury of internationally renowned figures from the music and film industry then choose the three finalists from the shortlist. The finalists will be announced on 27 July 2026 at the latest.

Participants who are not nominated are not entitled to a feedback or justification from the jury. The competition fee cannot be refunded.

3.4. Invitation of the finalists

The finalists' compositions will be world-premiered in Zurich on 1 October 2026. The three finalists will be invited to Zurich for this world premiere. Zurich Film Festival pays an overnight stay in a hotel of the festival's choice and, depending on distance, a round-trip economy flight or a second-class train ticket from the country of origin. Further expenses (e. g. catering in Zurich) cannot be covered. If the entry is a collaborative composition, the festival assumes costs for one composer only. This invitation is non-transferrable.

If the performance on 1 October 2026 cannot be carried out for epidemiological reasons, it will be postponed to 2027.

3.5. Award

The winner as chosen by the jury will be announced on 1 October 2026 and awarded the "Best International Film Music 2026" Golden Eye endowed with CHF 10 000.

The prize cannot be awarded *ex aequo* to two or more film music entries. The jury must agree on a single winner.

4. Further conditions

Zurich Film Festival reserves the right to regulate all unforeseen cases not covered by these Terms and Conditions, as well as allow special or justified exceptions.

There is no possibility of recourse to legal action.

IMPRINT

The competition and the film music concert are organised by the following institutions:

Forum Filmmusik, c/o Pierre Funck, moving music, Rigistrasse 13, 8006 Zürich, Switzerland
www.forumfilmmusik.ch

Zurich Film Festival, c/o Mia Binkert, Kreuzstrasse 2, 8008 Zürich, Switzerland
www.zff.com

Tonhalle-Gesellschaft Zürich AG, c/o Michaela Braun, Gotthardstrasse 5, 8002 Zürich, Switzerland
www.tonhalle-orchester.ch