

Application Information and Instructions

2025 National Trumpet Competition

March 19-22, 2026

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

1. Registration

1.1. All applicants must register and pay ALL FEES ON-LINE at the NTC website:

www.nationaltrumpetcomp.org (online registration will open November 1, 2025). Applicants must register online using a valid credit card and valid e-mail address. All applications must be received by the **December 5, 2025 (11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard Time) deadline, no exceptions.**

1.2. Students enrolled full time or home schooled at the time of the Competition who are either US citizens or foreign students studying in the USA may apply.

1.3. Any applicant under the age of 18 at the time of application, must have their application submitted by a parent/legal guardian.

1.4. All applicants must submit a video recording of their competition piece. Applicants are responsible for mastering this process and for making a successful upload. Applicants are strongly urged to verify that their link functions properly prior to submitting their application. ***Every aspect of this part of the process is the responsibility of the applicant.*** Applicant videos should not contain any content or pieces beyond their competition repertoire.

1.4.1. Solos composed with or without piano accompaniment are permitted. Works that include a published piano part must be recorded with live accompaniment.

1.4.2. Stopping/starting, editing, or splicing of any kind is prohibited. Attempts to circumvent NTC's efforts to keep the competition fair for all violates the ethics of integrity to which NTC aspires. Please submit an honest, un-edited video.

1.4.3. Videos must contain exactly and only what is to be performed in the live rounds, including any cuts. Performances are limited to 8 minutes, including stage entrance, tuning, and performing. If a video exceeds 8 minutes, the preliminary judges will listen to only the first 8 minutes of the video.

1.4.4. Recordings must be successfully submitted by 11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard Time, December 5, 2025; there will be no exceptions. Videos must be uploaded UNLISTED (not Private) to YouTube and the link to the video provided in the online NTC application. Videos not viewable by the judging panel will be disqualified.

1.4.5. Uploaded videos may NOT contain any indications of the applicant's school or teacher affiliations. Video titles and description should contain ONLY the title and composer of the work performed, nothing more. YouTube channel names used in uploading the video submissions may contain entrants' personal name but should NOT include a school/teacher name or affiliation.

2. Age Requirements (applicants must meet both parameters of age and school enrollment)

2.1. **Junior Solo Division:** Open to anyone through grade 8, born after March 22, 2011, and enrolled full time in school or home schooled.

2.2. **High School Solo Division:** Open to anyone grades 9 – 12, born after March 22, 2007, and enrolled full time in a high school or home schooled.

2.3. **Undergraduate Solo Division:** Open to anyone born after March 22, 2000, and enrolled full time in an undergraduate program.

2.4. **Graduate Solo Division:** Open to anyone born after March 22, 1997, and enrolled full time in graduate school.

2.5. **Military Band Excerpt Division:** Open to anyone born after March 22, 1997, and enrolled full time in school or home schooled.

2.6. **College Ensemble Divisions:** Open to anyone born after March 22, 1997, and enrolled full time in an undergraduate or graduate program.

2.7. **High School Ensemble Division:** Open to anyone born after March 22, 2007, and enrolled full time in a high school or home schooled.

2.8. **Jazz Solo Division:** Open to anyone born after March 22, 1997, and enrolled full time in school or home schooled.

3. Solo Divisions

3.1. All solo works requiring piano must be performed with live piano accompaniment.

3.1.1. Entrants submitting accompanied works that are self-published or deemed by NTC to be lesser-known will be notified of such by the Collaborative Pianists' Chair by December 22, 2025, and will be required to provide a pianist at their expense for the live rounds. If a competitor is unwilling to secure an outside pianist, they may withdraw by midnight Eastern Standard Time, December 31, 2025 and receive a refund of their application fee; no refunds will be given for withdrawals after this date.

3.1.2. All other applicants who requested an NTC pianist in any of the solo divisions must:

A. Submit a PDF of their piano score through the registration portal. The file must be labeled as following: FirstName_LastName_Piece (e.g. John_Doe_ArutunianConcerto)

B. Include the applicant's name, division, phone, and e-mail legibly shown on the front page of the PDF.

C. Clearly mark any cuts directly on the music.

Applicants who do NOT request an NTC pianist at the time of their original application will not be allowed to request one at any time thereafter.

- JANUARY 15, 2026 – Notification of acceptance to the live rounds will be posted on the NTC website by the end of the day. Pianist assignments and contact information will also be posted that day, along with a rehearsal and competition schedule. **This schedule is to be considered final at the time of publication;** no adjustments may be made for any reason.
- FEBRUARY 1, 2026 – Competitors who requested an NTC pianist in their application MUST pay the pianist fee by 11:59 PM on this date, even if they subsequently decide to hire an outside

pianist. Any competitor who has failed to submit their pianist fee by this time will be disqualified and alternates may be invited to the competition in their stead. There are NO refunds given to disqualified applications; if an applicant fails to pay the fee online, NTC will not refund their original registration fee.

3.2. Prior winners may enter the same Division as many times as age and school enrollment parameters allow.

3.3. Applicants may enter only that category which age and school enrollment parameters dictate.

3.4. All soloists are limited to 8 minutes on stage, which includes entrance, set-up, tuning, and performing. This will be strictly enforced.

3.5. Competitors performing with NTC pianists are limited to one internal cut within any movement(s) submitted, and a contestant may omit a movement's beginning and/or ending as well. Those not performing with an NTC pianist are not bound by this limitation, but are advised that adjudicators will take musical coherence into account. **Any alterations must be the same in the applicant's video as in each round for which they qualify.**

3.6. Any combination of movements within one piece is allowed, in any order, as long as the 8-minute time limit is followed, and only one internal cut is used.

3.7. All competitors admitted to the live rounds must be available to perform at any time for the duration of their portion of the competition.

3.7.1. Any competitor unable to perform at their assigned time will be disqualified.

3.7.2 All soloists using NTC pianists must be available to rehearse beginning at Wednesday, March 18, 2026. A soloist unable to rehearse at their assigned time will be allowed to perform without rehearsal, if their pianist consents.

4. Military Band Excerpt Division

4.1. All excerpts (including those designated as cornet parts) are to be performed on B flat and/or C trumpet.

4.2. Entrants must record the following list in order in one continuous take.

Stephenson: Scram, rehearsal A to 1 measure before rehearsal H

Respighi: *Pines of Rome*, Trumpet 1, Mvmt 2, Offstage Solo

Vaughan Williams: *Toccata Marziale*, Solo Cornet, pickups to Figure 7 to Figure 11

Sousa: *Hands Across the Sea*, Solo Bb Cornet, beginning through mm. 38, no repeats, 2nd ending only

Bugle Call: Taps

4.3. Entrants advanced to live rounds will perform repertoire selected from the preliminary list, as well as those listed below.

Snedecor: *Lyrical Etudes for Trumpet*, Etude 1, beginning to rehearsal B

Day: *Concerto for Wind Ensemble*, Trumpet 1, Mvt. IV. mm. 410-430

Gershwin: *An American in Paris*, Trumpet 1, pickup to Figure 57 to Figure 59
Giroux: *La Mezquita de Cordoba*, Trumpet 1, mm. 215-224
Grainger: *Lincolnshire Posy*, Movement 2, Bb Trumpet 1, mm. 19-29
Shostakovich/Hunsberger: *Festive Overture, Op. 96*, Bb Trumpet 4, pickup to rehearsal 6 to the downbeat of rehearsal 7 and rehearsal 13 to 7 measures after rehearsal 16
Sousa: *The Gallant Seventh*, Solo Cornet, beginning to Letter G
Williams/Lavender: *Summon the Heroes*, Trumpet 1, mm. 32-49 in B flat (sounding concert F major)
Bugle Call: To the Color

4.4. On January 15, 2026, preliminary round results will be posted on the NTC website, along with a live competition and rehearsal schedule. **This schedule is to be considered final at the time of publication;** no adjustments may be made for any reason.

4.5. All competitors admitted to the live rounds must be available to perform at any time for the duration of their portion of the competition; any competitor unable to perform at their assigned time will be disqualified. Quarterfinals may be held as early as the morning of Thursday, March 19, 2026.

5. College Ensemble Divisions

5.1. There are two divisions, based upon ensemble size: Small Ensemble (4-6 members) and Large Ensemble (7-10 members). Each division will be adjudicated independently of the other. Performer personnel in the video must be the same personnel at the live NTC event in March. No individual may participate in more than one ensemble (even in different divisions).

5.2. All works are to be performed one on a part (no doubling of parts).

5.3. Cuts are allowed and are at the discretion of the performers, so long as the video version and the live version are identical.

5.4. Each ensemble will be allowed 8 minutes of stage time which will include set-up, tuning, and performance. This will be strictly enforced.

5.5. Conductors are permitted but not required; conductors will not count in ensemble size.

5.6. Instruments other than trumpets, cornets, piccolo trumpets, bass trumpets, and flugelhorns are not allowed.

5.7. Students must be enrolled full time at the time of the Competition in the school that they represent.

5.8. All members of an ensemble must be enrolled at the same school.

5.9. All ensembles admitted to the live rounds must be available to perform at any time for the duration of their portion of the competition. Any ensemble unable to perform at their assigned time will be disqualified. Quarterfinals and Semifinals will take place on Thursday, March 19, 2026; Finals will take place on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

5.10. All members of an ensemble that advance to the live rounds must sign and submit a media release agreement at or before their check-in to the competition. Any applicants under the age of 18 at the time of signing must have a parent/legal guardian sign. Failure of any member(s) to complete this process will

result in a disqualification and the ensemble will not be permitted to compete. Digital forms will be distributed to each ensemble via the email listed on the registration.

6. High School Ensemble Division

6.1. Ensembles must include no fewer than 4 performers, and no more than 10. Performer personnel in the video must be the same personnel at the live NTC event in March. No individual may participate in more than one ensemble.

6.2. All works are to be performed one on a part (no doubling of parts).

6.3. Cuts are allowed and are at the discretion of the performers, so long as the video version and the live version are identical.

6.4. Each ensemble will be allowed 8 minutes of stage time which will include set-up, tuning, and performance. This will be strictly enforced.

6.5. Conductors are permitted but not required; conductors will not count in ensemble size.

6.6. Instruments other than trumpets, cornets, piccolo trumpets, bass trumpets, and flugelhorns are not allowed.

6.7. Students must be enrolled full time or home schooled at the time of the Competition. They are **not** required to be enrolled at the same school.

6.8. All ensembles admitted to the live rounds must be available to perform at any time for the duration of their portion of the competition. Any ensemble unable to perform at their assigned time will be disqualified. Semifinals will take place on Friday, March 20, 2026 and Finals will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

6.9. All members of an ensemble that advance to the live rounds must sign and submit a media release agreement at or before their check-in to the competition. Any applicants under the age of 18 at the time of signing must have a parent/legal guardian sign. Failure of any member(s) to complete this process will result in a disqualification and the ensemble will not be permitted to compete. Digital forms will be distributed to each ensemble via the email listed on the registration.

7. Jazz Solo Division

7.1. In their application recording, applicants must include the required work *I Love You* by Cole Porter, as well as a contrasting piece of their choice. Applicants may use a live rhythm section or a play-along track in their preliminary recording. Selected semifinalists will play in a live preliminary round, from which finalists will be chosen.

7.2. Semifinalists will perform both selections under a 12-minute time limitation, which will include set-up, tuning, and performance.

7.3. Finalists will play their piece of choice **ONLY**, and will be limited to 8 minutes on stage, which includes set-up, tuning, and performance.

7.4. Jazz Solo Division competitors must perform semi and final rounds with the rhythm section (piano/bass/drums) provided by NTC. To participate in the live competition rounds, applicants must:

A. Submit a PDF of your piano/rhythm charts through the registration portal. The file must be labeled as following: FirstName_LastName_Piece (e.g. John_Doe_ShinyStockings)

B. Include the applicant's name, division, phone, and e-mail legibly shown on the front page of the PDF.

- JANUARY 15, 2026 – Notification of acceptance to the semi-final round will be posted on the NTC website by the end of the day. The rehearsal and competition schedule will also be posted that day. **This schedule is to be considered final at the time of publication**; no adjustments may be made for any reason.
- FEBRUARY 1, 2025 – Deadline for online payment of the NTC rhythm section fee. Any competitor who has failed to submit their pianist fee by this time will be disqualified and alternates may be invited to the competition in their stead. There are NO refunds given to disqualified applications; if an applicant fails to pay the fee online, NTC will not refund their original registration fee.
- 7.5. All competitors admitted to the live rounds must be available to rehearse and perform at any time for the duration of their portion of the competition. Any competitor unable to rehearse or perform at their assigned time will be disqualified. The Jazz Solo Division Semi-finals will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2026 and finals on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

8. Copyright

Applicants performing any unpublished arrangements must adhere to copyright law: All works published in the United States before 1924 are in the public domain. Works published after 1922, but before 1978 are protected for **95 years** from the date of publication. If the work was created, but not published, before 1978, the copyright lasts for the life of the author plus **70 years**. To learn more about copyright laws as it pertains to musicians, visit <https://www.copyright.gov/engage/musicians/>.

9. Fees

9.1. Application fee for all solo and excerpt divisions is \$85 per applicant.

9.2. Application fee for ensembles is \$40 for each player in the ensemble.

9.3. NTC Collaborative Pianist fee is \$95 per applicant.

9.4. NTC Rhythm Section fee is \$95 per applicant.

10. Prizes

Cash prizes will be awarded for First, Second and Third Place:

Junior Solo: \$750, \$500, \$250

High School Solo: \$2000, \$1000, \$500

Undergraduate Solo: \$3000, \$1500, \$750

Graduate Solo: \$3000, \$1500, \$750

Military Band Excerpt: \$3000, \$1500, \$750

College Large Ensemble: \$5000, \$2500, \$1250

College Small Ensemble: \$3000, \$1500, \$750

High School Ensemble: \$1000, \$750, \$500

Jazz: \$3000, \$1500, \$750

12. Media Release Agreement

12.1 All applicants, through acknowledgement in their online submission, must agree to the National Trumpet Competition's ("NTC") Release of Photographic, Video, Motion Picture, and Sound Recording Rights to be eligible to perform in the live rounds of the competition. Through this agreement, applicants authorize NTC and its agents, employees, and representatives to take photographs, sound recordings, motion pictures, or videos including their name, image, likeness, performance, and/or voice ("Recordings"). Applicants also grant NTC an unlimited right to reproduce, use, exhibit, display, perform, broadcast, create derivative works from, and distribute Recordings in any manner or media now existing or hereafter developed, in perpetuity, throughout the world. This includes, but is not limited to, live streaming of the final rounds of competition, public archiving of all live-streamed videos on NTC's YouTube page, use on NTC social media pages and on NTC's website. Recordings may be used by NTC, including its assigns and transferees, for any purpose, including but not limited to, marketing, advertising, publicity, or other promotional purposes. Applicants agree that NTC will have final editorial authority over the use of the Recordings, and waive any right to inspect or approve of any future use of the Recordings. Applicants acknowledge that they are not expecting to receive compensation for participating in the Recordings or for any future use of the Recordings. Applicants release and fully discharge NTC, and its employees, agents, and representatives, from any claim, damages, or liability arising from or related to their participation in the Recordings or NTC's future use of the Recordings.

13. Rules Disclaimer

Final interpretation of all rules remains with the National Trumpet Competition. All applicants accept total responsibility for the understanding of and compliance with NTC rules and regulations. Failure to adhere to NTC rules and regulations will result in disqualification and forfeiture of all fees.

All questions concerning NTC rules should be submitted in writing to:

rules@nationaltrumpetcomp.org

All other questions concerning NTC applications should be submitted in writing to:

info@nationaltrumpetcomp.org