

## **“Relishing Creativeness in the Hong Kong Palace Museum” – Music Composition Competition 2025/26**

### **1. Introduction**

“Relishing Creativeness in the Hong Kong Palace Museum” Music Composition Competition 2025/26 (the Competition) aims to encourage students to compose music with Chinese instruments. It provides opportunities for students to enhance creativity and composition techniques, deepen their knowledge and understanding of Chinese arts, and inherit traditional Chinese culture through composing and observing professional performers rehearsing and performing their original compositions. The Competition is jointly presented by the Arts Education (AE) Section of the Curriculum Development Institute, the Education Bureau (the EDB) and the Hong Kong Palace Museum (the HKPM), as well as supported by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra (the HKCO). In support of the implementation of the Competition, various arts-related activities including Workshop on Chinese Instrumental Music Writing, a Guided Tour in the Hong Kong Palace Museum and an Award Ceremony cum Concert Performance will be presented.

### **2. Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item/ Event</b>	<b>Content/ Remarks</b>
28 October 2025 (Tuesday)	Workshop on Chinese Instrumental Writing: Large-scale Ensemble	The workshop is organised by the HKCO with the following key content. Students who wish to participate in the Competition or “Music from the Heart - Budding Composer” are welcome to apply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Chinese instrumental orchestration</li> <li>• Techniques in Chinese instrumental arrangement and notation, including preparation of full scores and individual parts</li> </ul>
3 November 2025 (Monday, 4pm)	Online Briefing Session	Introduction of the Competition
14 November 2025 (Friday)	Deadline for Application	Submission of Application form and participants’ information (Annex 1)
15 December 2025 (Monday, afternoon)	Guided Tour	Guided tour in the HKPM Key items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Ancient Egypt Unveiled: Treasures from Egyptian Museums</li> <li>• The Ways in Patterns: An Immersive Digital Exhibition from the Palace Museum</li> </ul>
17 December 2025 (Wednesday, morning)	Workshop on Chinese Instrumental Writing: Solo and Ensemble	Key content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performing and music writing techniques of Chinese instruments</li> <li>• Compositional techniques in music</li> </ul>
27 January 2026 (Tuesday)	Submission of composition for Preliminary Selection	Submissions of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audio file of the composition (about 40 seconds)</li> <li>• Score</li> <li>• Declaration and Consent Slip (Annex 2)</li> <li>• Information sheet of the composition (Annex 3)</li> </ul>
10 or 11 March 2026 (Tuesday or Wednesday)	Consultation	Selected compositions in preliminary round will be arranged for an individual consultation

13 April 2026 (Monday)	Submission of composition for Final Selection	Submission of the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete audio file</li> <li>• Complete full score</li> <li>• Information sheet of the composition (Annex 3)</li> <li>• PowerPoint File</li> </ul>
27 May 2026 (Wednesday, afternoon)	Rehearsal of the outstanding compositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selected outstanding compositions will be performed by the musicians of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. Student composers will participate and observe the rehearsal, as well as exchange ideas with the performers</li> </ul>
17 July 2026 (Friday)	Award Ceremony cum Concert	Premiere of outstanding compositions at the HKPM and Award ceremony

### 3. Eligibility

- All secondary school students are eligible to participate in the Competition
- A maximum of 5 entries per school (including both solo and ensemble pieces)
- Individual or group basis (up to 3 members in each group)
- Compositions should be original

### 4. Requirements of the Composition

Participants are invited to visit the selected exhibitions at the Hong Kong Palace Museum themed around China and Egypt. As two of the world's four great ancient civilisations, both cultures possess a long history and a wealth of cultural heritage. Through exploring the lifestyles, religious beliefs, and artistic aesthetics of the ancient peoples of China and Egypt, students are encouraged to create instrumental music according to the theme, "A Musical Dialogue at the Confluence of Civilisations", to express the cultural exchange and resonance between the two civilisations, thereby fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the richness of the ancient world, as well as nurturing their national and global identity.

	<b>Solo</b>	<b>Ensemble</b>
Duration of each composition (Preliminary)	Around 40 seconds	Around 40 seconds
Duration of each composition (Final)	2 – 3 mins	3 – 4 mins
Choice of Instruments	Each composition should be written for 1 Chinese instrument selected from the following list	Each composition should be written for 3 to 5 Chinese instruments selected from the following list
	Wind:	Wind: <i>dizi</i> ; <i>xiao</i> ; <i>sheng</i> (Choose 1 instrument) (1 player only)
	Bowed-string:	Bowed-string: <i>gaohu</i> ; <i>erhu</i> ; <i>zhonghu</i> (Choose 1 instrument) (1 player only)
	Plucked-string:	Plucked-string: <i>zheng</i> (1 player only)
		Plucked-string: <i>yangqin</i> (1 player only)
		Plucked-string: <i>pipa</i> (1 player only)
		Plucked-string: <i>ruan</i> ; <i>liuqin</i> (Choose 1 instrument) (1 player only)

		<p>Percussion: temple bowl, temple block, lotus clappers, wood block, small cymbals, <i>paigu</i></p> <p>Students are free to choose any percussion instruments and the number of instruments used, however (only 1 player) will be provided, and the total number of instruments is also counted one only</p>
Score	Please indicate clearly the tempo, performance directions or any other specific playing techniques on the score	
Submission of the composition	<p>Schools should submit students' composition(s) with the following in the <b>preliminary</b> selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signed original copy of the Declaration and Consent Slip (Annex 2)</li> <li>• score written in stave notation (PDF format)</li> <li>• audio file of the composition (MP3 format)</li> <li>• completed information sheet of the composition (DOCS format) (Annex 3)</li> </ul> <p>Schools should submit students' composition(s) with the following items in the <b>final</b> selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete full score written in stave notation (PDF and score writer format)</li> <li>• complete audio file of the composition (MP3 format)</li> <li>• part scores (if any, in PDF and score writer format)</li> <li>• completed information sheet of the composition*, update if necessary (DOCS format) (Annex 3)</li> <li>• PowerPoint file to accompany the music performance (content may include the ideas of the composition e.g. pictures, music scores, etc. Copyrights should be cleared by schools. For example, the images of cultural artifacts must be taken by the participants themselves. When citing content from books, online platforms, or other sources, the author and source must be clearly indicated.)</li> </ul> <p><i>*Description of the Composition: Chinese, 300-350 words</i></p>	

## 5. Intellectual Property Rights



- All participating students, students' parents or guardians, and schools should note and agree with the following terms:
  - All entries should be original and have not been released or publicised; and
  - Participants need to ensure that the content of the entries does not infringe any copyright and publication rights.
- Please visit the website of Intellectual Property Department (<https://www.ipd.gov.hk/filemanager/ipd/en/share/publications/IP-in-Hong-Kong.pdf>) or scan the QR code on the right for details.
- Any entries that infringed any intellectual property rights would NOT be accepted. The EDB takes no liability whatsoever for such infringement.
- The EDB retains the right to edit, modify, publish and use any entries in any forms for display and educational purposes, and has the final decision of the above actions.




## 6. Adjudication

- A judging panel comprising professionals from the areas of Music Composition and Chinese Music, representatives from the HKPM and the AE Section of the EDB, will select entries for the Final Selection, as well as outstanding compositions to be performed in the concert.
- Adjudication criteria as follows:
  - Originality
  - Musical Structure
  - Idiomatic writing for the instruments
  - Accuracy and practicability in notation
  - Musical ideas and atmosphere matching with the theme
- The decision of the judging panel will be final.
- All results will be announced by mid-May 2026.

## 7. Application and submission of music composition(s)

		Deadline
Workshop on Chinese Instrumental Music Writing: Large-scale Ensemble	<p>Date: 28 October 2025 (Tuesday)            Time: 6:15 – 7:45 pm            Address: Room WP01A, Podium, Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong</p> <p>Schools interested in joining the Workshop should complete the Application Form via the link below or scan the QR code below.</p> <p><a href="https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/9K2DjEmexZ">https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/9K2DjEmexZ</a></p> 	22 October 2025 (Wednesday)
Online Briefing Session	<p>Date: 3 November 2025 (Monday)            Time: 4:00 – 5:00 pm            Mode: Online meeting</p> <p>Schools interested in joining the Online Briefing Session should complete the <b>Application Form</b> via the link below or scan the QR code below. Login details will be provided via email upon receipt of the form.</p> <p><a href="https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/YadjY3Du75">https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/YadjY3Du75</a></p> 	29 October 2025 (Wednesday)
Submission of application form and participants' information	Please send email to Curriculum Development Officer (AE)1, <a href="mailto:cdoae1@edb.gov.hk">cdoae1@edb.gov.hk</a> or fax to 2336 8510	14 November 2025 (Friday)

Submission of composition (Preliminary selection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upload to a Cloud Drive and send the link to Curriculum Development officer (AE)1, or</li> <li>• Submit it by hand or by post to the AE Section</li> </ul>	27 January 2026 (Tuesday)
Submission of composition (Final selection)	Address of AE Section: Room W325, 3/F, West Block, EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre, 19 Suffolk Road, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon	13 April 2026 (Monday)
For details, please visit the website of the AE Key Learning Area: <a href="http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/arts/mcc">http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/arts/mcc</a> or scan the QR code on the right. 		

## 8. Awards and Prizes

Awards	Prizes
Outstanding Award – Gold prize, Silver prize and Bronze prize (Solo)	A certificate and a music product for each participant of the winning entry
Outstanding Award Gold prize, Silver prize and Bronze prize (Ensemble)	A certificate and a music product for each participant of the winning entry
Certificate of Appreciation	All participants who submit entries that meet the basic requirements will be awarded a “Certificate of Appreciation”

The awarded compositions will be performed at the Hong Kong Palace Museum and the recording of the performances will be uploaded onto the webpage of the AE Key Learning Area, EDB Multimedia (EMM) online platform, CDI’s e-Gallery, as well as various media platforms.

## 9. Use of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) in Original Music Composition

While the use of A.I. may assist participating students in exploring possibilities for music creating, such use must be declared when submitting the work to promote ethical A.I. practices. Failure to comply with the declaration may result in score deduction. Students are strongly encouraged to develop authentic and personally innovative ideas through observation, reflection, and imagination.

## 10. Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Ms NG Chin-ting, Kathleen of the AE Section of the Curriculum Development Institute, the EDB at 3698 3542.