



NSAL 2026 NATIONAL HIGH BRASS COMPETITION

Trumpet and French Horn

NSAL 2026 Annual Meeting – Little Rock, Arkansas, May 14-16

National Competition Rules

1. Contestants must show evidence of career potential but not be a full-time member of a professional performing ensemble nor be under professional management at the time of the National Competition.
2. Contestants must have reached the age of 18, but not yet reached the age of 29 **(18-28)** at the time of the Awards Competition on **May 15, 2026**. Proof of age must accompany the National Competition Application.
3. Contestants must be legal residents of the United States with a United States Social Security number or taxpayer identification number and United States residence address. Proof of United States Citizenship, Naturalization, or Legal Residency is required with the National Competition Application.
4. The NSAL High Brass Competition for trumpet and French horn is open to musicians of all nationalities, races, religions, genders, and sexual orientations. In the interest of equality, the National Competition Judges will be behind a screen. The NSAL National Competition does not discriminate based on preference of style, tone, or choice of instrument.
5. Contestants enter the competition through a NSAL chapter. There are fifteen NSAL Chapters. Contestants may enter the competition in his or her state chapter or the nearest chapter geographically located to his or her current residence. The third choice is to be assigned to a chapter by contacting **Paul Wigley**, National Category Chair, at paul.wigley54@gmail.com
6. Contestants may not enter more than one chapter competition.
7. Contestants declared First Place Award Winner in a chapter competition will represent that chapter in the National Competition on **May 15, 2026**.

8. Contestants must arrive at the National Competition site in Little Rock, Arkansas, in time to attend the Contestant Orientation at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, **May 14, 2026**.
9. All awards are taxable, and all contestants must complete a W-9 during the Contestant Orientation on Thursday, May 14, 2026. They will also be asked to identify their chosen performance piece for the Awards Banquet in the event they are selected as one of the top three winners. Competitors must agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the competition.
10. Contestants may pay a small application fee at a chapter competition.
11. Contestants must attend the NSAL High Brass Clinic on Saturday morning, **May 16, 2026**, and the Awards Reception and Banquet on Saturday evening, **May 16, 2026**. Winners of the NSAL High Brass Competition will be announced during the Awards Banquet. The top three winners will be expected to perform one selection of their choice at the Awards Banquet.

Contestant Requirements

1. Each contestant is to submit a high-resolution jpeg headshot and a short biography of their accomplishments with the Contestant Application Form along with a legal document verifying date of birth and United States Citizenship or legal residence in the United States. Examples: a birth certificate, passport, naturalization certificate, student visa, or green card.
2. Musical selections on the Contestant Application Form cannot be changed once a competitor has competed in a chapter competition. It is at the discretion of the chapter competition chair if changes in the musical selections are allowed to be made in a timely manner prior to the date of the chapter competition.
3. At the chapter competitions and at the National Competition contestants must use original copies of their music, or digital or printed copies licensed for them to use. The contestants must present their music at the Contestant Orientation to verify that it is original or licensed for them to use. Works in the public domain are exempted from this rule.
4. All contestants must use the collaborative pianists provided for the National Competition. At chapter competitions the chapter may require contestants to use the collaborative pianists or may allow contestants to use their own pianists, at the chapter's discretion. Some chapter competitions may be held virtually. For more details contact the chapter competition chair.
5. The first selection to be performed is chosen by the contestant and should be no more than 8 minutes in length. Other selections to be performed will be at the discretion of the judges and will be selected from the repertoire submitted with the application. The judges may ask for an entire piece or portions of a piece to be performed and may start and stop from any place in the selection. The total performance time for each contestant is 12 minutes. No pieces are required to be performed from memory.
6. Contestants are expected to be dressed in professional attire for the competition performances.
7. At both the chapter competition and the National competition contestants must use original copies of their music, or digital or printed copies licensed for them to use. Works from the public domain are exempt from this requirement.
8. Contestants are to select one piece from each of the two categories in the repertoire below for their instrument and a third selection of their own choice from either category in the repertoire below for their instrument.

REPERTOIRE

TRUMPET

Baroque, Classical, Romantic:

Giuseppe Torelli: Trumpet Concerto in D major (G.28) mvmts. 1 and 3

Johann Melchior Molter: Trumpet Concerto No. 2 in D major, mvmt. 1

F. J. Haydn: Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major (Hob. VIIe:1), mvmt. 1 or 3

Johann Nepomuk Hummel: Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major, mvmt. 1 or 3

Oskar Böhme: Trumpet Concerto in F minor, Op. 18, mvmt. 1

Contemporary, Modern, 20th Century:

*Alexander Arutiunian: Trumpet Concerto in A-flat major – Cut from rehearsal F to 7 before Q. (Which is cutting measures 115-311.) Please include the cadenza.

*André Jolivet: Concertino for Trumpet, Strings, and Piano

Kent Kennan: Sonata for Trumpet and Piano, mvmt. 1 and 2 (New Edition)

*Alexandra Pakhmutova: Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra. - Please play from the beginning of the piece to the downbeat 11 measures before Rehearsal number 16.

*Eric Ewazen: Sonata for Trumpet and Piano, mvmt. 1

FRENCH HORN

Classical, Romantic:

F. J. Haydn: Concerto No. 1 in D major, Hob. VIId:3, mvmt. 1

W. A. Mozart: Concerto in E-flat major, K. 417 (No. 2), mvmt. 1

W. A. Mozart: Concerto in E-flat major, K. 495 (No. 4), mvmt. 1

Richard Strauss: Concerto in E-flat major, Op. 11 (No. 1), mvmts. 1 and 2

Carl Maria von Weber: Concertino in E minor, Op. 45 (F versions not permitted)

Contemporary, Modern, 20th Century:

*Richard Bissill: Song of a New World

*Eric Ewazen: Sonata for Horn and Piano, mvmt. 1

*Ruth Gipps: Concerto for Horn, Op. 58, mvmt. 1 or 3

*Halsey Stevens: Sonata for Horn and Piano, mvmt. 1

*Jane Vignery: Sonata for Horn and Piano, Op. 7, mvmt. 1

All works in the Baroque/Classical/Romantic category, for both instruments, fall in the public domain.

All works in the Modern/Contemporary category, for both instruments, are NOT in the public domain. With one exception: the Sonata for trumpet by Kent Kennan.

Works still held in copyright which you will need to show licenses for are noted by*.