İHSAN DOĞRAMACI BILKENT UNIVERSITY

PROF. DR. İHSAN DOĞRAMACI
INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION

İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University aims to honor the memory of its founder, Prof. Dr. İhsan Doğramacı by celebrating his legacy not only in science but also in the realms of art and music through the International Composition Competition. First organized in 2024 and held every two years, this competition encourages composers to create new works, providing an opportunity to honor our Founder once again through the unifying, universal power of art. This goal will be carried forward with the creation of new works in planned *violin concerto* competition (2028) and *cello concerto* competition (2030) in the years ahead.

2nd PROF. DR. İHSAN DOĞRAMACI INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITION COMPETITION (2026) PIANO CONCERTO

The 2nd Prof. Dr. İhsan Doğramacı International Composition Competition, organized by İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University, will be held in 2026 in the genre of piano concerto.

1. Requirements for the Compositions

a) The competition is in the genre of piano concerto.
b) The submitted work must be composed for solo piano and classical symphony orchestra.
c) The competition seeks a work that can be performed using only the keys in the solo piano part. Works that involve the pianist using their voice, playing any other instrument, placing objects inside the piano, plucking or muting the strings with fingers, or employing other playing techniques that involve the body and lid of the instrument are outside the scope and purpose of the competition.
d) The orchestral instruments should include a maximum of 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets-timpani - 1 percussionist, and strings consisting of 12 first violins, 10 second violins, 8 violas, 6 cellos, and 4 double basses. Composers may optionally substitute the 2nd flute with piccolo, the 2nd oboe with English horn, and the 2nd clarinet with bass clarinet. In selecting percussion instruments, preference should be given to those frequently used in classical symphony orchestras; instruments that are difficult to procure or are not standard elements of a classical orchestra should be avoided.
e) The duration of the work should be between 18 and 22 minutes.
f) Composers are free to choose their compositional techniques and styles.

2. Participation Conditions

a) Composers from any country, regardless of age, who have not been awarded in previous years (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or honorable mention) in the Prof. Dr. İhsan Doğramacı International Composition Competition are eligible to participate.
b) Members of the Selection Committee and those who have served as committee members in previous years are not eligible to participate.

c) The composition must not have been published, publicized, publicly performed, recorded, or been awarded before. The copyrights of the works must be fully owned by the composer. Submitted works cannot be performed or published until the competition results are announced, and the award-winning works are determined.
d) A composer may not submit more than one work to the competition.
e) The creators of the awarded works must agree to participate in the event on **Saturday, March 7, 2026.**
f) The performance of the awarded works by the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra will not entitle the composer to any copyright. Accordingly, the composer or the owner of the financial rights of the work cannot claim any rights due to the performance of the work by the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra.
g) The rights to perform the awarded works and to broadcast them on CD, cassette, Video-CD, DVD, and radio or online music channels will belong to İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University for three years.
h) If the awarded works are performed at any concert, the composer and the title of the work, as well as the award received, must be mentioned in the program.
i) The Organizing Committee recommends that composers of the awarded works mention their award in their resumes.
j) Composers who submit works to the competition are deemed to have accepted all the terms and conditions of this document.

3. Submission of Works

a) The composer must send the computer-written orchestral score of the work, the solo piano part, and the orchestral parts of the piece in easy-to-read and flippable page PDF format to the Organizing Committee at **id-icc@bilkent.edu.tr**. If necessary, it is recommended to add auxiliary lines to the score of the Solo Piano Part that give the soloist an idea about the musical movements in the orchestra, ensuring rhythmic coordination and entrance cues.
b) The submitted work should be given a **pseudonym** consisting of five non-meaningful letters by the composer. This pseudonym should be written in the upper left corner of each page of the score, solo piano part, and orchestral parts. No name, signature, mark, or any other identifying information should be present on the submitted score.
c) Along with the email containing the submitted scores, the composer should also send an **Identity Information File** named with the pseudonym given to the scores. The Identity Information File should include a scanned copy of the composer's ID or passport, a Word document containing the composer's biography (in Turkish or English), a short biography, information about the work, address, phone number, and email address, as well as a scanned, signed, and dated petition confirming acceptance of the competition rules and conditions as stated in Appendix 1.
d) The identity information obtained through the email sent for competition participation will be accessible only to the Competition Secretariat.
e) If the composer has passed away, the work may be submitted to the competition by their legal heirs.
f) The scores and Identity Information File of the work to be submitted to the competition must be sent to the Organizing Committee's email address, **id-icc@bilkent.edu.tr**, no later

than the end of **Friday, November 7, 2025**. Works submitted after this date for any reason will not be included in the competition.

g) Upon receipt of the submitted work at the email address **id-icc@bilkent.edu.tr**, the Competition Secretariat will send a confirmation email to the composer acknowledging the receipt of their work.

h) Any inquiries regarding the competition can be directed to the Competition Secretariat via the above email address.

4. Selection Committee

Selection Committee Members (in alphabetical order of surnames)

- Yiğit Aydın (Composer)
- Gürer Aykal (Conductor)
- Gülnara Aziz (Pianist)
- Mahir Cetiz (Composer)
- Kamran İnce (Composer)
- Magnus Lindberg (Composer)
- Gülsin Onay (Pianist)
- Orhun Orhon (Conductor)
- Hasan Uçarsu (Composer)

5. Evaluation Process

a) The Selection Committee members will elect a Chairperson from among themselves to conduct their work.

b) The Selection Committee will carry out its evaluation process in accordance with the conditions through in-person, online, or hybrid meetings.

c) Selection Committee members are required to attend the evaluation meetings regularly. In the event of absence, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to appoint new members in their place.

d) If there are few participants in the competition and/or no work is deemed worthy of an award, the Selection Committee may recommend postponing the competition to the Organizing Committee.

e) The Selection Committee may limit the number of awarded works within the scope of the competition. For example, only one work may be awarded.

f) The awarded works and their rankings will be submitted in a report to the Organizing Committee by the Selection Committee.

g) The competition results will be announced on **Monday, January 12, 2026**.

h) The Identity Information Files of the non-selected works will not be opened and will be deleted and destroyed by the Competition Secretariat.

6. Performance

a) Among the awarded works, the first-prize-winning work will be performed. The orchestra rehearsals of this work will be held between March 5 and 7, 2026. The work will be

performed for the first time on **Saturday, March 7, 2026**, by the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Conductor Gürer Aykal.

b) The recording of the first-prize-winning work will be planned and carried out during the rehearsals before the concert. (A video recording can also be made on the day of the concert.)
c) The Award Ceremony will take place just before the concert.

7. Awards and Other Matters

a) The awards for the Prof. Dr. İhsan Doğramacı International Composition Competition are determined as follows:
    - First Prize: $20,000
    - Second Prize: $10,000
    - Third Prize: $7,500
b) At any stage of the competition, if any violation of the terms of this document is detected, the respective works will be disqualified from the competition.
c) The rules of this competition are executed by the Chair of Board of Trustees of İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University and its members.
d) The Turkish version of the Announcement and Documents containing rules related to this competition shall prevail in the event of a discrepancy in the translation.

Appendix 1: Sample Petition