



RULES AND GUIDELINES 2026

INTRODUCTION

Ivor Novello Awards are presented twice a year to celebrate creative excellence by British, Irish or UK-resident songwriters and composers.

These are the official rules for the presentation of The Ivors Composer Awards, where Ivor Novello Awards are presented to celebrate excellence and impact in composition.

Awards accepting entries recognise music presented to UK audiences for the first time either through live performance/presentation, commercial recording or as the original score for newly released linear or interactive media.

Awards in the gift of The Ivors Academy recognise individuals demonstrating outstanding composing achievements; and emerging composing talent demonstrating exceptional potential.

To be eligible for awards accepting entries, the music must meet a minimum threshold of authorship by a British, Irish or UK-resident songwriter or composer. This requirement does not apply to awards in the gift of The Ivors Academy.

For 2026 only, award categories accepting entries have varied eligibility periods:

	15 months:
Best Small-Scale Composition	1 April 2025 – 30 June 2026
Best Large-Scale Composition	
Best Vocal and Choral Composition	
Best Community and Participation Composition	
Best Original Score for Performance	
	18 months:
Best Original Documentary Score	1 January 2025 – 30 June 2026
Best Original Video Game Score	
	6 months:
Best Original Film Score	1 January 2026 – 30 June 2026
Best Original Television Score	

These varied eligibility periods relate to whether award categories are new or have been presented at previous ceremonies. From 2027 the standard 12-month eligibility period for The Ivors Composer Awards will be a mid-year 12 months from 1 July to 30 June.

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TIMETABLE

2026	
Monday 1 June	Rules and guidelines published
Monday 1 June	Entries open for consideration in the following award categories:
Friday 10 July	Entries close at 17:00
Monday 3 August to Thursday 17 September	Juries sit
October	Nominations announced
Tuesday 17 November	The Ivors Composer Awards Ceremony at JW Marriott Grosvenor House London

All times are BST/GMT unless stated otherwise.

ENTRY INFORMATION

The Ivors Academy accepts entries for the following Award categories:

- Best Small-Scale Composition
- Best Large-Scale Composition
- Best Vocal and Choral Composition

- Best Community and Participation Composition
- Best Original Score for Performance

- Best Original Documentary Score
- Best Original Film Score
- Best Original Television Score
- Best Original Video Game Score

WHO CAN ENTER?

Any individual or organisation may submit an eligible submission for consideration, including the composer themselves.

ENTRY PROCESS

All entries must be submitted online via our Awards Entry Site (AES)

<https://awardsendry.ivorsacademy.com>

Note: Each category has specific rules and requirements. Entrants must read this rulebook in full before submitting.

ADMINISTRATION FEES

Category	Fee
All categories	£100.00 per work (£83.33 NET)

Fee reductions apply for members of The Ivors Academy. Membership benefits apply only if:

- Entry is submitted by the member themselves (not a third party)
- Entry relates to music written by the member themselves (not a third party)
- Membership is active at the time of entry

Reductions are applied as follows:

- Professional tier: 100% (free entry for 2026 only)
- Core tier: 50%
- Discovery tier: 10%

Payment terms

- Fees must be paid in full before the work is passed to the judges.
- Administration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable.

ENTRY LIMITS

- Composers may enter multiple categories however; there is a maximum of two works by the same composer that may be entered into the same category.
- Entrants are encouraged to select works demonstrating the highest level of composing craft.
- A work may only be entered in one category.
- Works previously submitted for Ivor Novello Award consideration at any of the Academy's ceremonies may not be re-entered, except for Best Original Documentary Score.

WORKS REGISTRATIONS AND PRODUCTION CUE SHEETS

- Entrants submitting stand-alone compositions (no theatrical or media element) must submit the works registration, as filed at the relevant royalty collection society, clearly stating the ownership shares of all composers and publishers.
- Entrants submitting media compositions must submit the production cue sheet, as filed at the relevant royalty collection society, clearly stating the ownership shares of all composers and publishers.
 - In support of the Academy's campaign to end ghost-writing, entrants submitting media compositions must confirm that the production cue sheet accurately lists those who either wrote a cue from scratch or provided significant new creative input into an existing cue. If an entrant confirms the composer did not credit all additional contributors on the production cue sheet, the entry may be disqualified.
- If it is not possible to obtain the official works registration or production cue sheet, or one does not exist a template can be downloaded from the AES to confirm ownership shares.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The Academy presents awards twice annually and reserves the right to move an entry to a different ceremony to ensure appropriate peer review.
- Works where there is, or appears to be, a genuine ownership or authorship dispute may be disqualified at the Academy's discretion.

Generative Artificial Intelligence

- Only human creators may be entered, nominated or declared winners.
- A work that contains no human authorship is not eligible in any category.
- A work that incorporates elements generated by artificial intelligence (AI) is eligible only if:
 1. The human authorship component represents at least 90% of the submitted work;
 2. The human authorship component is relevant to the category in which the work is entered; and
 3. The author(s) of any AI generated material are not eligible to be nominees or recipients of an Ivor Novello Award for the portions of the work they contributed using AI.

AWARD CATEGORIES, DEFINITIONS, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND RULES

This section details the definitions, eligibility criteria, entry requirements and rules for each category, including who qualifies as a candidate for nomination and the judging process.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply throughout these rules and guidelines unless otherwise stated:

Composition – An original work of music, with or without lyrics, created through the organisation of musical elements including melody, harmony, rhythm and structure. This may include instrumental, vocal or electronically created works written for any genre, medium or performance context. If a composition is a revision at least 50% of the compositional material must be new.

Documentary Score – An original work of music specifically written to accompany a documentary film or televised broadcast. More than 50% of all music used must be original, written specifically for the documentary. Newly written songs created for the documentary may contribute to the total original score. If licensed music is used to accompany the documentary's credits, this should be removed from the total duration of music. If the entry is a long-running series, original music from earlier series does not count towards the 50%.

Film Score – An original work of music specifically written to accompany a fictional feature film. The film must be at least 40 minutes in length. At least 50% of the music featured must be newly composed specifically for the film. Newly written songs created for the film may contribute to the total original score. If licensed music is used to accompany the film's credits, this should be removed from the total duration of music. Films that predominantly use material from pre-existing scores (e.g. sequels, prequels, franchise films) are not eligible.

Performance Score – An original work of music specifically written for performance contexts including opera, theatre, dance and immersive productions.

Television Score – An original work of music specifically written to accompany a fictional televised broadcast. Limited series, miniseries or seasons of long-running shows are entered as a whole, not by individual episodes. More than 50% of all music used must be newly composed specifically for the broadcast. Newly written songs created for the broadcast may contribute to the total original score. If licensed music is used to accompany the broadcast's credits, this should be removed from the total duration of music. Original music from earlier series does not count towards the 50%.

Video Game Score – An original work of music specifically written to accompany a video game. The video game must be the original version; later versions released on different platforms or extension packs will not be considered.

Live performance or presentation – A composition is considered to have received a live performance or presentation when it first receives either a physical live performance, a live-streamed physical performance, or a broadcast of a physical live performance or presentation to a UK public audience.

Commercially released – A composition is considered to have been commercially released when it is first made publicly available in the UK for sale, download or streaming on, at a minimum, Amazon Music, Apple Music, Spotify and YouTube Music. A video game is considered to have received a commercial release when it is first made publicly available in the UK through a retail or online store.

General release – A film or televised broadcast is considered to have had a general release when it has been made commercially available to the public in the UK, either through theatrical exhibition, Video on Demand (VOD), streaming platforms or televised transmission on terrestrial, cable, satellite or digital channels, for the first time. Limited screenings such as festivals, private viewings, or previews do not constitute a general release.

Music publisher - the person, firm or company owning or controlling the composition copyright in the UK during the eligibility period, according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society.

BEST SMALL-SCALE COMPOSITION

This award recognises the creative achievement of composers writing original music for small-scale musical performance.

Eligibility Criteria

- The musical work can be written for up to 12 performers.
- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the composition, calculated according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The entire composition must have received either its premiere live performance/presentation or its commercial release, in the UK, between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Please note: If the composition was written for live performance/presentation this date should be used to determine its UK premiere. If the composition was written primarily for commercial release this date should be used to determine its UK premiere.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Audio recording of the entire work, supplied as a MP3 (320 kbps) audio file.
- Evidence of authorship contributions. This should identify the composer/author and publisher interests and share contributions of all interested parties. The evidence must take the form of a screen shot of the official composition registration at the relevant royalty collection society. If it is not possible to obtain such evidence a composition contribution template is available to download from the AES.
- The programme notes or description of the work (max 250 words).
- Evidence of the first UK public performance/presentation.

If the work qualifies through live, streamed or broadcast performance, entrants must supply evidence of the date of performance/broadcast, where it took place and who performed it.

If the work qualifies through appearance on a commercial recording, entrants must supply the recording's title, artist, record company name and commercial release date.

- 300dpi digital image of the official commercial release artwork or a visual illustration of the composition (9:16).

The following may be submitted:

- A notated score should be submitted if the composer realised the composition through notation.

Judging

- Submissions will be assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated compositions.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- The composer's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the royalty collection society registration. Bona fide co-publishers may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

BEST LARGE-SCALE COMPOSITION

This award recognises the creative achievement of composers writing original music for larger-scale performance forces and ensembles.

Eligibility Criteria

- The musical work can be written for 13 or more performers.
- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the composition, calculated according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The entire composition must have received either its premiere live performance/presentation or its commercial release, in the UK, between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Please note: If the composition was written for live performance/presentation this date should be used to determine its UK premiere. If the composition was written primarily for commercial release this date should be used to determine its UK premiere.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Audio recording of the entire work, supplied as a MP3 (320 kbps) audio file.
- Evidence of authorship contributions. This should identify the composer/author and publisher interests and share contributions of all interested parties. The evidence must take the form of a screen shot of the official composition registration at the relevant royalty collection society. If it is not possible to obtain such evidence a composition contribution template is available to download from the AES.

- The programme notes or description of the work (max 250 words).
- Evidence of the first UK public performance/presentation.

If the work qualifies through live, streamed or broadcast performance, entrants must supply evidence of the date of performance/broadcast, where it took place and who performed it.

If the work qualifies through appearance on a commercial recording, entrants must supply the recording's title, artist, record company name and commercial release date.

- 300dpi digital image of the official commercial release artwork or a visual illustration of the composition (9:16).

The following may be submitted:

- A notated score should be submitted if the composer realised the composition through notation.

Judging

- Submissions will be assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated compositions.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- The composer's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the royalty collection society registration. Bona fide co-publishers may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

BEST VOCAL AND CHORAL COMPOSITION

This award recognises the creative achievement of composers writing original music for voices and vocal ensembles, including solo vocal, ensemble and choral works, either a cappella or accompanied.

Eligibility Criteria

- The musical work must contain a substantial vocal element.
- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the composition, calculated according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The entire composition must have received either its premiere live performance/presentation or its commercial release, in the UK, between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Please note: If the composition was written for live performance/presentation this date should be used to determine its UK premiere. If the composition was written primarily for commercial release this date should be used to determine its UK premiere.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Audio recording of the entire work, supplied as a MP3 (320 kbps) audio file.
- Evidence of authorship contributions. This should identify the composer/author and publisher interests and share contributions of all interested parties. The evidence must take the form of a screen shot of the official composition registration at the relevant royalty collection society. If it is not possible to obtain such evidence a composition contribution template is available to download from the AES.
- The programme notes or description of the work (max 250 words).
- Evidence of the first UK public performance/presentation.

If the work qualifies through live, streamed or broadcast performance, entrants must supply evidence of the date of performance/broadcast, where it took place and who performed it.

If the work qualifies through appearance on a commercial recording, entrants must supply the recording's title, artist, record company name and commercial release date.

- 300dpi digital image of the official commercial release artwork or a visual illustration of the composition (9:16).

The following may be submitted:

- A notated score should be submitted if the composer realised the composition through notation.

Judging

- Submissions will be assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated compositions.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- If applicable, the author responsible for original lyrics will be credited. If the work sets existing words, the author will not receive a credit.

- The composer and author's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the royalty collection society registration. Bona fide co-publishers may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

BEST COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION COMPOSITION

This award recognises the creative achievement of composers writing original music for voluntary, amateur or youth performers, or for projects designed to support community participation and engagement through music-making.

Eligibility Criteria

- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the composition, calculated according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The entire composition must have received either its premiere live performance/presentation in the UK, between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Audio or video recording of the entire work.
 - An audio recording supplied as an MP3 (320 kbps) audio file is a minimum.
 - A video recording can only be submitted in lieu of an audio recording if the visual performance is integral to the piece. If that is the case video file requirements are:
 - (a) film form: mp4 or mov
 - (b) audio codec: stereo audio (on audio stream with two channels L and R)
 - (c) aspect ratio: 16:9
 - (d) file size: cannot exceed 10GB
- Evidence of authorship contributions. This should identify the composer/author and publisher interests and share contributions of all interested parties. The evidence must take the form of a screen shot of the official composition registration at the relevant royalty collection society. If it is not possible to obtain such evidence a composition contribution template is available to download from the AES.
- Information relating to performer participation. Entrants are asked additional questions relating to the performers, the nature of interaction with the performers and how any project activity (i.e., workshops) relates to the final work. This is to help judges understand if there were any factors the composer had to consider when composing the work.

- Evidence of the first UK public performance/presentation, such as the date of performance/broadcast, where it took place and who performed it.
- 300dpi digital image of a visual illustration of the composition (9:16).

The following may be submitted:

- A notated score should be submitted if the composer realised the composition through notation.

Judging

- Submissions will be assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated compositions.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- If applicable, the author responsible for original lyrics will be credited. If the work sets existing words, the author will not receive a credit.
- The composer and author's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the royalty collection society registration. Bona fide co-publishers may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE FOR PERFORMANCE

This award recognises the creative importance of original music written for live performance contexts including theatre, dance, opera and immersive or interdisciplinary productions.

Eligibility Criteria

- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the composition, calculated according to the works registration at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The entire composition must have received either its premiere live performance/presentation in the UK, between 1 April 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Video recording of the entire work.
 - (a) film form: mp4 or mov
 - (b) audio codec: stereo audio (on audio stream with two channels L and R)
 - (c) aspect ratio: 16:9
 - (d) file size: cannot exceed 10GB
- Evidence of authorship contributions. This should identify the composer/author and publisher interests and share contributions of all interested parties. The evidence must take the form of a screen shot of the official composition registration at the relevant royalty collection society. If it is not possible to obtain such evidence a composition contribution template is available to download from the AES.
- The programme notes or description of the work (max 250 words).
- Evidence of the first UK public performance/presentation, such as the date of performance/broadcast, where it took place and who performed it.
- 300dpi digital image of a visual illustration of the composition (9:16).

The following may be submitted:

- A notated score should be submitted if the composer realised the composition through notation.

Judging

- Submissions will be assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated compositions.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- If applicable, the author responsible for original lyrics will be credited. If the work sets existing words, the author will not receive a credit.
- The composer and author's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the royalty collection society registration. Bona fide co-publishers may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

BEST ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY SCORE

This award recognises the creative importance of original music written to support the narrative and impact of documentaries.

Eligibility Criteria

- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the score, calculated according to the production cue sheet at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were

ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 January 2025 and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The documentary film or televised broadcast must have had a general release in the UK between 1 January 2025 and 30 June 2026. For a limited series, most episodes must have aired during the eligibility period.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Video file containing selected original cues:
 - Format: .mp4 or .mov
 - Audio: stereo (L/R channels)
 - Aspect ratio: 16:9
 - File size: maximum 10GB
 - Total duration: maximum 15 minutes (no limit to number of cues included)
 - Music must be shown in the original visual context, without modifying audio levels
 - English subtitles for foreign-language broadcasts

Note: It is recommended that the composer selects the cues to ensure they demonstrate the highest level of composing craft against the visuals.

- Production cue sheet for the entire broadcast, indicating each composer's percentage contribution.
- Short outline (max 250 words) detailing the composer's approach
- Broadcast's UK release date.
- 300dpi digital image of the official artwork (9:16).

Judging

- Assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated documentary scores.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- The composer's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the production cue sheet at the relevant royalty collection society. Bona fide co-publishers may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

BEST ORIGINAL FILM SCORE

This award recognises the creative importance of original music written to support the narrative and impact of a fictional feature film.

Eligibility Criteria

- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the score, calculated according to the production cue sheet at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 January and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The feature film must have had a general release in the UK between 1 January and 30 June 2026.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Video file containing selected original cues:
 - Format: .mp4 or .mov
 - Audio: stereo (L/R channels)
 - Aspect ratio: 16:9
 - File size: maximum 10GB
 - Total duration: maximum 15 minutes (no limit to number of cues included)
 - Music must be shown in the original visual context, without modifying audio levels
 - English subtitles for foreign-language films

Note: It is recommended that the composer selects the cues to ensure they demonstrate the highest level of composing craft against the visuals.

- Production cue sheet for the entire film, indicating each composer's percentage contribution.
- Short outline (max 250 words) detailing the composer's approach.
- Film's UK release date.
- 300dpi digital image of the official artwork (9:16).

Judging

- Assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated film scores.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- The composer's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the production cue sheet at the relevant royalty collection society. Bona fide co-publishers may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

BEST ORIGINAL TELEVISION SCORE

This award recognises the creative importance of original music written to support the narrative and impact of fictional television programmes.

Eligibility Criteria

- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the score, calculated according to the production cue sheet at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 January and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The broadcast must have had a general release in the UK between 1 January and 30 June 2026. For limited series or seasons, most episodes must have aired during the eligibility period.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Video file containing selected original cues:
 - Format: .mp4 or .mov
 - Audio: stereo (L/R channels)
 - Aspect ratio: 16:9
 - File size: maximum 10GB
 - Total duration: maximum 15 minutes (no limit to number of cues included)
 - Music must be shown in the original visual context, without modifying audio levels
 - English subtitles for foreign-language broadcasts

Note: It is recommended that the composer selects the cues to ensure they demonstrate the highest level of composing craft against the visuals.

- Production cue sheet for the entire broadcast, indicating each composer's percentage contribution.
- Short outline (max 250 words) detailing the composer's approach
- Broadcast's UK release date.
- 300dpi digital image of the official artwork (9:16).

Judging

- Assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated television scores.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- The composer's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the production cue sheet at the relevant royalty collection society. Bona fide co-publishers

may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

BEST ORIGINAL VIDEO GAME SCORE

This award recognises the creative importance of original music written to support the visual content and interactive experience of video games.

Eligibility Criteria

- British or Irish authorship must constitute at least one third (33.3%) of the score, calculated according to the production cue sheet at the relevant royalty collection society. Contributions from non-British or non-Irish nationals may count if they were ordinarily resident in the UK between 1 January 2025 and 30 June 2026. Proof of residency may be requested.

Eligibility Period

- The video game must have been commercially released in the UK between 1 January 2025 and 30 June 2026.

Entry Requirements

The following must be submitted:

- Video file containing selected original cues:
 - Format: .mp4 or .mov
 - Audio: stereo (L/R channels)
 - Aspect ratio: 16:9
 - File size: maximum 10GB
 - Total duration: maximum 15 minutes (no limit to number of cues included)
 - Must include a mixture of game play and in-game cinematic, with a minimum of 10 minutes game play included.
 - Music must be shown in the original visual context, without modifying audio levels
 - English subtitles for foreign-language broadcasts

Note: It is recommended that the composer selects the cues to ensure they demonstrate the highest level of composing craft against the gaming experience.

- Eight unique download codes for the entire game, for use on the same gaming platform.
- Production cue sheet for the entire game indicating each composer's percentage contribution.
- Short outline (max 250 words) detailing the composer's approach
- The game's UK release date.
- 300dpi digital image of the official artwork (9:16).

Judging

- Assessed by a specially appointed jury chosen by The Ivors Academy.

Candidates for Nomination

- Maximum of five nominated video game scores.
- The composer responsible for the overall creation will be credited. If the composer contributed less than 50%, additional contributors may be recognised at the Academy's discretion.
- The composer's corresponding UK music publisher will be credited according to the production cue sheet at the relevant royalty collection society. Bona fide co-publishers may receive hyphenated credits. The UK music publisher must publish the composer's copyright during the eligibility period to qualify for credit.

JURIES

An Ivor Novello Award represents peer recognition, and all eligible entries are assessed by specially appointed juries, whose members are chosen by The Ivors Academy.

SELECTION OF JURORS

- Juror lists are compiled from professional composers and musicians across The Ivors Academy membership.
- Members may put themselves forward each year to be added to the potential juror list.
- Lists are subject to Awards Committee approval.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- The Academy is committed to inclusive, representative, and respected panels. Juries are expected to:
 - Incorporate diversity of voice and thought
 - Have five jurors present to be quorate and usually not exceed seven members, except where additional voices are required
 - Be entirely comprised of Ivors Academy members, unless external expertise is necessary
 - Represent a range of diversity indicators and those from underrepresented groups - including but not limited to age, LGBTQI+, D/deaf & disabled, socioeconomic background and location

PARTICIPATION RULES

- Jurors cannot serve on the same jury for two consecutive years, except where continuity is specifically required.
- Jurors must declare any conflicts of interest prior to judging.
- Conflicts include authorship of any work entered in the category being judged, or other personal/professional connections.
- The Independent Adjudicator determines whether a conflict exists.
- Jurors with conflicts must forgo their role.

JUDGING PROCESS

- Judging is a voluntary activity.
- Each session is led by a Chair (non-voting).
- An Independent Adjudicator attends each session in a non-voting capacity.
- Jurors' involvement is confidential until the day of the ceremony. All jurors sign an NDA to protect discussion confidentiality.

Decisions on nominations and winners are final and confidential. No correspondence will be entered into regarding why particular entries were or were not nominated.

AWARDS IN THE GIFT OF THE ACADEMY

The following Awards are in the gift of The Ivors Academy. The Academy welcomes suggestions for candidates, and submissions may be made year-round.

ACADEMY FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship of The Ivors Academy celebrates excellence and impact in the art and craft of music creation. It is presented to an individual with a substantial body of work and represents the highest honour the Academy bestows. This award is in the gift of the Academy's Board. It is presented during the annual awards ceremony but may also be presented at another time, at the Board's discretion.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO MUSIC

This award celebrates a composer, or composing partnership, whose career has made an outstanding contribution to UK music. This award is in the gift of the Academy's Awards Committee.

INNOVATION

This award celebrates a composer, or composing partnership, who demonstrates innovation in composition. It recognises creative leadership, boundary pushing artistry and new approaches to sound. This award is in the gift of the Academy's Awards Committee.

COMPOSER OF THE YEAR

This award celebrates a composer, or composing partnership, who premiered an outstanding body of music during the eligibility period. Music that resonated with audiences and demonstrates exceptional craft, across any genre. This award is in the gift of the Academy's Awards Committee.

BREAKTHROUGH

This award celebrates an emerging composer, or composing partnership, who is at the tipping point in terms of career potential. This award is in the gift of the Academy's Awards Committee.

NOMINATIONS AND WINNERS

MINIMUM THRESHOLD AND NUMBER OF NOMINATIONS

- A minimum threshold of eligible entries is required for a category to be presented and to determine the number of nominations:
A category must receive 20 or more eligible entries to be passed through to judging. Juries will be asked to identify three nominations for categories that receive 20-45 eligible entries.
Juries will be asked to identify five nominations for categories that receive more than 45 eligible entries.
- The Ivors Academy and its juries reserve the right to nominate fewer works if deemed appropriate.

LISTING OF NOMINATIONS

- Nominations are listed alphabetically by work title.
- Where multiple candidates are associated with a work, names are listed alphabetically by surname, unless the individual uses a stage name, in which case the stage name is used.
- If a candidate for nomination has a stage name this will be used in publicity.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The date when nominations are made public may be subject to change.
- Acceptance of a nomination or award constitutes acceptance of The Ivors Academy [Code of Conduct](#).

CEREMONY ATTENDANCE AND TICKETS

- Each candidate for nomination receives one ticket for themselves and one guest, courtesy of The Ivors Academy. Tickets are issued if the nominee is hosted on an Ivors Academy table. Tickets are non-transferable.
- Candidates unable to attend must provide an acceptance video and grant permission for it to be played during the ceremony.

NOMINATION CERTIFICATES

- Each candidate receives an official unframed nomination certificate.
- Duplicate certificates may be purchased by bona fide representatives; contact the Awards Team for details.

AWARD PRESENTATION

- One winner per category.
- The winner's press release is the definitive source of award information.
- Winners receive one hand-cast bronze Ivor Novello Award statuette, corresponding to the nominated candidates. Only these individuals may collect the award on stage.
- Corresponding UK music publishers included in the nomination can purchase one statuette. For co-publishing credits, one statuette is presented to the hyphenated credit; additional duplicates may also be purchased after the ceremony.

COLLECTION AND OWNERSHIP

- Winners unable to attend the ceremony must collect the award within 12 months, unless a representative collects it on their behalf.
- The statuette remains the property of The Ivors Academy and must remain in the care of the recipient or their descendants.
- Should the award leave the care of the recipient or their descendants, the Academy may repurchase it for £1.
- Awards must not be sold to any third party.

USE OF THE STATUETTE

- Recipients may use the statuette only for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- Public exhibition, reproduction, or commercial use requires prior written consent.
- The statuette must not be used in any way deemed obscene, offensive, disparaging, derogatory, or harmful to The Ivors Academy or awards' reputation.

RIGHTS RESERVED BY THE IVORS ACADEMY

- The Academy reserves the right not to make an award in any category.
- The Academy reserves the right to rescind an award or nomination, once bestowed, at the sole discretion of the Academy Board.

PERMISSIONS AND ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

PERMISSIONS FOR JUDGING AND PROMOTION

- By entering, the individual or company confirms they have obtained all relevant permissions and clearances from rights holders for The Ivors Academy to use the audio and/or video recordings for judging The Ivors Composer Awards 2026.
- By entering, the individual or company also confirms they have obtained all relevant permissions and clearances for The Ivors Academy to use, duplicate and synchronise artwork, publicity photographs, audio and video recordings for promotional purposes, including:
 - Official social media channels and digital platforms
 - Official printed programme
 - Awards ceremony audio visual presentation

TRADEMARKS

- The Ivors Composer Awards, The Ivors Academy and Euterpe (Ivor Novello Award) are trademarks of BASCA, trading as The Ivors Academy. Any reproduction or use of these marks requires prior written consent.

DATA PROTECTION

- The Ivors Academy takes great care to protect your data. The AES uses SSL (secure socket layer) technology to ensure information is encrypted and private.
- By submitting an entry, entrants agree to the processing and use of their information for the administration and running of the awards.
- The Academy may contact you by email regarding information and updates. You can review our privacy policy at <https://ivorsacademy.com/privacy>
- To opt out, email: awards@ivorsacademy.com

CHANGES TO RULES AND CEREMONY

- The Ivors Academy may amend these rules and guidelines at any time without notice. Entrants should review them regularly.
- The Academy may suspend, postpone, cancel, or amend the awards ceremony if necessary.

FINAL AUTHORITY

- The final decision on all aspects of The Ivors Composer Awards, including the interpretation of these rules, rests solely with The Ivors Academy Board.

CONTACT DETAILS

The Awards Team can assist with any queries and/or help with the Awards Entry Site:

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