1ST OSPA – BANRISUL INTERNATIONAL COMPOSITION AWARD

OFFICIAL COMPETITION GUIDELINES & SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

COMPETITION OVERVIEW & INSTITUTIONAL PREAMBLE

The **Pablo Komlós Cultural Foundation** (CNPJ 06.333.516/0001-34) officially announces the guidelines for the **1st OSPA – Banrisul International Composition Award** (*1º Prêmio Internacional de Composição OSPA-Banrisul*). The competition is organized in artistic partnership with the **Porto Alegre Symphony Orchestra Foundation (FOSPA)** (CNPJ 92.954.874/0001-04), represented by its President Gilberto Schwartsmann, and is fully sponsored by **BANCO DO ESTADO DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL S.A. (BANRISUL)**, a mixed-capital company, headquartered at Rua Capitão Montanha, No. 177, Centro District – ZIP Code 90010-040, Porto Alegre, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (CNPJ 92.702.067/0001-96).

1. PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

1.1. The primary objective of this call for scores is the selection of **1 (one) unperformed, unpublished symphonic work** for its world premiere during OSPA's 2027 Concert Season, alongside conferring a substantial monetary award upon the winning composer.

1.2. The competition aims to foster contemporary musical creation, highlight active composers, and expand the high-level symphonic repertoire.

2. ELIGIBILITY & PARTICIPANT CONDITIONS

2.1. The competition is open to composers of **any nationality** who are at least **18 years of age** by the application deadline date.

2.2. **Strict Exclusions:** Participation is strictly prohibited for state public servants of Rio Grande do Sul, FOSPA musicians, outsourced personnel of the Pablo Komlós Foundation or FOSPA, members or relatives of the Organizing and Selection Committees, direct event partners, and their spouses or relatives up to the 2nd degree.

3. THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

3.1 The Organizing Committee shall consist of one representative and one alternate from the following institutions, appointed by their respective Chairpersons:

3.1.1 Banrisul;

3.1.2 Pablo Komlós Cultural Foundation; and

3.1.3 Porto Alegre Symphony Orchestra Foundation (FOSPA)

4. THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

4.1 The Selection Committee shall consist of three (3) full members and three (3) alternate members, who must be conductors, appointed by the Organizing Committee, taking into account requirements relating to recognized expertise in the fields of concert music, composition and conducting.

4.2. The names of the full and alternate members will be announced on the official OSPA website on the 5th of January 2027.

5. COMPOSITION SPECIFICATIONS & RULES

5.1 Entries must strictly comply with the following criteria:

5. 1.1. **Duration:** Between 25 and 30 minutes in total length.

5. 1.2. **Structure:** Must be structured in 3 (three) or more contrasting movements.

- **Language:** Score text, tempo markings, and performance indications must be written in Portuguese or English.
- **Score Formatting:** Computer-typeset using music notation software exported to PDF format. Allowed paper sizes: A4, Letter, Legal, B4 or A3. Scores must be written in Concert Pitch (in C) or transposed. Handwritten scores are strictly rejected.

5. 1.3. **Originality & Intellectual Property:** Must be an original, creative, and innovative intellectual creation by the author, protected under Brazilian Copyright Law (Law 9.610/1998).

5. 1.4. **Generative AI Ban:** The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools is strictly forbidden. The detection of generative AI tools will result in immediate summary disqualification. The jury reserves the right to request preliminary sketches or draft files to verify human authorship.

5. 1.5. **Unpublished Status (Ineditismo):** The work must not have been previously published, publicly performed (in person or online), awarded in any previous competition, or released in any commercial or digital audio recording format (even partially).

5.2. Required orchestral instrumentation

Compositions must be written for the exact maximum orchestration listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Maximum Orchestral Instrumentation

Family	Exact Maximum Instrument Specification
Woodwinds	2 Flutes*, 2 Oboes*, 2 Clarinets*, 2 Bassoons* (*standard instrument doublings permitted)
Brass	4 Horns, 3 Trumpets, 3 Trombones, 1 Tuba
Keyboard	Piano or Electronic Keyboard
Percussion	Timpani and 3 Percussionists
Strings	Full String Section (Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, and Double Basses)

Instrumentation Rules:

- **Woodwind Doubling/Substitutions:** The substitution of one of the standard instruments with its respective auxiliary instrument is permitted, respecting the maximum limit of two players per section (e.g., 1 Flute and 1 Piccolo; 1 Oboe and 1 English Horn; 1 Clarinet and 1 Bass Clarinet; 1 Bassoon and 1 Contrabassoon).
- **Percussion:** The choice of percussion instruments must be strictly limited to the list provided in Annex II of the official guidelines.

5.3. The use of a reduced orchestra in certain sections is permitted, provided that it does not contravene clause 5.2. of this Notice.

5.4. Reduced orchestral formations, such as chamber orchestras, are prohibited. The Selection **Committee will disqualify the candidate, without assessing the merit of the composition**, and exclude them from the competition.

6. REGISTRATION

6.1 Registration is free of charge and must be completed between November 10th 2026 and January 4th 2027 exclusively via e-mail **inscricoes.premioospabanrisul@ospa.rs.gov.br** (emails must be sent no later than 23:59 on 4 January 2027), according to Brazilian time (**Brasília time**). Any e-mails received after this time will be disregarded and excluded from the competition.

6.1.1 The Organizing Committee shall not be held responsible for any issues relating to the submission of documents (e.g. internet connection); therefore, candidates must themselves ensure that all necessary measures and precautions are taken to ensure the documents are submitted on time.

6.2 The mandatory files, listed in section 6.3, must be submitted to the awards organizers via the email address **inscricoes.premioospabanrisul@ospa.rs.gov.br**, as specified in section 6.1. The sender must be **identified in the body of the e-mail; however, it is strictly forbidden for any documents sent as attachments – including PDFs and audio files – to be identified in any way by the author**.

6.2.1 The identification in the body of the email must include: full name, a copy of your ID card/CPF or passport, nationality, address, telephone number, email address, a short biography, and the Declaration of Authorship and Originality, duly identified and signed.

6.3. The following documents are mandatory and must be attached to the email inscricoes.premioospabanrisul@ospa.rs.gov.br :

6.3.1 **[Anonymised]** score, in PDF format.

6.3.2 **[Anonymised]** audio file, in in MP3 format (audio generated by software/MIDI or similar).

6.3.3 A signed [identified] Declaration of Originality, in accordance with the template in Annex 1.

6.4 The Organizing Committee shall, on a strictly anonymous basis, forward to the Selection Committee only the score and the audio, as described in sections 6.3.1 and 6.3.2, completely anonymize.

6.5 Entries shall be rejected if:

6.5.1 are submitted after the deadline specified in clause 6.1;

6.5.2 contain files that do not comply with the format set out in clauses 6.2 and 6.3, corrupted files or incomplete documentation.

6.6 Entries submitted in a format other than that set out in this notice will be disqualified.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

7.1 The assessment will be carried out by the Selection Committee, taking into account the following criteria set out in Table 2:

Table 2: Evaluation Criteria & Weight Distribution

Criterion	Description	Weight (100%)
A. Conformity	Adherence to competition rules (instrumentation, length, unpublished status, formatting).	Eliminatory
B. Artistic Merit	Compositional quality, orchestral treatment, color, and aesthetic originality.	60% Weight
C. Technical Feasibility	Practical exequibility and technical clarity within professional symphonic standards.	40% Weight

7.2 The Selection Committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed on artistic merit. The committee reserves the right to request additional materials (sketches, designs) from the finalists to verify human authorship **(without the use of AI).**

7.3 In the event of a tie, the deciding factor shall be the candidate's qualifications, in accordance with the scoring system set out in Table 3:

Table 3: Tie-Breaking Academic Scoring System

Qualification Tier	Description	Points
A. Doctorate (Specialized)	Doctorate degree in Music with emphasis in Composition	5 Points
B. Doctorate (General)	Doctorate degree in Music	4 Points
C. Master's (Specialized)	Master's degree in Music with emphasis in Composition	3 Points
D. Master's (General)	Master's degree in Music	2 Points
E. Composition Awards	National or international composition awards/prizes	1 Point

8. OFFICIAL COMPETITION TIMELINE (2026 – 2027)

8.1 Applications: **November 10, 2026 to January 4, 2027**

8.2 Approval of applications**: January 5, 2027**

8.3 Disclosure of the Selection Committee: **January 5, 2027**

8.4 Appeal period (see item 10 of this notice regarding approval): **from January 6, 2027 to January 7, 2027 until 23:59.**

8.5 Publication of the final approved applications: **January 8, 2027**

8.6 Results of appeals of non-approved applications: **January 8, 2027**

8.7 Assessment: **from January 9, 2027 to February 10, 2027**

8.8 Publication of the final results: **February 11, 2027**

8.9 Orchestral parts must be submitted no later than: **February 15, 2027 at 23:59.**

***CRITICAL NOTE: Failure to deliver complete, revised orchestral performance parts (partes cavadas) by February 15, 2027 (23:59 BRT) will result in immediate forfeiture of the prize.**

8.10 World première: **March 12, 2027** (Venue: Casa da OSPA)

9. PRIZES AND RIGHTS

9.1 The winning work will receive the 1st OSPA-Banrisul International Composition Prize, worth US$ 10,000.00 (ten thousand US dollars), funded by BANRISUL.

9.2 For residents of Brazil, the amount will be converted into Brazilian Reais (BRL) at the official exchange rate on the working day prior to payment, subject to income tax being withheld at source. For foreign nationals, payment will be made via international remittance, subject to applicable bank charges and taxes.

9.3 The composer retains ownership of their copyright but grants the Pablo Komlós Cultural Foundation, the OSPA Foundation and BANRISUL a free, universal and non-exclusive licence to stage the world premiere. This license extends, for an indefinite period, to the recording and broadcast (TV, radio, internet and social media) of the concert for institutional and promotional purposes, permitting the organizing institutions to restage the work without any additional cost. Logistical and travel expenses for attending the premiere are the sole responsibility of the winner, whose attendance is optional.

10. DEADLINE FOR APPEALS REGARDING REGISTRATION APPROVAL

10.1 Appeals regarding registration approval must be sent to the email address inscricoes.premioospabanrisul@ospa.rs.gov.br between the 6th and 7th of January 2027, by 23:59. The Organizing Committee will decide on the appeal, providing a reasoned decision, and the response will be sent to the candidate's email address within the timeframe set out in clause 8.6 of this Notice.

11. FINAL PROVISIONS AND CONTACT DETAILS

11.1 Registration implies full acceptance of the rules set out in this notice. Any matters not covered herein shall be resolved by the Organizing Committee.

11.2 Enquiries should be sent to the following email address: inscricoes.premioospabanrisul@ospa.rs.gov.br