



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL BANDS

Introduction

In light of the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, the NBCA in conjunction with the Band Association of NSW is running the inaugural Australian National Online Festival of Bands (ANOFEB) instead of the Australian National Band Championships which would have been held in Newcastle, NSW over Easter 2021. The NBCA encourages eligible bands to participate in this inaugural event under the conditions provided below.

Background

The 2021 National Band Championships have been cancelled in light of the following considerations arising from the ongoing Covid19 pandemic:

- The 2020 Nationals had to be cancelled some four weeks before they were due to start because of the Covid19 pandemic. This late cancellation caused parties involved in the event to incur considerable financial losses.
- The current state of play across the country and fluid regulatory environments including border closures may continue for some time.
- The social distancing, cleaning and hygiene requirements and uncertainty about the limits on the numbers of people able to attend an in-venue event are not known at this stage.
- The preparations of bands planning to compete in the 2021 Nationals will be disrupted to varying degrees with bands from Victoria unlikely to be in a position to rehearse at all before the end of 2020.

These difficulties combined with the varying access to recording capabilities for bands across the country make it impossible to run a National Band Championships including the Solo and Party Championships in any other format for 2021.

However, the NBCA and all State Associations recognise many bands across Australia and internationally would value the opportunity to participate in an alternative national band event over Easter 2021. The Australian National Online Festival of Bands (ANOFEB) has therefore been developed to provide an alternative event to fill Easter with good band music. The 2021 festival will be run as a joint venture between the NBCA and the BANSW. Other arrangements for an alternative event for the Solo and Party Championships are currently being explored.

This festival will provide an opportunity for bands to submit for adjudication video recordings of them playing a sacred item, single own choice major work, on stage march or own choice concert item (or any combination of these four items). These performances will be replayed over the Easter weekend.

The festival is all about participation, providing bands with purpose for rehearsals through these times as we attempt to return to our usual high standards, making great music together rather than fierce competition for trophies and titles.

To provide all bands with the flexibility to maximise their opportunity for participation, the festival will operate under streamlined rules within a format that loosely mirrors the formal structure of the National Band Championships.

We look forward to seeing all bands participate in whatever capacity and events they are able to as we work our way through these difficult times.

Barrie Gott

President
National Band Council of Australia

Jeff Markham

President
Band Association of NSW

ANOFB Entry and Participation Conditions

Entries

Entry is only open to brass and concert bands and band members registered with a State band association or an equivalent international band association.

Bands wishing to enter the Australian National Online Festival of Bands (ANOFB) must complete and submit a valid entry form with entry fee by the specified closing date for submission of entry applications.

The entry application must specify the grade of the band and the sections for which recordings will be submitted for adjudication.

Bands will be required to submit and pay for their entries through the ANOFB website (via the existing Nationals portal – www.nationalbandchampionships.com.au) by 12 February 2021

Upon completion of the entry form you will receive an email confirmation.

Entry Fees

The entry fee depends on the number of events entered and is \$100 (incl. GST) per event entered.

No refund of entry fees will be made after the close of entries except in the event of extenuating circumstances and at the discretion of the event organising committee.

Band Grades

Bands will compete in Grades based on the grades used in the National Band Championships and by the State Associations as follows:

- Open A, B, C & D Brass
- Open A, B, C & D Concert
- Junior A, B & C Brass
- Junior A, B, C & D Concert

For all Australian and New Zealand bands entering, the Grading by the relevant State Association as at the date of the close of entries will apply.

Any international band (outside of New Zealand), wishing to enter is asked to provide their recent festival and/or championship results and a recent recording(s) (not less than 12 months old) of the band with their entry so they can be graded appropriately for the festival.

Events

Events in each Grade are as follows:

- Sacred Item (Time Limit 6 mins),
- Single Own Choice Major Work (Time limit 25 mins),
- On Stage March (As per the existing NBCA Approved March List), and,
- Own Choice Concert Item (Time Limit 8 Mins).

Each band may choose to enter one or more events in their grade. For example, a band can choose to enter just the sacred item event or they could enter only all of the smaller items or all items.

There is no requirement for Marching or unnecessary clipboards.

Player Registration

All bands and band members appearing in recorded videos for bands must be registered members of their relevant State Association.

Registration with the relevant State Association must be as at the day before the close off date for submission of recordings.

Each band will be required to verify upon submission of the recording of the band that all members appearing in their video (videos) are regular members of that band and are registered with the relevant State Governing Body.

Greater flexibility is provided in that an individual who regularly plays with multiple bands may play with as many of those bands that enter the festival provided they are registered with the relevant State Association. (Permits will not be required.)

Furthermore the same members of a band are not required to play for all events entered by that band. A band may use this provision to split the band into different groups for each event entered.

Maximum and Minimum Numbers of Members Performing

The minimum number of players in a band performing in any video recording is 16 (including percussion) plus a conductor for all bands.

There are no maximum numbers.

Video Recordings

All bands must perform their videos in their band uniform and the recording of videos for each item must be taken after 1 January 2021 in the one take with no editing.

With each video submitted, the band must provide a declaration that all players appearing in that video are regular playing members of that band and are registered members of the relevant State Governing Body.

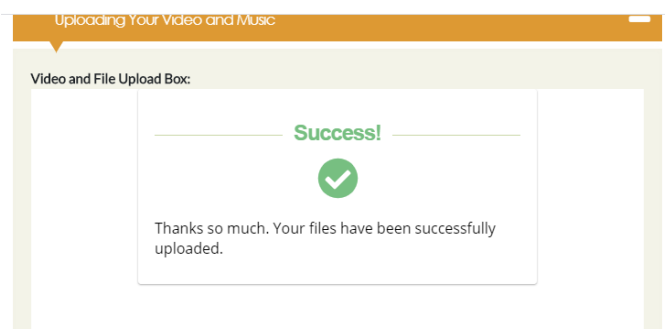
Each band shall submit their video recordings along with:

- the pdf of the score, and,
- the declaration.

Bands should ensure that their video is of suitable quality for an effective adjudication and online publication. Videos may be made in the band room or similar venue or of the band in a Virtual environment such as Zoom or similar.

Submissions of videos and music scores are to be made via the video and file upload box at www.nationalbandchampionships.com.au between 12 February 2021 and the closing date of 5th March 2021. No late submissions will be accepted.

When you see the below appear you know that your entry is confirmed.



All videoed performances will be retained for bands to see on the BANSW YouTube Channel. www.youtube.com/c/bandassociationofnsw/

Adjudication and Awards

After the close-off date for submission, recordings will be sent to the adjudicators for adjudication.

Each band will be provided with a recorded adjudication of each of their performances after the conclusion of the festival over Easter 2021.

In light of the likely differences in video and sound recording qualities, no points and no placings will be awarded.

Nonetheless awards will be given as follows:

- Platinum – An exemplary display of technical ability and musical interpretation of the composition.
- Gold – An excellent display of technical ability and musical interpretation of the composition
- Silver – A good display of technical ability and musical interpretation of the composition
- Bronze – A satisfactory recognition of performance

These awards will be announced at the end of the stream for each event over Easter 2021 weekend.

Following the announcement of results, all adjudication recordings will be emailed to bands along with appropriate certificates and Plaques will be available for delivery/collection.

Livestreaming of the Festival – Easter 2021

Over Easter 2021, all entries will be live streamed by Brassbanned.com. However sound only will be streamed for any school band who does not wish to have the video of their band to be broadcast.

Results announcements for each event will also be made via both Brassbanned.com and published on the Nationals, NBCA and BANSW Facebook pages and websites.

Queries

If you have any questions on the above, or on how your band can participate, don't hesitate to ask us either via messenger on either the Nationals Facebook page or send us an email to 2021newcastlenationals@gmail.com