



Merikosken Lauulu ry Composition Competition

The purpose of the competition is to find new, artistically high-quality compositions suitable for female choirs to be premiered during Merikosken Lauulu's anniversary year in 2027. The choir seeks works that will remain a long-term part of its repertoire.

Rules of the Competition

1. Organizer and Schedule

The competition is organized by Merikosken Lauulu ry. The competition period is **May 24, 2026 – October 1, 2026**. The awarded works (and other works selected by the jury for performance) will be premiered at Merikosken Lauulu's 80th anniversary concert in the autumn of 2027. The jury will announce its decision regarding the awarded compositions and the prizes will be presented at the same event.

2. Right to Participate

The competition is open to all composers and working groups (later composer) regardless of age, nationality, or place of residence.

3. The Composition

- **Ensemble and Duration:** Entries must be a cappella female choral compositions, 4 to 8 minutes in duration. The work may consist of multiple movements.
- **Voices:** The work should primarily be for 3 to 8 voices and may include small solos and additional voice parts.
- **Originality:** The work must be previously unperformed and unpublished, and it must not have won prizes in other competitions. The composer may not participate with the same work in any other concurrent composition competition.
- **Style:** The musical genre and choice of lyrics are unrestricted.
- **Lyrics:** The choice of language is free. If the text is not in the public domain, the composer must ensure they have permission to use the text. A translation is requested for lyrics in languages other than Finnish or English.
- **Elements:** The work may include body percussion or other non-instrumental elements that are easily performed by choir members while singing.
- **Range:** The desired ambitus is e–a² (minor deviations are possible).

- **Difficulty:** The work must be performable by skilled amateur singers; the target difficulty level is 3–4 on a scale of 1–5 (easy to difficult). The work should delight both the singers and the audience.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** The competition values original creative work by humans. AI shall not be used for composing, arranging, or producing the lyrics or other core content of the work.

4. Submission of Entries

Entries must be submitted by **October 1, 2026, at 23:59** via email to **kilpailu@merikoskenlaulu.net**. Late entries will not be considered.

Entries must be submitted using a **pseudonym**. A composer may participate with more than one work, but a different pseudonym must be used for each entry.

- **Pseudonym Policy:** To ensure anonymity, each work must be sent as a completely separate entity, and a different pseudonym must be chosen for each work. Multiple works by the same composer or working group may not be combined in the same message, nor can the same pseudonym be used for them.

The email submission (subject: "Sävellyskilpailu") must include:

- A score engraved with music notation software in PDF format, labeled only with the pseudonym.
- A synthesized MIDI version as an MP3 audio file.
- The composer's real contact information (name, postal address, phone number, email address, nationality, and country of residence).
- A statement by the composer declaring that the work is previously unperformed and unpublished.
- A statement by the composer (or a copy of the permit) regarding the right to use the text, if the text is protected by copyright law.

The jury will receive the names of the composers only in connection with the announcement of the awards.

5. Jury and Prizes

The jury consists of **Ms Anneli Julén** (Chair), **Ms Marita Kaakinen**, and **Mr Tommi Hekkala**. The total prize money is **3,500 euros** in total. The jury will decide on the distribution of the sum and may award part of the prize money as special prizes, and it may also award honorary mentions.

6. Rights

- **Copyright:** Rights remain with the composer in accordance with the Finnish Copyright Act.
- **Premiere and Recording Rights:** Merikosken Laulu ry reserves the exclusive right to the premiere and recording of the entries that have earned merit in this competition

without separate compensation for two years following the announcement of the results.

- **Sheet Music:** The organizer may produce copies of all entries for the jury and the performing choir. The right to use the sheet music remains with the choir even after the premiere.
- **Media Rights:** The organizer has an unlimited right to photograph, record, video, broadcast via radio or television, or transmit via the internet all of the competitors' compositions during the 80th anniversary concert.

7. Other terms and conditions

Participation implies acceptance of these rules. Registration and participation in the competition are free of charge. The organizer considers the presence of the composers whose works have been selected for the premiere to be important at the 80th anniversary concert in the autumn of 2027. Composers are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs related to the concert. In case of ambiguity, the organizer shall resolve any disputes regarding the interpretation of the rules or other topics related to the competition. The organizer reserves the right to make changes to the rules of the competition.

Inquiries regarding the competition: kilpailu@merikoskenlaulu.net