

MILE HIGH FREEDOM BANDS COMMISSIONING PROJECT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025

Overview

The Mile High Freedom Bands is accepting proposals for a new work for jazz band. The new work is intended to be premiered on the MHFB Swing June 2026 performance, “Swinging Under the Stars”.

Award

A \$1,000 commission will be awarded to the selected composer by the Board of Directors of the Mile High Freedom Bands. Half of the commission award (\$500) will be paid on or after July 1, 2025, and upon the composer’s acceptance of the commission; and the remaining half (\$500) will be paid on or after January 1, 2025, and upon delivery and acceptance of all completed materials to MHFB.

Eligibility

Composers can be of any age or nationality and working in any style appropriate for a standard jazz big band-type ensemble. Only one proposal per composer is permitted.

Commission Requirements

- The work must be scored for standard jazz big band instrumentation as outlined below. Deviations from the standard instrumentation must be approved by the MHFB Artistic Director in advance. Solos customary for the style for any instrument are acceptable.
- The work should be approximately 5 minutes in length.
- The work should be graded as approximately grade 3 according to the American Band College Music Grading Chart (<http://www.bandworld.org/pdfs/GradingChart.pdf>). Deviations from this must be approved by the MHFB Artistic Director in advance.
- Electronics may be included provided they are an accompaniment to the live ensemble. The selected composer should consult with the MHFB Artistic Director regarding any electronics usage.
- The commissioned work must bear the inscription “Commissioned by the Mile High Freedom Bands - Derek Hebert, Artistic Director.” This work should not be performed prior to being premiered by MHFB.
- The completed new work must be delivered by January 1, 2026.

Submission Materials

To be considered for the commission, the following must be submitted electronically by May 1, 2025, 11:59pm MDT:

1. Cover letter with all relevant contact information, a brief biography of the composer, and the composer’s website if possible/available.
2. Written proposal for the new work. A brief sketch of musical materials may be included but is not required. Please do not send completed works. In the written proposal, please address how the work will fit within the concert theme of “Swinging Under the Stars”.
3. Two samples of recent compositions in any jazz style. Works for jazz big bands are preferred, but not required. Sound samples are encouraged (live performances or computer generated), but not required. If the proposal includes an electronic component, a sample of a work including electronics should be included.
4. There is no submission fee.

All materials should be sent electronically by completing the submission form at **MHFB.org/commission**.

Selection and Announcement

A panel led by the MHFB Artistic Director will review all submissions and select the winning composer. If this composer declines the commission, another one will be selected by the panel. The winning commission will be announced on the MHFB website and through social media channels by June 1, 2025.

Rehearsals and Premiere

The composer will be invited to attend rehearsals of the piece and can coordinate with the MHFB Artistic Director on that schedule if able to attend. It is encouraged for the composer to be at the premiere performance in Denver, Colorado, currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2026. MHFB may assist with travel planning, but cannot guarantee funds for travel as a condition of the acceptance of the commission.

For More Information

For more information or any questions regarding the commission project, contact the Artistic Director of the Mile High Freedom Bands at derek.hebert@mhfb.org. For more information about the Mile High Freedom Bands, visit our website at **MHFB.org**.