

PASIC 2026

**INDIVIDUAL
ENSEMBLE**

Guidelines

Friday, November 13, 2026

Indianapolis, IN

DESCRIPTION

The Individual & Ensemble competition will take place on Friday, November 13, 2026. Individuals and Ensembles are divided into High School and University/College divisions, with the oldest member of an Ensemble determining the division in which they compete. An Individual can compete in one of five categories: Marching Snare, Concert Snare, Tenors, Keyboard, and Timpani. An Ensemble must consist of 2-8 performers, and can compete in one of four categories: Marching Snare, Bass, Tenors, and Cymbals. Students may register for multiple categories if the schedule permits, beginning on September 1. However, PAS is unable to alter the schedule to accommodate participation in both events.

PAS MEMBERSHIP

All participants must be current Individual members of the Percussive Arts Society, or part of a Group Membership, through November 30, 2026. Participating students can join PAS, or renew their membership, at pas.org.

PARTICIPANTS

There is NO registration fee to participate in the Individual & Ensemble competition. Individuals and Ensembles must be registered to attend PASIC 2026. Sign-ups will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis until the competition is full.

DIRECTORS, STAFF, CREW, & ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBERS

No badge/ticket purchase is necessary for directors, staff, crew, & accompanying family members to watch Individual & Ensemble performances throughout the day on Friday.

ELIGIBILITY

Any high school or full-time undergraduate university/college student may enter. Ensemble members MAY be composed of students from multiple schools as long as they are full-time students.

SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Entries must include a completed Registration Form. Entries will be accepted in the order they are submitted. If applications are submitted on the same day, performance order will be determined by a random draw at the PAS office. Performance order will be determined by the reverse order of entry (the first entry received will perform last, second entry will perform next to last, etc.). Only 20 Individuals will participate in each solo category, and 12 in each ensemble category.

Students may enter only one individual competition category through August 31. After that date, students may register to compete in additional categories. A maximum of three students per school may compete in a single category. Please note that schedules cannot be adjusted to accommodate students participating in multiple events.

A category must have at least two participants to be considered a competition. If there is only one participant in a given category, that individual/ensemble may perform in exhibition for comments only.

All registration forms and documentation must be received by PAS no later than October 1, 2026.

INSTRUMENTATION

Each Individual & Ensemble participant is responsible for providing, moving, and storage of their own equipment. While PAS will attempt to secure timpani and keyboard instruments for warm-up and performance, we will not be able to confirm specific brand and model of these instruments until the weeks leading up to the event.

Individual Categories: Marching Snare, Concert Snare, Tenors, Keyboard, and Timpani.

Ensemble Categories: Marching Snare, Bass, Tenors, and Cymbals.

All Individuals and Ensembles must play their instrument type (snare, tenor, keyboard, etc.) but may also use auxiliary instruments in their solo or ensemble selection. For example, a solo keyboard performer is allowed to play an auxiliary instrument such as a woodblock if the selection calls for it.

The use of electronics is allowed in all categories. PAS will provide speakers for each room. The performer is responsible for playback device(s) (computer, interface, patch cables, etc.), set up and testing of playback device(s) in the allotted set up time.

Live accompaniment is not allowed.

RULES

TIME LIMITS OF PERFORMANCE

All Individual participants will have an 8-minute interval, which includes set up, performance time, breakdown, and the removal of all members and equipment from the performance area. Ensembles will have a 10-minute interval. Failure to adhere to the time limits for each category will result in a penalty, as indicated below.

PERFORMANCE

Individual & Ensemble participants may NOT use live accompanists. Manipulation of room lighting is prohibited. The stage dimensions will be available at a later date.

PENALTIES

0.2 point for every 15 seconds over time.

2.0 points for each additional rule violation (to be determined by the Contest Director).

JUDGING

Individual judging will be based on the criteria listed below. Both Snare/Tenors and the Keyboard/Timpani categories will be evaluated on their own sheets, respectively. Both judges' scores will be averaged to determine the final score. Awards will be given to the outstanding soloist in each instrument category. In the event of a tie in the snare drum/tenors competition, the Execution Score will be used as the tie-breaker. In the keyboard/timpani competition, in the event of a tie, the Performance score will be used as the tie-breaker. After the first-place winner, no other ties will be broken. If there is still a tie after the first tie-breaker, then the rankings by each judge will be used (ordinals). If a tie still exists after ordinals are calculated, we will have co-winners.

SNARE/TENORS	
Execution/Technique Consider: quality of sound, clarity of articulation, timing and rhythmic accuracy, implement control, demand, precision, consistency	50 pts.
Repertoire/Music Effect Consider: range, construction and complexity, variety/vocabulary, exposure to error (timing, speed, tempo, meter, stamina), musicality (dynamics, creativity, expression), showmanship/communication, professionalism	50 pts.
TOTAL	100 pts.

KEYBOARD/TIMPANI	
Performance Consider: precision, technique, interpretation, clarity, implement control, complexity of repertoire, intonation, tone quality	50 pts.
Musical Effectiveness Consider: overall effectiveness, musicianship, expression, professionalism, showmanship, creativity	50 pts.
TOTAL	100 pts.

Ensemble judging will be based on the criteria listed below. In the event of a tie, the Fulfillment score will be used as the first tiebreaker. If there is still a tie, then the rankings by each judge will be used (ordinals). If there is still a tie after that, then co-winners will be announced. Tiebreakers will only be used to name a winner in any given category.

MARCHING SNARE/BASS/TENORS/CYMBALS	
Program Consider: the musical journey/presentation, creativity, clarity of thought, musical content	50 pts.
Fulfillment Consider: communication, musicianship, presence, idiomatic interpretation, expression, excellence (as it relates to effectiveness)	50 pts.
TOTAL	100 pts.