



International Blind Musicians Music Festival

İzmir – Türkiye | 14–18 October 2026

Organizers: Education Association for the Visually Impaired (EGED) & Tourism for All Association

1. About the Organizers

The festival is organized by two non-governmental organizations in Türkiye working in the fields of accessibility, inclusion and disability.

Education Association for the Visually Impaired (EGED)

EGED is a rights-based non-governmental organization aiming to improve access to education, information and equal opportunities for visually impaired individuals. The association works with visually impaired students, teachers and families, developing solutions to challenges in education and employment. It also carries out projects in accessibility, advocacy and inclusive education.

More information: <https://eged.org/en/taxonomy/term/84>

Tourism for All Association

Tourism for All Association works to promote accessible tourism and increase the participation of persons with disabilities in social and cultural life. The association supports active participation of persons with disabilities in tourism, arts and public life through inclusive events, awareness activities and collaborations.

More information: <https://herkesicinturizm.org/en/>

2. About the Festival

The International Blind Musicians Music Festival will take place in İzmir, Türkiye between 14–18 October 2026.

The aim of the festival is to bring together visually impaired musicians from different countries on the same stage, promote artistic exchange and create an inclusive international meeting environment through music.

Participants may join the festival as solo performers or as groups, representing different musical styles.



The festival is not competition-based; it focuses on collaboration, sharing and cultural exchange.

Festival activities will take place in central and accessible cultural venues in İzmir.

3. Festival Dates

Arrival Day	:14 October 2026
Festival Program	:15–17 October 2026
Departure Day	:18 October 2026

4. Draft Festival Program

14 October – Arrival Day

- Arrival of participants in İzmir
- Hotel check-in
- Informal welcome and coordination meeting (optional)
- Introduction of participants and overview of the program

15 October – Opening & Orientation Day (White Cane Day)

Morning

- Registration and participant briefing

Late Morning

- Introductory session
- Participants introduce themselves, their musical background and their expectations

Afternoon

Accessible City Experience / Awareness Program

- Participants are divided into small groups
- Movement along selected routes in the city center of İzmir
- Sharing accessibility experiences in public spaces
- Comparing experiences from different countries
- Short reflection session at the end of the activity
- Free time / informal interaction

Evening

Opening Concert – Festival Participants

Concert format:

- Mixed program
- Each participant/performance: approximately 10–15 minutes
- Combination of solo and group performances

16 October – Workshops and Discussions

Morning

Workshop: Voice Games in Music Education



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kıvanç Aycan

- Vocal improvisation exercises
- Exploring rhythm through voice
- Group-based listening and communication exercises

Late Morning / Early Afternoon

Roundtable Discussion – Challenges and Solutions for Visually Impaired Musicians

Main topics:

- Access to music notation and learning materials
- Communication with instructors and teaching methods
- Barriers in stage and performance experiences
- Use of technology and digital tools
- Collaboration between visually impaired and sighted musicians
- Participants will share experiences and discuss practical solutions

Afternoon

Discussion Session – Accessibility in Music and Performing Arts

- Accessibility of performance venues
- Inclusive event organization
- International collaboration opportunities

Evening

Festival Concert – International Performances

Concert format:

- Mixed stage program
- Diverse musical styles
- Approximately 10–15 minutes per performance

17 October – Production and Closing Day

Morning

Workshop: Body Percussion and Rhythm Studies

Prof. Dr. Bilgehan Eren

- Body percussion techniques
- Group rhythm exercises
- Collective performance creation

Afternoon

Networking and Collaboration Session

- Participant networking
- Sharing project ideas
- Exploring international cooperation opportunities

Evening

Closing Concert and Final Gathering

Concert format:

- Selected performances
- Collaborative productions
- General evaluation and closing remarks



18 October – Departure Day

- Hotel check-out
- Departure of participants

5. Travel

Nearest Airport: İzmir Adnan Menderes Airport

Google Maps : <https://maps.google.com/?q=Izmir+Adnan+Menderes+Airport>

Distance to City Center: Approximately 18 km

Transportation Options: Metro (İZBAN), airport shuttle services, taxi

Local transportation during the festival will be coordinated by the organizers

6. Accommodation

Participants are responsible for covering their own travel and accommodation expenses. However, Tourism for All Association will provide guidance and support in planning accommodation and transportation processes. All participants are planned to stay in the same hotel.

Hotel: Ontur Hotel İzmir

Google Maps: <https://maps.google.com/?q=Ontur+Hotel+Izmir>

The hotel is located in the city center (Konak), in a safe and central area close to public institutions. It is also advantageously located near organizations and institutions working in the field of disability.

Estimated price: 80–100 EUR per night (double room, breakfast included)

7. Participation Fee

International Participants : 100 EUR per person

Companions: Exempt from the participation fee

8. Festival Venues

- Activities will take place in central districts of İzmir
- Some concerts and activities will be held in Bornova, in pedestrian-only and safe areas
- Other activities will take place in Konak
- The festival is organized in cooperation with İzmir Metropolitan Municipality and local authorities

9. Safety



- İzmir is located in the western part of Türkiye, on the Aegean coast, and is geographically close to Greece
- The city is far from the southeastern border regions often mentioned in international news
- Festival activities will take place in central, safe and populated areas
- The accommodation area is located close to public institutions and relevant organizations working in the field of disability
- The festival is organized in cooperation with local authorities, and necessary safety measures are supported by relevant public institutions

10. Application

Application Deadline : 15 April 2026

Application form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSee1qSsetcumU31gehFDNiHEZXN-pNJ3t02pl21-ozM_hiYog/viewform

11. Contact

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Title : General Secretary – EGED

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12. Additional Practical Information

Weather in İzmir (October)

October in İzmir is generally mild and comfortable.

Daytime: 20–26°C

Evening : 15–18°C

Recommendation: Light jackets or long-sleeved clothing; short periods of rain may occasionally occur

Restaurants and Social Areas around Konak

- Topçu Restaurant

<https://maps.google.com/?q=Topcu+Restaurant+Izmir>

- Reyhan Pastanesi

<https://maps.google.com/?q=Reyhan+Pastanesi+Izmir>

- Kordon seaside

<https://maps.google.com/?q=Izmir+Kordon>



- Alsancak district

<https://maps.google.com/?q=Alsancak+Izmir>

Nearby Hospitals

- Tepecik Training and Research Hospital

<https://maps.google.com/?q=Tepecik+Egitim+ve+Arastirma+Hastanesi>

- Ege University Hospital

<https://maps.google.com/?q=Ege+Universitesi+Hastanesi>

Emergency Number

112 – Emergency Call Center

We look forward to welcoming visually impaired musicians from different countries to İzmir and sharing the unifying power of music together.