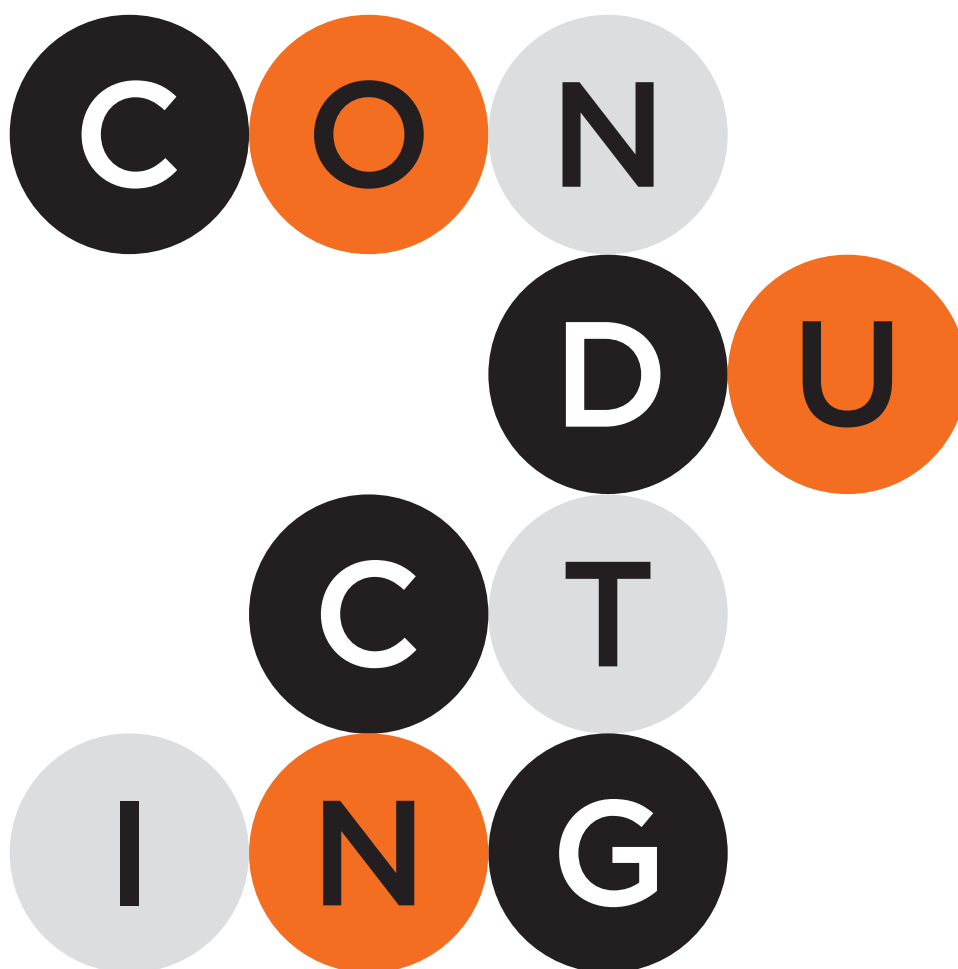

79^e CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

31 OCT 2025 - 13 NOV 2026

Conducting Competition - Official Rules



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Please note that this document is subject to modification. Any updates or changes will be communicated as necessary.

CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

CONCOURS DE GENEVE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

Founded in 1939, Concours de Genève is one of the world's leading international music competitions. It aims at discovering, promoting and supporting young talented artists, giving them the necessary tools to launch an international career.

Within the past eight decades Concours de Genève has revealed more than 800 artists, including many world-renowned figures. Each year two disciplines are offered in rotation: piano, flute, oboe, clarinet, cello, viola, string quartet, voice, percussion, conducting and composition.

CONDUCTING COMPETITION 2025-2026

The 2025-2026 Conducting Competition introduces an innovative and ambitious format in the history of the Concours de Genève. Organized over two years, it provides participants with the time and opportunity to develop and showcase their artistic vision and leadership skills.

This edition also stands out for its unique integration with the Composition Competition. Finalists will collaborate directly with composers, performing newly created works in a joint evaluation that celebrates the intersection of interpretation and creation.

Throughout the competition, candidates will conduct a range of ensembles—from chamber ensembles to full symphonic orchestras—exploring classical and contemporary repertoires. Prestigious partners will support this dynamic journey, offering a meaningful experience and an unparalleled platform for young conductors to launch their international careers.

Between the 2025 and 2026 rounds, the six selected semi-finalists will take part in a series of activities designed to further develop their skills and prepare them for the next stages of the competition. These activities will include masterclasses, preparatory workshops, and meetings with orchestras, providing valuable opportunities for artistic growth and professional exchange.

COMPETITION FORMAT

2025	Video Preselection Round
	First Round max. 24 candidates Orchestre de la Haute école de musique de Genève
	Second Round max. 12 candidates Orchestre de Chambre de Genève
2025-26	Masterclasses, workshops, meetings, etc. with the semi-finalists
2026	Semi-Final Round in 3 parts 6 candidates Semi-Final part 1 Orchestre de Chambre de Genève Semi-Final part 2 Ensemble Contrechamps Semi-Final part 3 Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
	Final Round in 2 parts 3 finalists Final part 1 Orchestre de la Suisse Romande Final part 2 Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

I. REGISTRATION & PRESELECTION

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

The 80th Concours de Genève is open to all conductors **born after 13 November 1991**, regardless of gender or nationality.

REGISTRATION

Application deadline: 7 May 2025

Candidates must register on Muvac: www.muvac.com/concours-de-geneve

To finalize the application, candidates must upload the following documents to Muvac:

- A valid copy of ID or Passport
- A completed resume on Muvac (including studies, teachers, professional activities and awards)
- 2 recent, high-quality colour photographs (min. 300dpi)
- 2 video recordings with the programme of the Video Preselection Round.
- A short video presentation (max. 3 minutes) in which candidates introduce themselves and share their motivation for participating in the 2025-2026 Concours de Genève.

For any questions or issues regarding registration, please contact us at application@concoursgeneve.ch

REGISTRATION FEE

AMOUNT OF THE FEE

The registration fee for the 2025-2026 Concours de Genève is **CHF 250** (two hundred and fifty Swiss francs) payable in a single instalment.

PAYMENT METHOD

By debit or credit card directly on the registration platform.

The registration fee is non-refundable under any circumstances.

VIDEO PRESELECTION ROUND

1) Repertoire:

Candidates must submit **2 video recordings** featuring contrasting pieces of their choice.

2) Requirements:

- **Video 1:** One piece recorded with an orchestra or ensemble (minimum 16 musicians).
- **Video 2:** One piece recorded with an orchestra, ensemble or two pianos.

Videos may be recorded during rehearsals or concerts. Each video must be between 7 and 10 minutes long.

If a piece is longer than 10 minutes, candidates can submit one or more excerpts from it. If they choose to submit multiple excerpts, these must be combined together into a single video file, with a maximum length of 10 minutes.

3) Technical specifications:

Videos must be high-quality and recorded within the last 18 months.

The camera must be positioned in front of the conductor, showing both the conductor and part of the orchestra or ensemble.

The conductor must always be fully visible, with their whole body in the frame.

For pieces with two pianos, both pianists and the conductor must be visible.

The video should be recorded with a fixed, wide-angle camera (no zooming or multiple angles).

4) Preselection process

The Preselection Round, based on video recordings, aims to select candidates who meet the standards required for participation in the public stages of the Competition. This preselection process will take place in Geneva, in a closed-door session, conducted by a Preselection Jury consisting of five members, including at least two members of the Official Jury for the 2025-2026 Conducting Competition. The selection process will be conducted in a studio that ensures optimal listening conditions.

5) Announcement of results

The names of the selected candidates will be announced on the Competition's website. Selected candidates will be personally notified and provided with detailed information about the next stages of the Competition.

II. PRIZES AND AWARDS

OFFICIAL PRIZES

The Concours de Genève offers the following official prizes:

- **1st Prize** **CHF 20,000.-**
- **2nd Prize** **CHF 12,000.-**
- **3rd Prize** **CHF 8,000.-**

SPECIAL PRIZES

- Semi-Finalist Prize: CHF 3,000.-
- Audience Prize: CHF 1,500.-
- Young Audience Prize: CHF 1,000.-
- Students Prize: CHF 1,000.-

And other special prizes to be announced.

The Semi-Finalist Prize is awarded to the three semi-finalists who have not been selected for the Final Round.

The Audience Prize is awarded by the audience during the Final Round.

The Young Audience Prize is awarded by young students of partner schools.

The Students Prize is awarded by students in musicology and of partner Universities of Music.

Subject to possible changes

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

Prizes, awards and diplomas - signed by the President of the Jury, the President, and the Secretary General of the Concours de Genève - will be presented to the Laureates during the prize-giving ceremony, held immediately after the second part of the Final Round.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Concours de Genève offers a Career Development Programme, providing precious support and advice to boost laureates' careers.

MANAGEMENT & CONCERTS

In addition to the official prizes, laureates benefit from two years of professional support from the concert agency Sartory Artists, Paris, including career advice, personal coaching, and concert opportunities. This support is offered in a flexible and non-exclusive format, and is adapted to each laureate's situation, including any existing or future management.

WORKSHOPS

Each year, the Concours de Genève offers a Prizewinners' Workshop: over the course of a week, participants take part in a series of workshops on topics such as performance, health, career management, image and social media.

III. JURY

OFFICIAL JURY

The Official Jury for the 2025-2026 Conducting Competition will consist of a diverse panel of internationally recognized experts, including renowned conductors, composers, instrumentalists, and industry professionals. To ensure a tailored evaluation process, the composition of the jury may vary depending on the specific rounds of the competition. For example, certain members may be present for preliminary rounds, while others may join for the Semi-Finals or Finals to provide specialized insight into the repertoire and challenges of those stages.

This dynamic approach guarantees that each phase of the competition is judged with the highest level of expertise and fairness. The complete list of jury members for each round will be announced at a later date.

The appointment of the seven Jury members is the sovereign responsibility of the Artistic Committee. Members are chosen for their international recognition in the music world, regardless of any racial, ideological, political or linguistic considerations.

EXCERPT OF JURY RULES

The Concours de Genève has a strict set of rules by which juries must abide. These include both general rules and voting procedures that change in accordance with the various stages of the competition. Here are a few defining features:

- The Video Preselection Round consists in the viewing of video recordings sent by candidates. At least two members of the Official Jury take part in the Preselection Jury.
- The Jury abstains from voting for candidates that have been their students on a regular basis during the two years preceding the Competition, or that will become their students within the six months following the competition. This rule is no longer applicable during the Final Round.
- Members of the Jury are forbidden to communicate with participants or those close to them during the entire competition. They are required to respect the principle of confidentiality.
- The President of the Jury votes in the same way as the other members. In the event of a tie, her/his vote counts for two.
- Official prizes are attributed in two phases: first, the Jury establishes a ranking of finalists, then decides whether or not the best amongst them deserves a First Prize.
- All prizes are not necessarily awarded.

FEEDBACK

After each round, Jury members will provide feedback to candidates who do not advance to the next stage, offering insights on their performance.

The jury deliberations are governed by internal regulations. Their decisions are final and there is no right of appeal.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS, TRAVEL EXPENSES & INSURANCE

ACCOMMODATION

Candidates will be provided with free accommodation with a host family during their stay in Geneva. Candidates who wish to stay with a family member or spouse must submit a special request to the Competition; however, this request cannot be guaranteed.

MEALS

Candidates will receive a daily allowance to cover their meal expenses.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

Candidates traveling from within Europe are responsible for arranging their own transportation. The Competition will reimburse the cost of a round-trip economy class airfare, a 2nd class train ticket, or an equivalent amount for car travel.

For candidates traveling from outside Europe, the Competition will arrange and cover the cost of their travel, providing a round-trip economy class airfare.

TRANSPORT

Candidates will have free access to public transportation in Geneva during their stay.

INSURANCE

The Competition is not liable for any costs related to candidates' illness or accidents during their stay in Geneva.

LIVE-STREAMING & RIGHTS

All public rounds of the competition will be live-streamed on the Concours de Genève's website, social media platforms, and broadcast live via radio and video streaming on numerous platforms.

By participating in the competition, candidates waive all rights to the audio and video recordings of their performances, as well as to any broadcasts via radio, television, or the internet. This applies to all sessions of the Competition.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Candidates must strictly adhere to their allocated time slots with the ensembles/orchestras and ensure they arrive on time for all sessions throughout the competition. Punctuality and compliance with the schedule are mandatory.

REHEARSAL LANGUAGE

Rehearsals may be conducted in either French or English, depending on the candidate's preference. Candidates are encouraged to use the language in which they can communicate most effectively with the musicians to ensure clarity and efficiency during their sessions. Both languages are equally accepted throughout the competition.

MUSICAL EDITION

For each work in the competition repertoire, the Concours de Genève will specify an official edition to ensure consistency and smooth collaboration with the ensembles/orchestras.

Selected candidates will be informed of the required editions they must use when conducting and will be responsible for obtaining and studying them in preparation for the competition.

DRESS CODE

First, second and Semi-Final rounds: smart casual attire is required during rehearsals.

Final Rounds: standard concert attire.

V. CALENDAR

CALENDAR 2025-2026

2025

7 May 2025

Application deadline

Spring 2025

Video Preselection Round

31 Oct.-1 Nov. 2025

First Round with the Orchestre de la Haute école de musique de Genève

Auditorium Ansermet, Geneva

2-3 November 2025

Second Round with the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève

Auditorium Ansermet, Geneva

2026

7 November 2026

Semi-Final 1 with the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève

Victoria Hall, Geneva

8 November 2026

Semi-Final Round with the Ensemble Contrechamps

9 November 2026

Semi-Final Round 3 with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

Victoria Hall, Geneva

10-11 November 2026

Final Round part 1 with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

Victoria Hall, Geneva

12-13 november 2026

Final Round part 2 with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

Victoria Hall, Geneva

Subject to possible changes.

VI. COMPETITION PROGRAMME

A. PRESELECTION ROUND

Repertoire: two videos presenting contrasting repertoire (7-10' each)

- **Video 1:** One piece with orchestra or ensemble (minimum 16 musicians)
- **Video 2:** One piece with orchestra, ensemble or two pianos

Cf. requirement listed on page 4

B. FIRST ROUND - HAUTE ÉCOLE DE MUSIQUE DE GENÈVE ORCHESTRA

Dates: 31 October - 1 November 2025

Participants: 24 candidates

Format: 25-minute open rehearsal per candidate

Repertoire

- L.v. Beethoven: *Symphony No. 2*
- F. Schubert: *Symphony No. 5*

Candidates must prepare both symphonies in their entirety. Just before going on stage, they will draw a set of excerpts comprising one movement from Beethoven's symphony and one from Schubert's. They will have 25 minutes with the orchestra to work on and/or run through the selected excerpts.

C. SECOND ROUND - ORCHESTRE DE CHAMBRE DE GENÈVE

Dates: 2-3 November 2025

Participants: 12 candidates

Format: 45-minute open rehearsal per candidate

Repertoire

- I. Stravinsky: *Dances concertantes*
- P.I. Tchaikovsky: *Serenade for Strings*
- R. Wagner: *Siegfried Idyll*

Candidates must prepare all three works in their entirety. Just before going on stage, they will draw a set of excerpts covering all three works. They will have 45 minutes with the orchestra to run through their Stravinsky excerpt and work on the Wagner and Tchaikovsky excerpts.

D. SEMI-FINAL 1 - ORCHESTRE DE CHAMBRE DE GENÈVE (30%)

Dates: 7 November 2026

Participants: 6 semi-finalists

Format: 45-minute open rehearsal per candidate

Repertoire:

- G. Bizet: *Symphony in C*
- L. Farrenc: *Symphony No. 3*
- F. Mendelssohn: *Symphony No. 3 « Scottish »*

Candidates must prepare all three symphonies in their entirety. At the beginning of the Semi-Final Round, each candidate will draw a set of excerpts to be conducted.

E. SEMI-FINAL 2 - ENSEMBLE CONTRECHAMPS (30%)

Date: 8 November 2026

Participants: 6 semi-finalists

Format: 45-minute open rehearsal per candidate

Repertoire

- **Compulsory work:** Ligeti: *Kammerkonzert* (1970)
- **One of the following contemporary works at choice:**
U. Chin: *Gougalon* (2008) or R. Saunders: *Scar* (2018-2019)

Each candidate must prepare the compulsory work by Ligeti, as well as one of two works at choice (*Gougalon* or *Scar*). During the rehearsal, they will work on excerpts from both works with the ensemble.

F. SEMI-FINAL 3 - ORCHESTRE DE LA SUISSE ROMANDE (40%)

Date: 9 November 2026

Participants: 6 semi-finalists

Format: 45-minute open rehearsal per candidate

Repertoire

- C. Debussy: *La Mer*
- R. Schumann: *Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54* (1st movement)
- R. Schumann: *Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129* (1st movement)

Candidates must prepare all three works. At the beginning of the Semi-Final Round, each candidate will draw a set of excerpts comprising a movement from Debussy's *La Mer* and the 1st movement from one of Schumann's concertos. Each candidate will have 45 minutes to work on these excerpts with the orchestra.

Soloists: Concours de Genève prizewinners (TBA)

VI. COMPETITION PROGRAMME

G. FINAL ROUND 1 - ORCHESTRE DE LA SUISSE ROMANDE

Dates: 10-11 November 2026

Participants: 3 finalists

Format: non-public rehearsals and concert

Repertoire: 3 finalist works from the Composition Competition

This round is both the Final Round of the Composition Competition and the first Final of the Conducting Competition. The subject of the 2026 Composition Competition is a work for symphonic orchestra; the conducting finalists must prepare the three composition finalists' works, which will be announced in the spring of 2026.

At the beginning of the final, a draw will determine which of the three works each finalist will conduct.

The finalists will conduct two rehearsal sessions (to be confirmed), a dress rehearsal and the Final Round concert, to be held at Geneva's Victoria Hall on 11 November.

Rehearsals and dress rehearsals are closed to the public.

H. FINAL ROUND 2 - ORCHESTRE DE LA SUISSE ROMANDE

Dates: 12-13 November 2026

Participants: 3 finalists

Format: non-public rehearsals and concert

Repertoire

- **B. Bartók :** *Suite du mandarin merveilleux* (20')
- **C. Debussy:** *Ibéria* (20')
- **G. Mahler:** *Totenfeier* (25')
- **S. Prokofiev:** *Romeo and Juliet* (free choice excerpts, max. 25')
- **R. Strauss:** *Don Juan* (20')
- **I. Stravinsky:** *The Firebird, Suite 1919* (20')

Each candidate must choose and prepare two works from the list. At the beginning of the Semi-Final Round, a draw will determine which of the two chosen works is to be conducted if selected for the Final Round.

The finalists will conduct two rehearsal sessions (to be confirmed), a dress rehearsal and the Final Round concert, to be held at Geneva's Victoria Hall on 13 November.

Rehearsals and dress rehearsals are closed to the public.