

YSAÏE International Music Competition

Belgium - Korea

Regulation 2026

1. General Information

The **YSAÏE International Music Competition (YIMC)**, founded in 2018 in Liège (Belgium) by Elena Lavrenov and Ashot Khachatourian, honors the extraordinary legacy of **Eugène Ysaÿe**, one of history's greatest violinists and composers.

From 2026, the competition expands internationally: while the preselection and semifinal stages are held online from Belgium, the **Final Round takes place in Korea** at the prestigious **Icheon Art Hall**.

The competition serves as an international platform for young violinists, fostering cultural exchange, artistic excellence, and pedagogical growth.

Organizers:

- **Belgium (CEO & founders):** Elena Lavrenov & Ashot Khachatourian – *La Vraie Note ASBL*
- **Korea (Final Round Co-Director):** Kara Nam – *Korea International School of Arts (KISA)*

2. Where

- **Preselection:** Online video behind closed doors, Verviers – Belgium (*Harmony Hall*)
- **Semifinal:** Online video (Livestream on www.ysaye-competition.com), Visé – Belgium (*Treteaux Hall*)
- **Final:** Live performance at **Icheon Art Hall, Korea** – 40 Buak-ro, Icheon-si, Gyeonggi-do, ZIP 17379, South Korea
- **Final rehearsals:** at **KISA – Korea International School of Arts**, Icheon, 138-30, Gyeongchung-daero 2993beon-gil, Icheon-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea 17308
Tel: +82 31 633 97 37, South Korea

3. When

- **Registration Deadline:** Monday, December 29, 2025 (23:59 CET)
- **Preselection:** January 26 – February 2, 2026
- **Semifinal:** February 15 – 18, 2026
- **Final (Korea):** Between July 6 – 12, 2026 (3-day program confirmed in March 2026)
- **Prize Ceremony & Gala Concert:** Last day of the Final (will be confirmed in March 2026)

! IMPORTANT: Because the semifinal falls very soon after the preselection, **candidates must be fully prepared in advance** with all required semifinal repertoire ready to record. The time between both rounds is extremely short, so organization and anticipation are crucial.

4. Who

The competition is open to all nationalities. No candidate will be rejected for ideological, linguistic, political, or racial reasons.

The competition is divided into two age categories:

- **Violin Junior:** For violinists who **will not turn 14 before December 31, 2026**
→ Candidates born in **2013 or later**
- **Violin Senior:** For violinists who **will not turn 34 before December 31, 2026**
→ Candidates born in **1993 or later**

5. Application

Candidates must complete the official **Application Form** (available on www.ysaye-competition.com) and submit the following documents before the deadline:

1. Link to the preselection video
2. Copy of valid passport or ID card
3. High-resolution vertical artistic photo in color
4. Proof of payment of the application fee

Application forms

YIMC <u>JUNIOR</u> 2026	YIMC <u>SENIOR</u> 2026
	
https://forms.office.com/r/Ez7yUsJh9D	https://forms.office.com/r/xScCwU2tW

6. Program

All candidates are required to carefully consult the **“Program” section** available on the competition’s official website. Please note that the repertoire requirements differ from previous editions, as the **Final Round for Senior category in 2026 will be performed with orchestra.**

The program submitted by each candidate in the official application form will be considered **final and binding**. **No changes will be accepted** after submission. Candidates are therefore strongly advised to double-check their repertoire before completing the form.

7. Agenda

- **December 29, 2025:** Application deadline
- **Jan. 26 – Feb. 2, 2026:** Preselection (videos)
- **Feb. 3, 2026:** Announcement of semifinalists (website)
- **Feb. 9, 2026:** Deadline for semifinal videos
- **Feb. 15 – 18, 2026:** Semifinal (videos, livestream)
- **Feb. 20, 2026:** Announcement of finalists (website)
- **July 6–12, 2026:** Rehearsals at KISA (Icheon, Korea)
- **July 6–12, 2026:** Final Round at Icheon Art Hall (3 days, exact dates confirmed in March)
- **July 2026 (last day of final):** Gala Concert & Prize Ceremony

8. Videos

Preselection

- Each piece recorded in **one take** (cuts between movements allowed).
- Concert/live recordings accepted.
- Camera must show clearly **hands, upper body, and instrument**.
- Piano accompaniment optional.
- Videos must be recent and high quality.

Semifinal

- Deadline for submission: **February 9, 2026**.

⚠ IMPORTANT: *Because the semifinal falls very soon after the preselection, **candidates must be fully prepared in advance** with all required semifinal repertoire ready to record. The time between both rounds may be extremely short, so organization and anticipation are crucial.*

- Piano accompaniment required when indicated.
- Concert recordings **not accepted** for the semifinal.
- Each piece or movement recorded in one take.
- Performance will be **live-streamed** → **professional-quality video strongly recommended**.

9. Prizes

- **Engagement for 1st Prize Senior:** Concert opportunity of solo concerto performance with « Gunpo Prime Philharmonic Orchestra » in Korea (organized by KISA).
- **Florian Leonhard Fine Violins:** Sponsorship support and fellowship opportunities for 1st Prize Senior Winner.
- **Special Ysaÿe Prize:** This distinction may be awarded to a finalist or a prize winner, in either the junior or senior category by La Vraie Note. It is a mark of special recognition and is not automatically attributed every year.

<u>VIOLIN Senior</u>	
1st Prize	5.000€
+ 1-year loan of violin from Florian Leonhard	
+ Concert opportunity : Solo concerto performance with « Gunpo Prime Philharmonic Orchestra » in Korea	
2nd Prize	2.000€
+ Sound adjustment service provided by Florian Leonhard Fine Violins in London	
3rd Prize	1.000€
<u>VIOLIN Junior</u>	
1st Prize	1.000€
Violin bow	
2nd Prize	500€
Violin case	
3rd Prize	300€
Set of strings	
<u>Ysaÿe Prize</u>	
500€	

10. Registration Fees

Junior Fee	220 €
Senior Fee	240 €
Name of account	La Vraie Note
Beneficiary address	Rue de Dinant 21 - 4800 Verviers, BELGIUM
Name of bank	Belfius BANK
Bank Address	Place Charles Rogier 11 – 1210 Bruxelles, BELGIUM
IBAN	BE12 0682 2771 4092
BIC/SWIFT	GKCCBEBB
Reference	YIMC 2026 + LAST NAME + First name + Junior (or) Senior

Fees are **non-refundable** and must be paid before the application deadline.
All bank charges and transfer fees must be borne by the participants.

11. Jury

- Distinguished international musicians.
- Any jury member related (up to 3rd degree) or teacher of a candidate cannot vote for them.
- The jury may shorten performances, stop a performance, or decide not to award all prizes.
- Decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

12. Accommodation

Finalists' transport and lodging are not covered.

Finalists who wish to benefit from **dormitory accommodation at the Korea International School of Arts** may contact the organizers to request it.

- **Check-in / Check-out:** 10:00 AM / 1:00 PM
- **Rate:** ₩60,000 per night (approx. €40)
- **Facilities:** 24h access to a piano-equipped practice room, shared restrooms and showers
- **Meals:** Breakfast (complimentary: cereal & fruit); Lunch and Dinner ₩8,000 each (approx. €5, Korean meal)
- **Location:** ~10 minutes by taxi from Icheon Art Hall

Please note: guests should bring their own toiletries. Pillows, bedding, and towels can be provided on request, though personal items are recommended for greater comfort.

13. Rights

By applying, participants authorize the competition to record, livestream, and distribute their performances for artistic and promotional purposes.