



Call for Entries (English)

A Project by SONARLOFT GbR

With kind support from Stiftung am Grunewald

1. Objective and Purpose

The Berlin Composition Prize 2026 is awarded by Sonarloft GbR and is open to young composers worldwide up to the age of 35 (cut-off date: February 15, 2026). The competition aims to promote creative diversity in new music, strengthen intercultural exchange, and support outstanding emerging talents internationally.

Original compositions for string quartet (violin, violin, viola, violoncello) are sought. The winning piece will be premiered as part of the SONARLOFT concert series at Kühlhaus Berlin.

2. Eligibility

- Open to composers of all nationalities and musical styles
- Age limit: 35 years (as of February 15, 2026)
- Eligible genres include classical, contemporary, experimental, jazz, and others
- Submissions must be previously unpublished and unperformed works for **string quartet (violin, violin, viola, violoncello)**
- The evaluation is anonymous.

3. Submission Requirements

- The **FULL SCORE (as PDF)** of your work
- Individual **parts for violin 1, violin 2, viola and cello** (as a combined PDF)
- A short **biography** (max. 1 page)
- **Participation fee: 50 EUR** (The payment is made via the registration form. We accept PayPal, SEPA direct debit, debit & credit card)
Submissions are only possible via our online form.

If you encounter any difficulties, please contact us via email:
bkp@sonarloft.de

4. Prizes

- **First Prize: EUR 5,000 + professional premiere performance at SONARLOFT, Kühlhaus Berlin***
- **Two Development Prizes: EUR 1,000 each**
- All winners will receive a diploma and certificate
- Personal mentoring & access to the SONARLOFT network

*Note: First Prize winners are excluded from future participation. Development Prize winners may reapply.

5. Jury & Evaluation

An international jury of experts will select the winners based on the following criteria:

- Instrumental suitability
- Creativity & originality
- Formal structure
- Sound language & aesthetics
- Dramatic impact & effect
- Technical quality

Biographies are not considered in the evaluation!

6. Timeline

- **Submission Deadline: February 15, 2026**
- Jury Deliberation: February/March 2026
- **Announcement of Winners: 15 March, 2026**
- **Live Concert & Award Ceremony: March 31, 2026 at Kühlhaus Berlin**

7. Final Provisions

By submitting their work, participants accept the terms and conditions of the competition and waive any claims for remuneration or compensation against Sonarloft GbR and the jury. The jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal. No liability is assumed for lost or damaged materials.

Copyright remains with the composer. In the event of an award, participants agree to a performance and potential audio/visual documentation of the work within the framework of the competition without entitlement to additional compensation. All digital submissions will be deleted after the competition concludes.

8. Contact

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An initiative by SONARLOFT GbR

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