



6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING  
COMPETITION OF THE “UNIVERSITY OF ALMERÍA”

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2026



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Vice-Chancellor for Culture and Society of the University of Almería are organizing the **6th International Orchestral Conducting Competition** with its final stages to be held from October 8th to 12th, 2026 in Almería.

This competition, now in its sixth year, has established itself as a platform for young conductors worldwide. The winners of this competition have gone on to conduct concerts as principal or guest conductors in prestigious orchestras in cities such as Hamburg, Berlin, and Philadelphia, among many others.

## 2. PARTICIPANT'S PROFILE

Conductors of all nationalities are welcome to participate as long as they are over **18 years old and under the age of 35** (by the end of the registration period, 20th May 2026).

The winners of the first award in the two previous editions will not be able to present themselves to this edition.

### 3. REGISTRATION

Registrations should be made by filling in the form available under the following link: [INSCRIPTION](#), in which you will be asked to submit your personal information and your CV. The following information must be included in the form:

- *Musical studies completed, including both formal and informal training.*
- *Musical studies in the field of conducting, including both formal and informal training.*
- *Professional experience in the field of conducting.*
- *One or more letters of recommendation may be attached from prestigious conductors.*

The judging panel may request, if deemed necessary, accreditation of the qualifications presented by any of the candidates.

This form may be completed either in English or in Spanish. The registration period will begin on the **20th of April and will end on the 20th of May 2026**, at 23:59 (Spanish time).

The registration fee will be €50. This fee will be paid following the steps in the registration form.

#### 4. PRELIMINARY SELECTION PROCESS

On the **1st of June 2026**, the provisional list of selected conductors will be sent by email to the candidates. Applicants will have a period of 10 days for any possible appeal.

The final list of the selected conductors will be emailed to the candidates on the **15th of June 2026**

#### 5. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

##### 5.1. First Round - Online Format

Between **15th -30th of June**, all the candidates who have been selected should send a video through a link that will be provided by the University. The video must contain the following information:

- *The conductor must appear presenting themselves to the camera and showing their ID.*
- *Verification-using a programme handout or a video presentation-that the recording has been made within the time period: 30th of June of 2024 to 30th June of 2026.*
- *In the video, the candidate will conduct an orchestra or band ensemble (formed by a minimum of 8 instrumentalists). The conductor may present one or more musical pieces for a minimum duration of 10 minutes.*

- *The video must be sufficient quality for the judges to assess the conductor. In the video, the conductor’s face or profile must appear in at least 50% of the shots.*

Once all of the videos have been assessed, the jury will publish on the 15th of July 2026 the scores for the first round. The participants will be informed via email of the results.

The eight candidates with the highest score will pass onto the second round of the competition.

## 5.2. Second Round - In-person Format

Applicants selected for the in-person phase will be required to pay a fee of €100. The payment procedure for this fee will be communicated to selected applicants via email.

The selected candidates must be present on the **8th of October 2026** at 19:00 in the University of Almería. At this event, the order of participants’ appearance and the pieces that each participant will have to conduct will be randomly established through a public draw which will be held amongst the candidates.

On the **9th of October** the competition will take place. It will consist of conducting one of the following pieces which will be randomly assigned to the participants:

*Serenade in C minor K 388 ..... W. A. Mozart (OUAL wind ensemble) Movements  
1, 2 and 4.*

*Divertimento in D, K. 136 (125a) ..... W. A. Mozart (OAL string ensemble) Complete.*

This round will be recorded on video by a professional team and sent to each semi-finalist once the competition is over.

Once the performances have been assessed, the judging panel will publish the results of the second round.

The four finalists will advance to the third round. In no case there can be a tie between the 4th and the 5th candidate. In the event of a tie, the judging panel will decide by vote which candidate goes to the 3rd round.

Following the announcement of the finalists, there will be a public draw to establish the order of appearance and the musical pieces to be conducted during the third round.

Once this test is completed, applicants who have not passed it may request feedback from the jury.

### 5.3. Third round. In-person Format

The third round will consist of two parts:

### First part

On the **11th of December**, the finalists will have a one-hour rehearsal with the University of Almería’s Orchestra and Quiteria Muñoz (soprano). The time slots for the rehearsal will be randomly allocated, and the rehearsal will be an opportunity for the finalists to arrange one of the following blocks of repertoire:

#### Block 1

Symphony nº8 (I movement)

A.Dvorak

“Com’è bello! quale incanto”

(Lucrezia Borgia)

G.Donizetti

#### Block 2

Symphony nº8 (II movement)

A.Dvorak

“Come scoglio” (Cosi Fan Tutte)

W.A. Mozart

#### Block 3

Symphony nº8 (III movement)

A.Dvorak

“Adieu, notre petite table - Je marche  
sur tous les chemins” (MANON)

J.Massenet

#### Block 4

Symphony nº8 (IV movement)

A.Dvorak

“Vissi d’arte” (Tosca)

G.Puccini

*The rehearsal can be in Spanish or English.*

## Second part

The finalists will conduct their repertoire blocks at the final concert which will be held on the October **12th at 12:00pm**. This concert will take place in the **Auditorio Maestro Padilla**, Almería.

The concert will be recorded by a professional team and uploaded to the University of Almería’s YouTube channel.

At the end of the performance, the judging panel’s decision will be made public.

## 6. AWARDS AND JURY

**1st Prize** - Consisting of an accreditation certificate and 4,000 euros

- 1 Concert as a guest conductor with the Orchestra Città Metropolitana Di Bari (Italy).  
*This concert may be assigned to another finalist by decision of the jury.*
- 1 Concert as a guest conductor with the Kalisz Philharmonic Orchestra (Poland).  
*This concert may be assigned to another finalist by decision of the jury.*

**2nd Prize** - Consisting of an accreditation certificate and 1,000 euros

**Orchestra Award** - Consisting of an accreditation certificate (to be decided by a vote of the orchestra musicians at the end of the concert/competition).

The judging panel’s decision and the musicians’ vote will not be open to appeal. Once the competition is over, the organization will send the four finalists a copy of the final record.

The jury will be made up of:

\*President, **María del Mar Ruiz Domínguez**, Vice-Rector for Culture and Society of the University of Almería

\*Secretary, **Elisa Álvarez Siles**, director of the Secretariat of Culture of the University of Almería

\*3 members, **Juan José Navarro Hernández**, director of the Orchestra of the University of Almería, **Vito Clemente**, artistic director of the Metropolitan Orchestra City of Bari (Italy) and **Rubén Silva**, artistic director of the Kalisz Philharmonic Orchestra (Poland).

## 7. ACCOMMODATION

The organizers will cover accommodation for the finalists in the second and third rounds, as well as dinner on October 8th and lunch on October 11th.

## 8. MODIFICATIONS

The organization may modify the number of participants in the different rounds as well as make any changes it deems necessary for the proper functioning of the competition.

## 9. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

Participation in the competition implies a complete acceptance of the rules and conditions, as well as the express compliance of the participants to them; this includes any decisions made by the judging panel regarding the rules for resolving any doubt or conflict that might arise.

## 10. DATA PROTECTION

The personal data provided by the interested parties will be processed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Almería to manage the outreach assistance call in accordance with the provisions laid down in EU Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council on 27th April 2016 concerning the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, repealing Directive 95/46/EC and Organic Law 3/2018 of 5th December on Data Protection and the Guarantee of Digital Rights. We inform you that the personal data provided, as a natural person, or in the case of a person’s legal representative, will be processed by the person responsible at the UNIVERSITY OF ALMERIA.

The data will be kept for the time necessary to fulfill the purpose for which they were collected and to determine the possible responsibilities that could arise from that purpose and the processing of the data. In any event, the data may be kept, where appropriate, for public interest archival purposes, scientific and historical research purposes or statistical purposes. The data will not be transferred or communicated to third parties, except in the legally established cases.

Petitioners may exercise the rights of access, rectification, cancellation/ deletion, opposition, limitation or portability. To exercise these rights, you must submit a letter to the UNIVERSIDAD DE ALMERIA, Edificio de Gobierno-Paraninfo, 3ª planta, Ctra. Sacramento s/n, La Cañada de San Urbano. CP 04120 Almería or, where applicable, our Data Protection Officer (dpo@ual.es). You must specify which of these rights you are requesting to be satisfied and this must be accompanied by a photocopy of the ID or equivalent identification document. In the case of acting through a representative, whether legal or voluntary, you must also provide a document accrediting this representation and an identification document of the same.

Likewise, if you consider that your right to personal data protection has been violated, you can file a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Agency (www.agpd.es).

## 11. OUR WINNERS

### I EDITION



*Friedrich Praetorius*

### II EDITION



*Enluis Montes Olivar*

III EDITION



*Simon Edelmann*

IV EDITION



*Mauro Mariani*

V EDITION



*Han Harris*

V EDITION



