

# Competition for Young Soloists: Information and Rules

## General Information

This soloist competition is organized this year by Stringendo vzw.

## Participants: Who Can Join?

The competition is open to all talented young musicians (string players, wind players, and plucked instrument players) up to 16 years old, who are students of a music academy (D.K.O.) or private students.

There are 7 different categories:

- String players born in 2013 or later
- String players born in 2011-2012
- String players born in 2009-2010
- Woodwind players (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon) born in 2011 or later
- Woodwind players (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon) born in 2009-2010
- Brass players born in 2011 or later
- Brass players born in 2009-2010
- Plucked instrument players (harp, mandolin, and guitar) born in 2009 or later

Participants must reside in Belgium or receive music education in Belgium.

## Competition Objectives

To provide young musicians with the opportunity to perform as soloists with an orchestra (string orchestra, chamber orchestra, or symphony orchestra). The aim is for the laureates to perform a concert with an orchestra during the 2025-2026 concert season.

To foster good collaboration between soloists and orchestra members, allowing both groups to learn from each other in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

## Prizes

- The winners (first prize) will have the opportunity to perform as soloists with an orchestra during one concert in the 2025-2026 concert season.
- During the final, the finalists will receive a small gift and a "Certificate of Laureate – Young Soloists Competition."
- A recording of the laureates' concert will be made and provided to the soloists free of charge.
- Musicians who win a first prize will be offered 3 rehearsals with the orchestra in preparation for the concert.
- Additional prizes are sponsored by "Music Academy Forte."

# **Terms and Competition Rules**

## **First Round**

- The first selection is based on a video recording (YouTube link) of a maximum of 15 minutes, featuring a piece of the candidate's choice.
- The registration fee for the first round is 50 euros and must be transferred to the following account: BE46 7730 2488 1136 with the mention "Young Soloists candidate's name."
- Registration can be done via the form on the website (registration form, video recording, proof of payment, and a copy of the candidate's ID card) by April 27, 2025.
- The selection of candidates for the second round will be announced on May 1, 2025.

## **Second Round – Final**

- The final will take place on Whit Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Luca School of Arts (Lemmens Institute) in Leuven.
- During the final, candidates must perform the piece they wish to play with the orchestra. This piece must be different from the piece in the first round. If selected as a soloist, it may be requested (after consultation) to perform another piece with the orchestra for the concerts, in exceptional cases before or after the audition.
- The piece must have a maximum duration of 15 minutes. It can be a single movement or a movement from a multi-movement work such as a concerto.
- During the final, candidates will be accompanied on piano by their own accompanist.
- To participate in the second round, 50 euros must be transferred to the following account: BE46 7730 2488 1136 with the mention "Final Young Soloists candidate's name."
- Scores must be emailed to jongesolisten@gmail.com by June 1, 2025.
- The jury will evaluate the performances and assign a score out of 100. The jury consists of professional musicians and conductors, chaired by Rob Lückérath.
- The jury reserves the right to select the second-ranked candidate from the "string players" group if the top-ranked candidate from the "wind players" group has not scored at least 85% (and vice versa). The jury also reserves the right not to select anyone if the top-ranked candidate has not scored at least 85%.
- Candidates selected as laureates and/or soloists must commit to attending the last 3 rehearsals before the concert (April 26, 2026).
- The jury's decision is final and cannot be contested.