

INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING COURSE CONVIMUS 2026

REGULATIONS

These regulations set out the terms and conditions for the **International Orchestral Conducting Course**, which forms part of CONVIMUS – Porto International Music Festival, produced by the AMASING association in collaboration with the AMASING Symphony Orchestra.

All participants accept that these Regulations may be amended at any time and without prior notice, whenever justified by force majeure; in such cases, the festival may adjust the format and rules of participation in the event in order to ensure the health and safety of all participants and other stakeholders.

Article 1

DESCRIPTION

In 2026, the AMASING association, in close collaboration with the Union of Parishes of Aldoar, Foz do Douro and Nevogilde, will host the 7th edition of CONVIMUS – International Music Festival, with the conductor and violinist Dr Eliseu Silva serving as artistic director. This year, CONVIMUS celebrates important anniversaries in Portuguese music, such as the 120th birthdays of Berta Alves de Sousa, Armando José Fernandes and Fernando Lopes Graça. This competition was created with the aim of providing opportunities for young national and international artists, with a view to promoting the international careers of the young participants.

The deadline for applications is 15 June 2026

Article 2

DATE AND VENUE OF THE COURSE

1. The International Directing Course will take place at Lusíada University in Porto from **12 to 19 July 2026**.
2. A more detailed schedule will be sent to each candidate by the end of **5 July** at the latest, via the email address provided on the application form.

Article 3

MENTORING PROFESSOR

1. This course will be led by international conductor **Achim Holub**.

Achim Holub – The Austrian conductor Achim Holub is widely recognised as one of the most successful representatives of Austria’s new generation of conductors. Critics have highlighted his distinctive musicality, dynamic interpretations and assured technical control, qualities emphasised by glowing reviews from the likes of Robert Matthew-Walker and John Packwood, who praise his ability to conduct with clarity and depth, without excessive gesticulation. His artistic career reveals a balance between technical rigour, meticulous preparation and an innovative interpretative approach, winning over audiences, musicians and artistic directors alike.

Since 2010, Holub has been principal conductor of the London Classical Soloists, one of London’s leading chamber orchestras, with whom he has performed landmark symphonic works, including the complete cycle of Beethoven’s symphonies, and is currently developing cycles of Schumann and Brahms. He has collaborated for several years with Orpheus Sinfonia and Firebird, projects under the patronage of Dame Judi Dench, performing in prestigious venues in London and on international tours. He is also artistic director of the Kammerphilharmonie Graz, one of Central Europe’s leading chamber orchestras, with an extensive concert programme in Austria.

Over the course of a career spanning more than twenty years, he has worked with leading European orchestras, including the English Baroque Soloists, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the NDR Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Philharmonic, having served as assistant conductor to some of these ensembles and as a close collaborator of Sir John Eliot Gardiner, including on recordings for Deutsche Grammophon. Born into a creative and cosmopolitan family, he began his musical studies at the age of six and trained in conducting under masters such as Milan Horvat, Michael Gielen and Ferdinand Leitner, whilst also taking part in the prestigious NOS Conductors’ Masterclass and being invited by Sir Georg Solti on a study visit to the Salzburg Festival. Alongside his conducting work, he is active as a teacher and performs regularly as a pianist in chamber music concerts and Lied recitals.

Article 4

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the **CONVIMUS 2026 Orchestral Conducting Course** is to provide participants with intensive, structured training in orchestral conducting techniques, combining theoretical foundations, physical training and practical experience with live

musicians. The course is aimed at both novice and advanced conductors and is taught by an outstanding international faculty.

This course has been designed in accordance with the pedagogical principles of conductor **Achim Holub**, drawing on decades of experience and a holistic approach to conducting training, in which technique, expressiveness and analytical preparation of the score are viewed as a coherent and inseparable whole.

Specific Objectives

1. To develop technical conducting skills, with a focus on gestural precision, rhythmic articulation and musical expressiveness.
2. To apply conducting techniques in practice with a symphony orchestra and soloists.
3. To train in non-verbal communication, exploring the use of the body, hands, baton and facial expression as essential tools of the conductor.
4. To deepen the reading and analysis of scores, with a particular focus on the rhythmic and harmonic structure, form, dynamics and texture of the music.
5. To understand and apply 'score preparation' as the basis for effective musical conducting, including formal analysis, simulated practice and interpretative decisions.
6. Enable participants to lead rehearsals and concerts with confidence and musicality, culminating in a final public performance.
7. Foster self-awareness and critical reflection through the recording and analysis of rehearsals and performances.

Article 5

CONTENT AND TOPICS TO BE DEVELOPED

1. Conducting techniques: posture, grip, basic movements.
2. Three- and four-beat patterns; gestures for dynamics and articulation.
3. Phrasing: entry, attack, phrasing, and phrasing breaks.
4. Visual communication and stage presence.
5. Gestural codes for different styles: legato, marcato, staccato, etc.
6. Analytical preparation of the work:
 - Model for preparing the score
 - Formal, rhythmic, harmonic and textural analysis
 - Style and spirit of the music
 - Decisions regarding tempo, agogics, articulation and character

Article 6

COURSE STRUCTURE

1. The course will be taught in **english**, ensuring accessibility for both national and international participants.
2. The Advanced Training Course in Orchestral Conducting is delivered in person, combining theoretical and practical components, at the facilities of Lusíada University in Porto.
3. Phase 1 consists of theoretical training, with a total of 12 hours devoted to conducting technique, musical analysis, music history and music psychology.
4. The practical component will be carried out with a symphony orchestra and soloists.
5. Each participant will have approximately 100 minutes on the podium, receiving personalised feedback after each session.
6. All rehearsal sessions will be video-recorded and subsequently analysed together in dedicated sessions.
7. The course culminates in a final concert open to the public, in which participants will conduct musical excerpts previously selected by the candidate and the professor.

Article 7

EXPECTED SKILLS ON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE

1. The ability to conduct clearly, expressively and effectively.
2. Mastery of essential rhythmic and gestural patterns.
3. The ability to communicate musical intentions to a live orchestra.
4. Knowledge of the analytical and interpretative fundamentals of a score.
5. The development of a personal style of musical leadership.

Article 8

REPERTOIRE TO BE WORKED ON THE COURSE

1. Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550, W. A. Mozart
2. Symphonic Poem 'Vasco da Gama', B. Alves de Sousa
3. Siegfried Idyll Overture, R. Wagner
4. Another repertoire for violin and orchestra to be confirmed.

Article 9

ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES

1. Young conductors, musicians at the start of their careers, conducting students, music teachers and professional musicians who wish to develop or enhance their musical leadership skills are eligible to apply for the International Conducting Course.
2. Applications are open to participants of all ages; there is no age limit.
3. The number of places for active participants is limited to a **maximum of 10**.
4. There is no limit on the number of places for observer participants.

Article 10

REQUIREMENTS

The application must include the following documents:

1. The applicant's Curriculum Vitae or biographical note, including personal, academic and extracurricular information, such as their entire musical background, teachers, masterclasses, competitions, or any other relevant details.
2. A clear passport-sized photograph.
3. A photocopy of the applicant's identity card or citizen's card.
4. Letter of Motivation
5. Video (optional) of conducting or performance
6. Any other information the candidate considers important.

Article 11

APPLICATION

1. Applications must be submitted via the form available on the website www.convimus.com by **15 June 2026**.
2. **Your application will only be considered once the application fee has been paid and proof of payment** has been sent to geral@amasing.pt within 5 working days of submitting your application.
3. Confirmation will be sent to the same email address within 5 working days.

Article 12

REGISTRATION FEE

1. The registration fee for active participants is **€650** and includes all lessons, both theoretical and practical, as well as the opportunity to conduct the AMASING Symphony Orchestra at the CONVIMUS Closing Concert. The fee also includes an official certificate

signed by the course tutor of the International Conducting Course, endorsed by the CONVIMUS Festival and the AMASING Orchestra.

2. The registration fee for auditors is **€180**.

3. Payment must be made by bank transfer to:

NAME OF THE BENEFICIARY: Associação Musical ASING

IBAN: PT50 0007 0000 0051 8807 3142 3

NIB: 0007 0000 0051 8807 3142 3

SWIFT/BIC: BESCPTPL

BANK'S NAME: NOVO BANCO

BANK'S ADDRESS: AVENIDA DA BOAVISTA 1354

EDIFICIO DOS MARISTAS 4100-114 PORTO

ASSOCIATION ADDRESS: RUA MARTIM MONIZ 722, 4100-322 PORTO

4. Proof of payment of the registration fee must be sent to the following email address: geral@amasing.pt no later than 5 working days after submitting your registration.

Article 13

FOOD AND EXPENSES RELATED TO THE COMPETITION

1. Meals, such as lunch and dinner, will not be provided for course participants.
2. Participants are responsible for making their own arrangements regarding meals, taking into account their budget and the food available during the event.
3. Participants are permitted to bring additional food to the event.
4. Travel and accommodation costs are to be borne by participants.
5. The organisers may suggest nearby accommodation.

Article 14

CANCELLATION POLICY

1. You can cancel your registration by sending an email to the organising team at geral@amasing.pt
2. **In the case of withdrawal, the fee will not be refunded.**

Article 15

PRIVACY AND PERSONAL DATA

1. All personal data requested on the registration form must be provided, as it is essential for the validation of your place on the course.
2. Participants are solely responsible for any omissions and/or inaccuracies in the data they provide; however, such errors may invalidate their place on the course.

3. Participants authorise the collection and processing of the data provided by AMASING for the purposes of the course and future communications regarding activities organised by the association. The confidentiality and security of such data are guaranteed by the course organisers.
4. The organisers may, for the purposes of recording and/or dissemination, make audiovisual recordings of the competitors' performances and other presentations included in the course.
5. It is expressly forbidden for the public or participants to record or take photographs during the activities.
6. Registration for the CONVIMUS International Directing Course implies the transfer of the candidate's audiovisual rights.

Article 16

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Any applications submitted on or after **15 June 2026** will not be accepted.
2. The organising team reserves the right to exclude any participant who behaves inappropriately during the event.
3. The organising team reserves the right to exclude any participant who is not present at any point during the event.

Article 17

UNCOVERED CASES AND FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The course organisers reserve the right to decide on any matters not covered or in doubt in these regulations and all the points mentioned above, and their decision shall be final.
2. The organising team shall not be held liable for any material damage caused by any member of the team or participant; such liability and any applicable penalties shall rest solely with the person responsible.
3. The organising team cannot be held liable in any way for the event not taking place or for any situation that may arise during the event.