



International Lyrical Art Competition of Namur Jodie Devos

Rules

INTRODUCTION

Under the patronage of Madam Patrizia Ciofi, the International Lyrical Art Competition of Namur aims to promote the professional career of young lyrical singers of all nationalities.

The Competition provides:

- 5 prizes and special prizes
- a performance in the semi-final with free choice of the staging
- a performance in the final in the Namur Concert Hall, with the *Opéra Royal de Wallonie* orchestra conducted by Maestro Ayrton Desimpelaere
- a jury composed of major opera house representatives, artists' agents and internationally renowned lyric artists
- masterclasses with one or more internationally renowned lyric artists
- lectures with prominent figures from the world of opera

The third edition of the Competition will take place from Monday 26 January to Saturday 07 February 2026 in Namur, Belgium.

PROGRAMME – GENERAL COMMENTS

The International Lyrical Art Competition of Namur is organized in 4 steps:

- **Selection of the candidates**

The Selection Committee of the Competition selects the candidates who are allowed to participate in the qualifying round, on the basis of the CV and letter of recommendation provided by the candidate at the time of registration.

- **Qualifying round**

The candidate will perform 2 opera arias of his own choosing:

- different from the aria performed in semi-final
- from different composers and periods
- in different languages
- of maximum 12 minutes (the jury reserves the right to interrupt the performance if the time limit exceeds)

At the end of the qualifying round, the jury selects **15 semi-finalists** among the candidates.

- **Semi-final**

The semi-finalist will perform 1 opera aria of his own choosing:

- different from the ones performed in the qualifying round
- freely staged by the candidate himself, with provision and personal use of the stage area
- **black clothes are necessary and must fit the character you will perform**
- with free timing

At the end of the semi-final, the jury selects **5 finalists**.

Audience choice : The audience chooses the semi-finalist of their choice. The semi-final candidate chosen by the audience will be added to the 5 finalists if she/he is not among the jury's choice.

- **Final**

The finalist will perform 2 opera arias:

- chosen in partnership between the candidate and the conductor (the arias might be the same as the ones performed in the previous rounds).

At the end of the final, the jury ranks the **5 laureates**.

All the arias must be sung from memory, in the original key and language.

Certain adjustments to the programme are possible for countertenors, subject to approval by the Competition management.

The rehearsals with piano and semi-final will take place in the premises of the IMEP (Institut Royal Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie): rue Henri Blès, 33A, B-5000 Namur, Belgium.

The Final, with the *Opéra Royal de Wallonie* orchestra conducted by Maestro Ayrton Desimpelaere, will take place in the Namur Concert Hall, rue Rogier 82, B-5000 Namur

TIMETABLE

Tuesday 16 December 2025 : Registration deadline on the Competition website.

After this date, no change will be allowed to the candidate's programme, except where required by the Competition management.

Friday 19 December 2025: Publication on the Competition website of the candidates who have been selected by the Selection Committee to participate in the Competition rounds.

Friday 16 January 2026: Deadline for payment of the registration fee

Monday 26 January 2026, 17h00: Setting of order of performance

Tuesday 27 January 2026: Rehearsals with piano

Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 January 2026: Qualifying round

Friday 30 and Saturday 31 January 2026: Rehearsals with piano and staging work

Sunday 01 February 2026: Semi-final

Friday 06 February 2026: Rehearsals with the *Opéra Royal de Wallonie* orchestra

Saturday 07 February 2026, 20h00: Final

REGISTERING CONDITIONS

The International Lyrical Art Competition of Namur is open for singers of all nationalities, aged from 18 to 35 years included on 01 January 2026.

Registrations must be ready by 16`

December 2025 at the latest. No late registration will be taken into account.

The candidates must register directly by sending an e-mail to cialninscription@gmail.com

Each candidate must include:

1) Their biography

in French or in English

10 to 15 lines

Times New Roman 12 font

1.5 line spacing

Word format

2) A recent photograph

HD and jpg. format

in its original shooting format

3) Copy of an official document establishing the candidate's date of birth

4) E-mail address

5) Current postal address

6) Mobile phone number

7) Indication of whether the candidate needs accommodation during the Competition (YES / NO)

8) A letter of recommendation from a well-known person in the musical community

9) The 2 chosen arias to be performed in the qualifying round, in the following format:

Composer – opera – character – title of the aria

10) The aria chosen to be performed in the semi-final, in the following format:

Composer – opera – character – title of the aria

11) A choice of 4 arias to be performed in the final, in the following format:

Composer – opera – character – title of the aria

2 arias among the 4 will be performed in the final round. The choice will be done in partnership between the candidate and the conductor.

The 4 arias might be the same as the ones performed in the previous rounds.

NB: the registered programme of the arias (qualifying round, semi-final and final) is definitive. It may not be changed anymore after being encoded.

REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee is 100€.

This amount must be paid by 16 January 2026 at the latest on the « Musique et Vie » non-profit organization account, clearly indicating the **FIRST NAME** and **SURNAME** of the candidate

- IBAN : **BE34 0012 6246 4090**

- SWIFT/BIC code : **GEBABEBB**

Each candidate whose registration fee payment is not wholly received on the bank account by 16 January 2026 will automatically be denied access to the drawing and to the Competition rounds.

This amount will not be reimbursed under any circumstances, unless the Competition management cancels the whole Competition.

EXAMINATION OF REGISTRATIONS/FILES

By registering online for the Competition, the candidate fully subscribes to and accepts the full Competition rules.

In order to participate in the drawing:

- the candidate's dossier must be in order, as presented in the registering conditions
- the candidate's registration fee payment must be in order

TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Competition cannot reimburse the travel and travelling expenses of the candidates.

ACCOMMODATION

The Competition can arrange free accommodation for candidates who request it, subject to availability, with host families in and around Namur. These families will only provide accommodation to the candidates and their potential private pianist. No other accompanying person will be accommodated.

The accommodation will only consist of overnight and breakfast during the whole duration of the Competition, namely from Monday 26 January to Saturday 07 February 2026 included.

PIANISTS TO ACCOMPANY THE SINGERS

Pianists designated by the Competition are at the disposal of the candidates, who will all be entitled to the same amount of rehearsal time. Candidates may, nonetheless, have a personal accompanist. However, no private pianist will be paid by the Competition.

CESSION OF RIGHTS

By registering for and participating in the Competition, the candidates and their pianist accompanists cede to the Competition the right to record, reproduce and arrange for the reproduction of their performances in the different rounds of the Competition and at the concerts, on any medium, including radio or television broadcasting, Internet, live or pre-recorded.

SCORES

The candidates must supply a copy of all the scores they will perform to their pianist accompanist and to the Competition management :

- in PAPER version
- only one printed side per sheet (NO recto-verso)
- NO glued sheets
- NO attached sheets

The Competition cannot be held responsible for any potential use of (photo)copies of scores.

PROCESS OF THE COMPETITION

All the rounds of the International Lyrical Art Competition of Namur are public.

The order in which the candidates will perform in the different rounds of the Competition will be defined on Tuesday 30 January 2024.

All the candidates will be entitled to the same amount of rehearsal time, with the pianist accompanist and with the orchestra.

JURY

Besides the President and the Secretary, the jury of the Competition will be composed of prominent people chosen among opera house representatives, artists' agents and renowned lyric artists.

The President and the Secretary are not entitled to vote, but the President will cast the deciding vote in the case of a split decision.

The Competition management reserves the right to increase and vary the number and selection of the jury members between the qualifying round and the final.

REMARKS

In the event of a dispute, only the French text of these rules is legally binding.

PRIZES

First prize: *International Lyrical Art Competition of Namur Grand Prize, City of Namur Prize*
3000€

Second prize: *Rotary Namur Confluent Prize*
2000€

Third prize: *Amis de l'IMEP Prize*
1000€

Fourth prize: « *Musique et Vie* » Prize
1000€

Fifth prize:
1000€

Special Prizes:

- ***The Enrica BUGINI JARDON Prize awarded by the audience in the final round***
500€
- ***The Richelieu Prize, sponsored by the Richelieu Club, awarded to a candidate singing an aria in French in the final round, on the discernment of the Jury***
500€

INFORMATION

CIALN Website: www.cialn.com

For further information: cialninformations@gmail.com