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**80<sup>e</sup> CONCOURS DE GENÈVE**

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INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

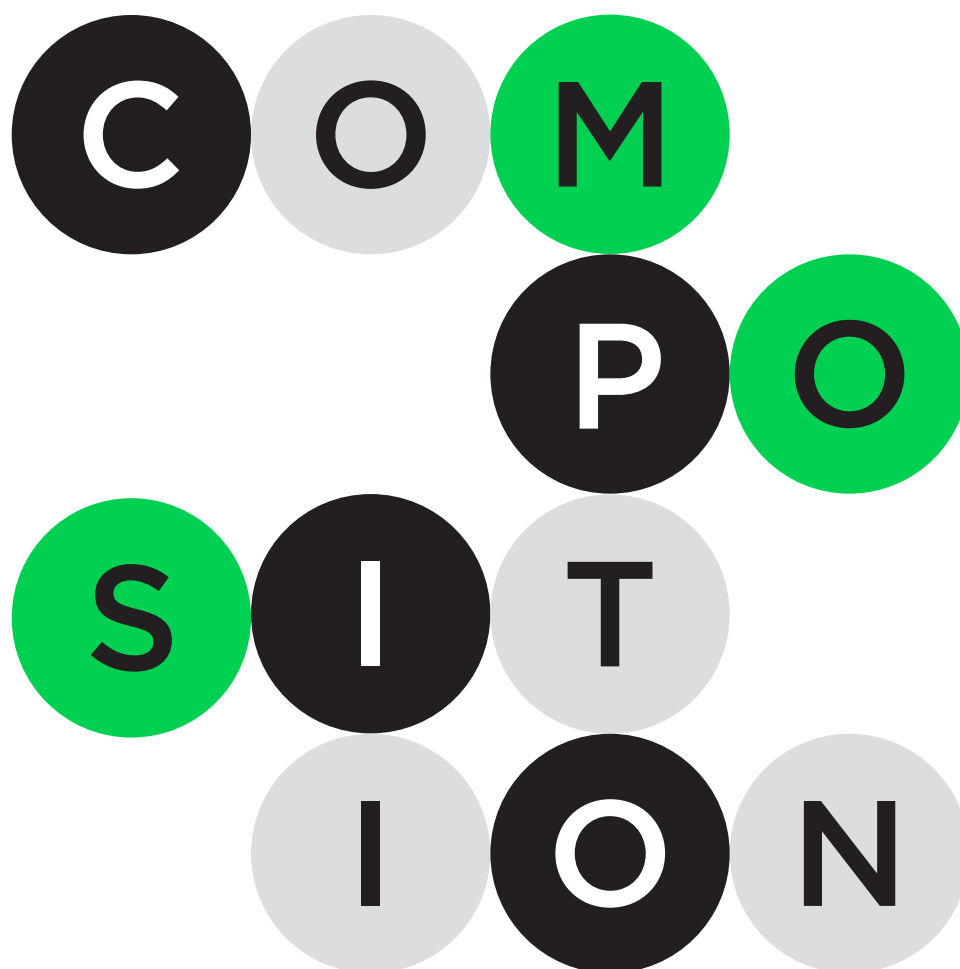
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7-13 NOVEMBER 2026

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*Composition Rules*

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I. GENERAL CONDITIONS	4
II. SUBJECT & CALENDAR	6
III. PRIZES AND AWARDS	7
IV. JURY	8

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# CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

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## INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

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### COMPETITION OFFICIAL PARTNER

The 80th Concours de Genève will be presenting composition. This discipline pursues the tradition of the Queen Marie José Prize and aims at encouraging and promoting contemporary creation and supporting a high-quality performance.



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# I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

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## CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

The 80th Concours de Genève is dedicated to Conducting & Composition and will be held from 7-13 November 2026 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Composition Competition is open to candidates **born after 11 November 1986**. Composers who have already won a First Prize at one of the earlier Concours de Genève are not allowed to enter for the same discipline again.

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## REGISTRATION

**Application deadline is 12 February 2026.**

Candidates must register on Muvac: [www.muvac.com/competition/concours-de-geneve-jlg2n37y](http://www.muvac.com/competition/concours-de-geneve-jlg2n37y)

**The following documents are required to complete the registration:**

- One musical score, with a title or a motto, all completely legible and original, without any mention of the composer. The candidate must remain anonymous to the Jury.
- **And the following documents:**
  - A copy of ID or Passport
  - A filled-in resume on Muvac (studies, teachers, professional activities, awards)
  - A short written biography in English or French (max. 500 characters spaces not included)
  - 2 different and recent high quality colour photographs (300 dpi)
  - A programme note presenting the submitted work (max. 3300 characters spaces not included)
  - An authorization for its performance and broadcast
  - A short text or video (max. one page/3 minutes) presenting the candidate's work in general and his/her artistic project for the future.
  - A detailed list of existing works

For all questions or issues regarding registration, please contact us at the following address: [application@concoursgeneve.ch](mailto:application@concoursgeneve.ch)

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## REGISTRATION FEE

### AMOUNT OF THE FEE

The registration fee for the Concours de Genève 2026 is **CHF 100** (one hundred Swiss francs) payable in a single instalment.

### CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT

By debit or credit card directly on the registration website.

**The registration fee is not refundable.**

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## THE COMPETITION

The aim of the Composition Competition 2026 is to reward new works for symphony orchestra, composed after March 2024. Reworked/revised versions of previously composed pieces are also accepted.

The Competition's official Jury will meet in Geneva from 12 to 14 March 2026 to evaluate submitted compositions that comply with the rules. They will select 3 Finalists whose works will be performed in Geneva on 11 November 2026 by the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by the 3 Finalists of the Conducting Competition 2026.

This concert will serve as the Final Round of the Composition Competition, and will also constitute the first Final Round of the Conducting Competition 2026. This new and ambitious format brings together the two disciplines and places contemporary creation at the heart of the competition.

The 3 chosen Finalists will be announced on the Competition's website on 15 March 2026. They will receive a personal confirmation.

Finalists will be invited to Geneva from 9 November 2026 and will have the opportunity to follow the rehearsals of their work for the Final Round with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by the 3 Finalists of the Conducting Competition. In addition, from May 2026 onwards, they will be required to collaborate with the 6 semi-finalist conductors of the Conducting Competition, as part of the preparation and development process leading up to the Final Round.

### WELCOME CEREMONY

Candidates who are selected for the Final Round will be invited to the Welcome Ceremony to be held in Geneva on 9 November.

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## ACCOMMODATION, MEALS, TRAVEL EXPENSES & INSURANCE

### ACCOMMODATION

Candidates selected for the Final Round will be provided with free host family accommodation during their stay in Geneva. If a Finalist wishes to stay with a family member or spouse, he/she must make a special request to the competition, but there is no guarantee that this request will be granted.

### MEALS

Finalists will receive a daily allowance to cover their meal expenses.

### TRANSPORT

Finalists will have free access to Geneva public transport throughout their stay in Geneva.

### TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Concours de Genève will cover the travel expenses of the Finalists (round-trip economy class airfare, 2nd class train ticket, or equivalent reimbursement for car travel).

### INSURANCE

The Concours de Genève is not accountable for the costs of candidates' illness and/or accident during their stay in Geneva.

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## RIGHTS

The prize-winning works remain the full and complete property of their authors, who give their personal written consent to their performance and broadcast free of any rights (except for copyright and editing right).

Prizewinners relinquish all rights to audio and video recordings, as well as to radio, television, and internet broadcasts of the Competition's public sessions, including any future use of images or footage of themselves captured during the Concours de Genève.

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## II. SUBJECT & CALENDAR

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### WORK TO SUBMIT

The subject of the Composition Competition 2026 is a **work for symphony orchestra**, meeting the following criteria:

**Duration:** from 12 to 16 minutes.

**Date of composition:** The work must have been composed after March 2024. Revised/reworked versions of previously composed pieces are also accepted.

**Instrumentation:** The work must be written for symphony orchestra, without soloists and without the use of electronic systems.

**Maximum orchestration is as follows:** 3\*.3\*.3\*.3\* – 4.3.3.1 – timpani (1) – percussion (3) – keyboard (1) – harp – Strings: 12.10.8.6.4 – 2 special instruments at free choice (optional). See detailed instrumentation below.

**Remarks on instrumentation:**

- o It is not mandatory to use the maximum orchestration.
- o A minimum of 40 musicians must be respected.
- o The 2 optional special instruments may include non-traditional or unconventional instruments, at the discretion of the composer. They must not duplicate any of the standard instruments included in the prescribed orchestral instrumentation.
- o Candidates may choose their percussion and optional special instruments freely. If they are unsure whether certain instruments are acceptable or require approval, they may contact the Competition Office before submitting their application ([application@concoursgeneve.ch](mailto:application@concoursgeneve.ch)).
- o The Competition reserves the right to approve or decline the percussion and special instrument lists submitted by the composers.

The three finalist works will be performed in the first Final Round of the 2026 Conducting Competition, held on 11 November at Victoria Hall in Geneva with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.

The score may be handwritten or digitally typeset, but must be perfectly legible.

**Maximum detailed instrumentation:**

- o 12 First Violins
- o 10 Second Violins
- o 8 Violas
- o 6 Cellos
- o 4 Double Basses
- o 3 Flutes (may include 1 Piccolo)
- o 3 Oboes (may include 1 English Horn)
- o 3 Clarinets (may include 1 E-flat Clarinet and 1 Bass Clarinet)
- o 3 Bassoons (may include 1 Contrabassoon)
- o 4 Horns
- o 3 Trumpets (may include 2 Cornets played by Trumpets I & II)
- o 3 Trombones (necessarily 2 Tenors and 1 Bass)
- o 1 Tuba
- o Timpani (1 musician)
- o Percussion (3 musicians). The list of instruments must be specified with the score.
- o Keyboards (1 musician able to play Piano, Harpsichord, Celesta)
- o 1 Harp

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### CALENDAR 2026

**12 February**

Application deadline

**12-14 March\***

Selection of the Finalists

**15 March\***

Announcement of the Finalists

**From May onward**

The finalists collaborate with the six semi-finalist conductors of the Conducting Competition.

**9 November**

Welcome Ceremony in Geneva

**10 November**

Rehearsals with the orchestra

Victoria Hall

**11 November**

Dress rehearsal & Final Round

Victoria Hall

\*Subject to changes

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## III. PRIZES AND AWARDS

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### OFFICIAL PRIZES

The Concours de Genève offers the following official prizes:

- **1st Prize** CHF 15,000.-
- **2nd Prize** CHF 10,000.-
- **3rd Prize** CHF 5,000.-

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### SPECIAL PRIZES

- Audience Prize: CHF 1,500.-
- Young Audience Prize: CHF 1,000.-
- Students Prize: CHF 1,000.-
- Nicati-De Luze Special Prize: CHF 3,000.-

The Audience Prize is awarded by the audience at the Final Round.

The Young Audience Prize is awarded by young students of partner schools.

The Students Prize is awarded by students in musicology and of partner Universities of Music.

The Nicati-De Luze Special Prize is awarded by the Nicati-De Luze Foundation to one of the finalists. It consists in one commissioned piece, to be defined in agreement between the laureate and the Foundation.

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### PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

The prizes, awards and diplomas signed by the President of the Jury, as well as the President and the Secretary General of the Concours de Genève, will be presented to Laureates during the prize-giving ceremony, which takes place at the end of the Final.

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### CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Concours de Genève offers an ambitious career development programme, providing precious support and advice to help boost laureates' careers.

#### MANAGEMENT & CONCERTS

In addition to the official prizes, laureates benefit from two years of services from the concert agency Sartory Artists, Paris. This includes career management, personal coaching and commissions, enabling them to take their first steps on the Swiss and international music scenes. A unique opportunity for prizewinners to establish an international reputation.

#### WORKSHOPS

Each year, the Concours de Genève offers a Prizewinner's Workshop. Over the course of several days, participants take part in a series of sessions covering topics such as performance, health, career management, branding, and social media.

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## MEMBERS OF 2026 COMPOSITION JURY

**Unsuk Chin, Chair**  
**Katharina Rosenberger**  
**Augusta Reed Thomas**  
**Toshio Hosokawa**  
**Magnus Lindberg**

The appointment of the 5 Jury members is the sovereign responsibility of the Artistic Committee of the Competition. The members are chosen on the basis of their international recognition in the music world, regardless of any racial, ideological, political or linguistic considerations.

The deliberations of the Jury are governed by internal rules. Their decisions are final and there is no right of appeal.

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## EXCERPT OF JURY RULES

The Concours de Genève requires Jury members to follow a very strict set of rules, which outlines general guidelines as well as specific voting procedures depending on the stage of the competition. Here are some key points:

- The purpose of the selection round is to choose the finalists whose works will be performed during the public Final Round of the Competition
- This selection phase takes place in camera in the presence of the official Jury of the 2026 Composition Competition, composed of five members. The work of the Jury, their decisions and discussions are bound by professional secrecy.
- The Concours de Genève can admit a maximum of 3 finalists to the Final Round.
- Jury members who identify a score from one of their students should abstain from voting for that score during the selection phase and leave their vote blank. This regulation pertains to students who are consistently enrolled annually with any jury member. However, participants in Masterclasses are exempt from this rule.
- The selection consists of several stages by successive elimination to the final result. Members of the Jury are invited to express their assessments by using the following system: YES – MAYBE – NO
- Official prizes are attributed in two phases: first, the Jury establishes a ranking of finalists, then decides whether or not the best amongst them deserves a First Prize.
- All prizes are not necessarily awarded.