

YSAÏE International Music Competition

Official Regulations 2027

Official English Edition

Liège – Belgium

Founded in 2018 by **Elena Lavrenova** and **Ashot Khachatourian**

Organized by **La Vraie Note ASBL**

A welcome from the Founders

Dear Candidates,

Welcome to the **YSAÏE International Music Competition 2027**.

When we founded the YIMC in Liège in 2018, our ambition was not simply to create another international competition. We wanted to build a place where young violinists from around the world could challenge themselves artistically, meet inspiring musicians, and share a common passion for music in a spirit of excellence, fairness and mutual respect.

The name of **Eugène Ysaÿe** naturally became the guiding inspiration of this project. More than a legendary violinist, Ysaÿe was a visionary artist, an extraordinary pedagogue and a generous mentor who devoted his life to encouraging young musicians. His legacy reminds us that true artistry is built not only upon technical mastery, but also upon imagination, sincerity, curiosity and humanity.

These values continue to guide every edition of the Competition.

Although the YIMC rewards outstanding performances, its purpose extends far beyond ranking candidates. Every stage of the Competition has been designed as an opportunity for artistic growth, self-discovery and meaningful musical exchange. We firmly believe that every participant, regardless of the final result, should leave the YIMC having learned something valuable about themselves as musicians and as individuals.

Over the years, we have had the privilege of welcoming remarkable young artists from every continent. Many have become friends of the Competition and have continued to inspire us through their artistic journeys. Watching these musicians develop and build international careers remains one of our greatest rewards as founders.

As you prepare for this edition, we encourage you to approach the Competition with confidence, generosity and authenticity. Do not strive merely to impress the Jury; strive to communicate, to move your audience and to remain faithful to your own artistic voice.

Whether this Competition becomes the beginning of your international career or simply one important milestone along your musical path, we sincerely hope that your experience at the YSAÏE International Music Competition will remain a meaningful and unforgettable chapter of your artistic life.

We look forward to welcoming you to Belgium and wish every participant an inspiring, enriching and memorable Competition.

With our warmest wishes,

Elena Lavrenova
Founder & General Director

Ashot Khachatourian
Founder & Artistic Director

Definitions

For the purposes of these Official Regulations, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

Applicant

A violinist who has submitted an application to participate in the Competition.

Candidate

An applicant whose application has been accepted by the Organizing Committee.

Competition

The YSAÏE International Music Competition (YIMC).

Finalist

A candidate selected by the Jury to participate in the Final Round.

Jury

The panel of internationally renowned musicians appointed by the Organizing Committee to evaluate the performances of the candidates.

Official Pianist

A pianist appointed by the Organizing Committee to accompany candidates during the Final Round and, where applicable, the Gala Concert.

Organizing Committee

La Vraie Note ASBL, represented by its founders, directors and authorized collaborators responsible for the organization and administration of the Competition.

Program Requirements

The official document describing the required repertoire for each category and each round of the Competition.

Regulations

The present Official Regulations governing the organization and operation of the Competition.

1. About the Competition

Founded in **Liège (Belgium)** in 2018 by violinist **Elena Lavrenov** and pianist **Ashot Khachatourian**, the **YSAÏE International Music Competition (YIMC)** is dedicated to preserving and promoting the extraordinary artistic legacy of the Belgian violinist, composer and pedagogue **Eugène Ysaÿe (1858–1931)**.

Named after one of the most influential figures in the history of violin playing, the competition seeks to identify and support exceptionally gifted young violinists from around the world while encouraging artistic excellence, musical integrity and international cultural exchange.

Since its creation, the YIMC has rapidly established itself as an international platform where talented young musicians can perform before distinguished juries composed of internationally renowned artists, professors and concert performers.

Beyond the competitive aspect, the YIMC places particular emphasis on education, artistic development and respect for the individuality of each participant. The competition aims not only to reward excellence, but also to encourage the next generation of musicians in their artistic and professional development.

The YIMC welcomes candidates of all nationalities without distinction of race, religion, political opinion, gender or cultural background.

The official language of the Competition is **English**.

2. Organizers

The **YSAÏE International Music Competition** is organized by:

La Vraie Note ASBL

Rue de Dinant 21

4800 Verviers

Belgium

Enterprise Number: **BE 0462.805.905**

Website:

www.ysaye-competition.com

www.lavraienote.com

Email:

ysayecompetition@gmail.com

Telephone:

+32 479 68 68 99

Artistic Direction

Elena Lavrenov

Founder & General Director

Ashot Khachatourian

Founder & Artistic Director

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to modify any aspect of the Competition whenever circumstances require, provided that such modifications remain in the best interests of the Competition and its participants.

3. Competition Calendar

- **Registration opens**
August 2026
- **Registration deadline**
Monday, 14 December 2026, 23:59 CET
- **Preselection Round (Video Evaluation – Candidates do not attend in person)**
Jury session: Harmony Hall – Verviers, Belgium
Monday, 4 January 2027 - Friday, 8 January 2027
- **Announcement of Semifinalists**
Friday, 8 January 2027
- **Deadline for Semifinal Videos**
Monday, 19 April 2027
- **Semifinal Round (Video Evaluation & Public Livestream – Candidates do not attend in person)**
Jury session: Tréteaux Hall – Visé, Belgium
Monday, 3 May 2027 – Wednesday, 5 May 2027
- **Announcement of Finalists**
Thursday, 6 May 2027
- **Arrival of Finalists**
Liège, Belgium
Wednesday, 30 June 2027
- **Official Rehearsals**
Royal Philharmonic Hall of Liège
Wednesday, 30 June 2027
- **Final Round**
Royal Philharmonic Hall of Liège
Thursday, 1 July 2027
Friday, 2 July 2027
- **Prize Ceremony**
Royal Philharmonic Hall of Liège
Friday, 2 July 2027
- **Gala Concert**
Royal Philharmonic Hall of Liège
Friday, 2 July 2027

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to modify the above schedule should exceptional circumstances require it. Any changes will be communicated to participants as soon as reasonably possible.

4. Competition Categories

The Competition is open to violinists of all nationalities.

Two age categories are offered.

Junior Category

Open to violinists who **will not have reached the age of 14 on 31 December 2027.**

Junior Category — Candidates must be born on or after 1 January 2014.

Senior Category

Open to violinists who **will not have reached the age of 34 on 31 December 2027.**

Senior Category — Candidates must be born on or after 1 January 1994.

Candidates may participate in only one category.

Proof of age and nationality must be provided through a valid passport or national identity card at the time of application.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to refuse any application that does not comply with the eligibility requirements set out in these Regulations.

5. Application Procedure

Applications shall be submitted exclusively through the official online application form available on the Competition website:

www.ysaye-competition.com

Senior : <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/DHH18KKHDi>)

Junior : <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/DnAkBBuz1C>)

Applications must be completed in English and submitted no later than the official registration deadline indicated in these Regulations.

An application will only be considered valid once **all required documents** have been successfully submitted, preferably **via SwissTransfer**. Candidates are strongly requested not to use Google Drive or any other platform requiring access authorization, as this may delay the validation of their application.

Each application must include:

- a completed online application form;
- a recent high-resolution artistic colour photograph (vertical format, minimum 300 dpi);
- a short artistic biography (maximum 150 words);
- a copy of a valid passport or national identity card;
- a link to the Preselection video;
- proof of payment of the registration fee;
- the complete repertoire for all competition rounds;
- any additional information requested in the official application form.

The information provided in the application form must be complete and accurate. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to request supporting documents at any stage of the Competition.

Incomplete applications, missing documents, incorrect information or late submissions may result in the rejection of the application without refund of the registration fee.

Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that all submitted links remain accessible until the end of the Competition.

The Organizing Committee shall not be held responsible for technical failures caused by broken links, inaccessible files or third-party hosting platforms.

Once submitted, an application cannot be modified after the registration deadline unless expressly authorized by the Organizing Committee.

6. Competition Rounds

The Competition consists of three successive rounds.

Only candidates selected by the Jury may proceed to the following round.

6.1 Preselection Round

The Preselection Round is conducted behind closed doors based on video recordings submitted by the applicants.

Its purpose is to evaluate the artistic level, musical maturity and technical standard of each candidate in order to select those invited to participate in the Semifinal Round.

There is no predetermined number of candidates to be selected. The Jury reserves the right to admit as many candidates as it considers appropriate, subject to the scheduling capacity of the Semifinal Round.

6.2 Semifinal Round

The Semifinal Round consists of newly recorded video performances.

Selected candidates must submit a new recording specifically produced for the YSAÏE International Music Competition 2027.

These performances will be publicly livestreamed by the Competition.

The objective of the Semifinal Round is to evaluate the candidates' artistic development, consistency and readiness for the Final Round.

Following the Jury's deliberation, the finalists will be announced on the Competition website.

6.3 Final Round

The Final Round takes place live before an international Jury and an audience at the **Royal Philharmonic Hall of Liège (Belgium)**.

The Final represents the highest artistic level of the Competition and consists of public performances according to the official Program Requirements.

The exact performance schedule, rehearsal timetable and order of appearance shall be determined by the Organizing Committee.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to modify the timetable should exceptional circumstances require it.

Prize winners may be required to perform during the Prize Ceremony and/or Gala Concert, as determined by the Organizing Committee.

7. Video Requirements

The integrity of the Competition depends upon the authenticity of the submitted recordings.

All videos must faithfully represent the candidate's own performance.

Failure to comply with the following requirements may result in immediate disqualification.

General Requirements

All submitted videos must:

- feature the candidate's own performance and comply with the technical requirements set out below.
- clearly show the performer's face, hands, upper body and instrument throughout the performance;
- be recorded using a fixed camera position;
- be presented in landscape (horizontal) format;
- have a minimum resolution of **1920 × 1080 (Full HD)**;
- contain synchronized audio and video;
- provide sufficient image and sound quality to allow proper evaluation by the Jury.

Editing

Each work or movement must be recorded in **one continuous take**.

Cuts between different movements of the same work are permitted only where explicitly authorized in the Program Requirements.

The following are strictly prohibited:

- video editing within a movement;
- replacement of audio;
- synchronization of separate recordings;
- visual effects;
- image filters;
- artificial backgrounds;
- insertion of additional camera angles.

Artificial Intelligence

The use of Artificial Intelligence or any digital technology intended to modify or enhance the performance is strictly prohibited.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- AI-generated sound enhancement;
- AI-assisted pitch correction;
- AI-generated visual enhancement;
- AI-generated performance modification;
- synthetic or altered audio;
- digital manipulation of tempo, rhythm or intonation.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to request the original recording files whenever necessary.

Any suspected manipulation may be examined by independent specialists.

Any infringement may result in immediate disqualification.

Audio

The recording must faithfully reproduce the natural acoustic performance.

The following are prohibited:

- pitch correction;
- rhythm correction;
- artificial reverberation added during post-production;
- compression intended to modify the artistic result;
- overdubbing;
- lip-sync or simulated performance.

Professional microphones and recording equipment are permitted provided that the recording remains an authentic representation of the live performance.

Preselection Videos

Concert recordings are accepted.

Piano accompaniment is optional unless otherwise specified in the Program Requirements.

Semifinal Videos

The Semifinal recording must be produced specifically for YIMC 2027.

Previously recorded concert performances are not accepted.

Where required by the repertoire, piano accompaniment is compulsory.

8. Repertoire

The repertoire requirements for each category are published in the separate document entitled:

Program Requirements – YSAÏE International Music Competition 2027

Candidates are solely responsible for ensuring that their chosen repertoire fully complies with the published requirements.

The repertoire indicated in the official application form shall be considered **final and binding**.

No change of repertoire will be accepted after the registration deadline unless expressly authorized by the Organizing Committee in exceptional circumstances.

Candidates performing repertoire that does not comply with the published requirements may be disqualified.

Candidates who participate in more than one edition of the Competition are required to submit a **substantially different repertoire** from that performed in previous editions, unless otherwise authorized by the Organizing Committee.

The Jury reserves the right to interrupt performances whenever necessary.

9. Jury

The Jury consists of internationally renowned violinists, musicians, pedagogues and other distinguished figures from the international music world, appointed by the Organizing Committee.

The list of Jury members will be published on the official Competition website.

The composition of the Jury may vary from one round to another.

Conflict of Interest

To ensure complete impartiality, any Jury member who has taught, regularly coached, is related to (up to the third degree), or has another significant professional relationship with a candidate shall not participate in the evaluation of that candidate.

Such Jury member shall abstain from all discussion and voting concerning the candidate concerned.

Evaluation

The Jury evaluates candidates exclusively on artistic and musical criteria.

Its deliberations remain strictly confidential.

Individual scores, comments and voting results shall not be disclosed.

The Jury is under no obligation to provide written or verbal feedback to participants.

Decisions

All decisions of the Jury are final.

No appeal shall be accepted.

The Jury reserves the right:

- not to award one or more prizes;
- not to award a First Prize if the required artistic standard is not reached;
- to divide a prize between candidates;
- to award special prizes;
- to interrupt performances;
- to shorten performances where necessary for organizational reasons.

President of the Jury

The President of the Jury chairs all deliberations.

In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

Jury Secretary

A Jury Secretary shall supervise the correct application of the Competition Regulations and ensure the integrity of the voting procedure.

The Jury Secretary does not participate in the artistic evaluation of candidates.

10. Prizes

The Jury may award the following prizes.

The Jury reserves the right not to award one or more prizes if the artistic standard is deemed insufficient.

Special prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Jury or the Organizing Committee.

Violin Senior

First Prize

- €5,000
- One-year loan of a violin generously offered by **Florian Leonhard Fine Violins**
- **Concert engagement with orchestra (details to be announced)**

Second Prize

- €2,000

Third Prize

- €1,000

Violin Junior

First Prize

- €1,000
- Violin bow

Second Prize

- €500
- Violin case

Third Prize

- €300
- Set of violin strings

YSAÏE Prize

The Jury or the Organizing Committee may award a special **YSAÏE Prize** in recognition of the best interpretation of a sonata for Solo Violin, Op. 27, by Eugène Ysaÿe.

The YSAÏE Prize consists of:

- €500

This distinction is entirely discretionary and is not necessarily awarded every year.

Studio Recording Prize

- One prize winner, selected by the jury, will receive a professional recording and mastering session with Luc Baiwir at Recital Studio in Tihange, Belgium, for repertoire of the winner's choice.

All prize amounts are gross amounts. Any taxes, bank charges or transfer fees imposed by the recipient's country shall be borne by the prize winner.

11. Registration Fees

Registration fees are payable exclusively by bank transfer.

Applications will only be considered after receipt of the registration fee.

Registration fees are **strictly non-refundable and non-transferable** under any circumstances, including withdrawal, illness, visa refusal, disqualification or force majeure.

A registration fee paid for one edition of the Competition **cannot be transferred or credited to a future edition.**

Registration Fees

Junior Category

€220

Senior Category

€240

Payment shall be made to:

Beneficiary

La Vraie Note ASBL

Bank

Belfius Bank SA/NV

Place Charles Rogier 11 – 1210 Bruxelles - Belgium

IBAN

BE12 0682 2771 4092

BIC / SWIFT

GKCCBEBB

Payment reference:

YIMC 2027 – LAST NAME – First Name – Junior/Senior

All bank charges are the responsibility of the applicant.

Official Pianist

All Categories: €100

An Official Pianist will be available to accompany finalists during the Final Round.

Candidates wishing to use the Competition's Official Pianist must indicate this preference in their application. Finalists who confirm the use of the Official Pianist must pay the additional pianist fee between 10 and 30 May 2027.

The pianist fee includes:

- one rehearsal with the Official Pianist;
- accompaniment during the Final Round;
- accompaniment during the Gala Concert, if applicable.

Candidates may alternatively perform with their own pianist, at their own expense.

The pianist fee is non-refundable in the event of withdrawal or cancellation by the participant.

12. Travel & Accommodation

Participation in the Final Round requires candidates to travel to Liège, Belgium.

Unless otherwise announced, all travel and accommodation expenses remain the responsibility of the participants.

The Organizing Committee will be pleased to provide practical information regarding transportation and accommodation whenever possible.

Insurance

Participants are strongly advised to obtain adequate travel, medical and instrument insurance.

The Competition accepts no responsibility for:

- illness;
- accidents;
- theft;
- damage to musical instruments;
- loss of luggage;
- cancellation of transport.

Accommodation

The Organizing Committee may recommend hotels or accommodation partners.

Where possible, assistance may be provided to participants seeking affordable accommodation.

However, all reservations remain the responsibility of the participant.

Visas

Participants requiring a visa are solely responsible for obtaining the necessary travel documents.

Upon request, the Organizing Committee may issue an official invitation letter for visa purposes.

Such invitation does not imply any financial responsibility on the part of the Competition.

The Competition accepts no responsibility for delays, refusals or any other issues related to visa applications.

Failure to obtain a visa does not entitle the participant to reimbursement of any fees.

13. Rights & Obligations

By submitting an application, each participant fully accepts these Official Regulations.

Participants undertake to respect the Competition, the Jury, fellow competitors, accompanists, volunteers, staff members and the Organizing Committee throughout all stages of the Competition.

Any serious misconduct, including disrespectful, abusive, discriminatory, threatening or disruptive behaviour, may result in disqualification.

Media Rights

Participants authorize the Competition to:

- photograph them;
- film their performances;
- livestream the Competition;
- record rehearsals where appropriate;
- publish recordings, photographs and interviews;
- use their name, image and biography for promotional purposes.

These rights are granted worldwide and without limitation in time, without additional remuneration.

Gala Concert

Prize winners are required to participate in the Prize Ceremony and/or Gala Concert when requested by the Organizing Committee.

Failure to participate without valid justification may result in forfeiture of the corresponding prize.

Official Programme

Participants are responsible for verifying the accuracy of all information submitted for the official programme.

The Organizing Committee cannot guarantee corrections after publication.

14. Competition Management

The Organizing Committee shall ensure the proper organization of the Competition.

It reserves the right to:

- modify the timetable;
- change rehearsal schedules;
- adjust the order of performance;
- replace Jury members if necessary;
- interrupt performances;
- shorten performances for organizational reasons;
- amend logistical arrangements;
- interpret these Regulations whenever necessary.

Such decisions shall be taken exclusively in the interest of the Competition and its participants.

15. Force Majeure

The Organizing Committee shall not be held liable for delays, cancellations or modifications resulting from circumstances beyond its reasonable control.

Such circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- natural disasters;
- pandemics or epidemics;
- public health emergencies;
- war;
- terrorism;
- political instability;
- strikes;
- transport disruption;
- government restrictions;
- cyberattacks;
- major internet or communication outages;
- power failures;
- any other event constituting force majeure.

Should such circumstances arise, the Organizing Committee reserves the right to postpone, modify, relocate or cancel any stage of the Competition.

No financial compensation shall be due in such circumstances.

16. Privacy (GDPR)

Personal data collected during the application process shall be processed exclusively for the purposes of organizing the Competition.

The Competition undertakes to process all personal data in accordance with the **General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR)** and applicable Belgian legislation.

Personal information shall never be sold or transferred to third parties except where strictly necessary for the organization of the Competition.

Participants may exercise their rights of access, rectification or deletion by contacting the Organizing Committee.

Personal data shall be retained only for the period necessary for the organization of the Competition and for the fulfilment of any applicable legal obligations.

17. Final Provisions

These Official Regulations govern all aspects of the YSAÏE International Music Competition 2027.

By submitting an application, participants acknowledge that they have read, understood and accepted these Regulations in their entirety.

The Organizing Committee reserves the right to amend these Regulations whenever necessary.

Any amendment shall be published on the Competition's official website.

In the event of any discrepancy between translated versions of these Regulations, **the English version shall prevail.**

Any matter not expressly provided for in these Regulations shall be decided solely by the Organizing Committee.

All decisions of the Organizing Committee and the Jury are final and not subject to appeal.

Submission of an application constitutes full acceptance of these Official Regulations.

18. Contact

YSAÏE International Music Competition

Organized by **La Vraie Note ASBL**

Rue de Dinant 21

4800 Verviers

Belgium

Telephone:
+32 479 68 68 99

Email:
ysayecompetition@gmail.com



Websites:

www.ysaye-competition.com

www.lavraienote.com

