
77^e CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

23 OCT - 4 NOV 2023

String Quartet Rules



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CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

CONCOURS DE GENEVE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

Founded in 1939, Concours de Genève is one of the world's leading international music competitions. It aims at discovering, promoting and supporting young talented artists, giving them the necessary tools to launch an international career.

Within the past eight decades Concours de Genève has revealed more than 800 artists, including many world-renowned figures. Each year two disciplines are offered in rotation: piano, flute, oboe, clarinet, cello, viola, string quartet, voice, percussion and composition.

SEEKING OUTSTANDING ARTISTS

On an increasingly competitive music scene, both audiences and concert organizers are on the lookout for outstanding musical personalities, awe-inspiring virtuosos. Today's artists must be capable of stirring their listener on multiple levels. It is therefore important for young musicians to be able distinguish themselves through a strong artistic project.

Helping young artists to explore and define their artistic personality is at the heart of the Concours de Genève's mission. Since 2022, an extra stage has been added to the semi-final round; in addition to two recitals, semi-finalists will have to present and defend an artistic project. The Competition will then help this project come to life for those who become laureates.

COMPETITION FORMAT

ONLINE COMPETITION	Video Preselection Round
	Online Recital
COMPETITION IN GENEVA	Semi-Final Round in 3 parts Recital 1, Recital 2, Personal artistic project
	Final Round

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

The 77th Concours de Genève is open to all string quartets whose members are born after 29 October 1988. The cumulative age of all the members should not exceed 120 years.

Quartets 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.

REGISTRATION

Application deadline is 20 April 2023

Quartets must register on Muvac: www.muvac.com/concours-de-geneve

Applications will not be considered as final until the following documents have been uploaded on Muvac:

- An official confirmation of the quartet members' age (ID or passport).
- A resume of the quartet (studies, schools, teachers, professional activities, prizes).
- 2 different and recent colour photos of the quartet in high definition.
- 2 video recordings with the programme of the video Preselection Round. Recordings are to be uploaded on YouTube, Vimeo or Youku. Links to the recordings must be included on each quartet's Muvac profile.
- The recordings must be accompanied by a certificate attesting its authenticity and integrity, signed by a professor or by the technician who made the video recordings. This certificate must indicate the place and date of the recording of each piece. (Certificate can be downloaded from Muvac)
- A detailed list of works performed during the Competition
- A short text or video presentation (max. one page/3 minutes), explaining who you are and why you want to participate in the 2023 Concours de Genève.

For all questions or issues regarding application, please contact us at the following address: application@concoursgeneve.ch

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VIDEO PRESELECTION ROUND

- a) Quartets must provide recent (less than 12 months) and high-quality video recordings, containing the required programme for the Video Preselection Round only.
- b) Recording must be anonymous. Please do not include any name in the video or file title nor any distinctive sign such as your school logo, for example.
- c) All recordings must be UNEDITED (no cuts – no sound editing). Microphones should be positioned at a distance allowing to obtain a good sound quality. The video must be filmed from the front using a fixed and wide camera angle. The 4 performers must always remain visible.
- d) Quartets must provide separate recordings for each piece.
- e) Quartets can either record the two contrasted movements in one take or separately. If they record the two movements separately, they must assemble them in one file.
- f) Public recordings are accepted if they meet the recording conditions stated above.

REGISTRATION FEE

AMOUNT OF THE FEE

The registration fee for the 2023 Concours de Genève is **CHF 500** (five hundred Swiss francs) payable in a single instalment.

CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT

By debit or credit card directly on the registration's website.

The registration fee is refundable under no circumstances.

THE COMPETITION

The Competition consists of the following stages:

- Video Preselection Round
- Online Recital (pre-recorded online session, broadcast in September)
- Semi-Final Round (live performance in Geneva, live stream)
- Final Round (live performance in Geneva, live stream)

Results are announced after each round. Decisions of the jury are final.

VIDEO PRESELECTION ROUND

The purpose of the preselection round based on video recordings is to select quartets who are up to the standards required to take part in the public rounds of the Competition.

This preliminary phase takes place in camera in the presence of a pre-selection jury, whose five members include at least two members of the official Jury of the 2023 String Quartet Competition. It is held in a studio guaranteeing the best possible technical conditions.

The names of the selected quartets will be published on our website on 10 May 2023. Selected quartets will be notified personally and will receive further information regarding the next stages of the Competition, as well as technical specifications for the recording of their Online Recital.

ONLINE RECITAL

The first stage of the 2023 Competition will be held online and consists in a 50-minutes pre-recorded online recital, which will be broadcast from 18-20 September 2023.

The running order of the quartets will be determined by random draw. It will remain the same for all the following stages of the Competition.

Quartets will have until 10 July 2023 to submit their video recording for this first stage of the Competition.

Each string quartet will receive CHF 500.- to cover the expenses of the recording, which will have to respect a set of very strict technical specifications. These specifications will be sent to the selected quartets.

SEMI-FINAL & FINAL ROUNDS

The Semi-Final and Final Rounds of the Competition will be held in Geneva and live streamed on Concours de Genève's website & social media.

WELCOME CEREMONY

Quartets who reach the Semi-Final round will be officially invited to the Welcome Ceremony, which will take place in Geneva on 23 October 2023. Official registrations will take place during this Ceremony.

Presence at this event is mandatory in order to participate in the following stages of the competition (derogations may exceptionally be granted for justified reasons).

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS, TRAVEL EXPENSES & INSURANCE

ACCOMMODATION

Quartets selected for the Semi-Final Round will benefit from free accommodation in guest families during their stay in Geneva.

MEALS

Quartets selected for the Semi-Final Round will receive a daily allowance to cover their meal expenses.

PASS & TRANSPORT

During the Welcome Ceremony in Geneva, candidates will receive a pass providing access to all public competition rounds as well as a free ticket for the Final. Furthermore, quartets will receive day passes for public transportation in Geneva for the duration of their stay.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Competition will cover travel expenses of quartets invited to participate in the Semi-Final Rounds in Geneva. The Competition will cover the cost of a round-trip economy class plane ticket, 2nd class train ticket or the equivalent of the latter for a car journey.

INSURANCE

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

II. PRIZES AND AWARDS

OFFICIAL PRIZES

The Concours de Genève offers the following official prizes:

- **1st Prize** CHF 20,000.-
- **2nd Prize** CHF 12,000.-
- **3rd Prize** CHF 8,000.-

SPECIAL PRIZES

- Audience Prize: CHF 1,500.-
- Young Audience Prize: CHF 1,000.-
- Students Prize: CHF 1,000.-

& other special prizes to be announced.

The Audience Prize is awarded by the audience during 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.

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.

RECORDINGS

The Semi-Final and Final rounds will be filmed, recorded and broadcast live (radio and video live stream). The Competition reserves the right to select excerpts from the recordings of prizewinners' performances for the production of a CD at the end of the year. Quartets selected for the Semi-Finals and Finals will receive a recording of their performance. This recording must under no circumstances be distributed in any form without prior agreement of the Competition. Quartets shall answer to other parties involved for any abusive use of these recordings.

Selected quartets waive all and any rights to audio/video recordings as well as radio/television/internet broadcasts – including the Online Recital and public sessions of the Competition.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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

I. CONCERTS & TOURS

In addition to the official prizes, laureates benefit from two years of management from the concert agency Sartory Artists, Paris. The key to a series of performances and concert tours, allowing them to take their first steps in Swiss and international concert venues.

II. WORKSHOPS

Each year, Concours de Genève offers a Prizewinners' Workshop: during one week, participants take part in a series of workshops covering different subjects, such as performance, health, career management, image and social media.

III. ARTISTIC PROJECT

From 2022 onwards, semi-finalists will have to present and defend an artistic project. Concours de Genève will then contribute realizing prizewinners projects as part of the Career Development Programme.

III. JURY

MEMBERS OF 2023 STRING QUARTET JURY

- Corina Belcea, Chair
- Stefan Fehlandt
- Nobuko Imai
- Gabriel Le Magadure
- Christian Poltéra
- Vineta Sareika
- Lydia Shelley

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

EXCERPT OF JURY RULES

The Concours de Genève has a strict set of rules by which juries must abide. These include both general rules and voting procedures that change in accordance with the various stages of the competition. Here are a few defining features:

- The Video Preselection Round consists in the viewing of video recordings sent by quartets. At least two members of the official jury take part in the preselection jury.
- The Jury abstains from voting for quartets whose members have been their students on a regular basis during the two years preceding the Competition, or that will become their students within the six months following the competition. This rule is no longer applicable during the Final Round.
- Members of the Jury are forbidden to communicate with participants or those close to them during the entire competition. They are required to respect the principle of confidentiality.
- The President of the Jury votes in the same way as the other members. In the event of a tie, her vote counts for two.
- 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.

FEEDBACK

Participants eliminated during the Online Recital stage will receive a feedback from jury members.

After the Semi-Final Round, jury members will remain available to quartets who have not passed to the Final Round, in order to provide feedback on their performance.

The juries deliberations are governed by internal regulations. Their decisions are final and there is no right of appeal.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

PROGRAMME

Selected quartets are required to send their programme as well as the exact order of their performance prior to 30 May 2023.

Past this deadline, no changes may be made to the programme, unless these were to be specifically required by the Artistic Committee.

MUSICAL SCORES

Quartets who reach the Semi-Final Round must present themselves at the Welcome Ceremony with their own original musical scores. Additionally, they must provide one copy of each of their pieces at free choice.

During the Competition, quartets are expected to use their own original musical scores of the works they perform. The Concours de Genève cannot be deemed responsible for any fraud that might be committed by a candidate in this field (such as the public use of illegal copies).

V. CALENDAR

CALENDAR 2023

20 April

Application deadline

8 – 9 May

Video Preselection Round

10 May

Announcement of selected quartets

10 July

Online Recital video deadline

18 – 20 September

Online Recital broadcast

21 September

Announcement of Semi-Finalists

25 September

Beginning of the online Artistic Project Workshop

23 October

Welcome Ceremony

Conservatoire, Geneva

24-27 October

Semi-Final Round: Recital 1, Recital 2, Artistic Project

Salle Franz Liszt, Conservatoire, Geneva

29 October

Final Round

Victoria Hall, Geneva

VI. COMPETITION PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME

For each round of the Competition, quartets may choose the order in which they wish to perform their programme.

A. VIDEO PRESELECTION ROUND (APPROX. 30 MINUTES)

- J. Haydn: two contrasting movements from a quartet at free choice
- Two contrasting movements from a quartet by one of the following composers:
 - o J. Brahms
 - o F. Mendelssohn
 - o F. Schubert
 - o R. Schumann

NB: Movements can be chosen freely and must not necessarily be consecutive. Works chosen for the Video Preselection Round can be repeated once in the following rounds.

Quartets must join to their application a short text or video presentation (max. one page/3 minutes), introducing themselves and explaining why they want to participate in the 2023 Concours de Genève.

B. ONLINE RECITAL (MAX. 16 QUARTETS - MAX. 50 MINUTES)

- W. A. Mozart or J. Haydn: One quartet at free choice
- One 20th century quartet from the following list:
 - o H. Dutilleux: Quartet «Ainsi la nuit»
 - o L. Janáček: Quartet n°1 or n°2
 - o G. Kurtág: Quartet Op. 1
 - o G. Ligeti: Quartet n°1 or n°2
 - o M. Ravel: Quartet in F Major
 - o D. Shostakovitch: Quartet n°4 or n°6 or n°8

NB: The Online Recital may not exceed 50 minutes including stage entrances and exits.

C. SEMI-FINAL ROUND (MAX. 8 QUARTETS)
SALLE FRANZ LISZT, CONSERVATOIRE, GENEVA

Recital 1 (max. 90 min):
40% of the evaluation

- B. Bartok: One quartet at free choice
- Rest of the programme at free choice

NB: The Recital may not exceed 90 minutes including stage entrances/exits and eventual pauses.

Recital 2 (max. 75 min):
40% of the evaluation

- L. v. Beethoven: One quartet at free choice
- One contemporary work from the following list:
 - o L. Berio: Sincronie (1963-64) 15'
 - o E. Carter: Quartet n°5 (1994-95) 21'
 - o F. Donatoni: La Souris sans sourire (1988) 17'
 - o P. Dusapin: Quartet n°5 (2004-05) 17'
 - o J. Harvey: Quartet n°2 (1988) 15'
 - o H. W. Henze: Quartet n°5 (1976) 25'
 - o W. Rihm: Quatuor n°13 (2011) 20'
 - o R. Saunders: fletch (2012) 15'
 - o S. Sciarrino: Sei quartetti brevi (1967-92) 17'

- Rest of the programme at free choice

NB: The Recital should not exceed 75 minutes including stage entrances/exits and eventual pauses.

Presentation and defense of a personal artistic project
20% of the evaluation

- Semi-Finalists are invited to propose an artistic project to be carried out during the two years following an official Prize in Geneva.
- The project may take various forms. It can be purely musical in nature (recital programme, concerts tour) or involve other forms of artistic expression (visual, textual, dance) with other artists.
- The artistic project must be an original proposal, intimately linked to the artistic personality of the quartet (no projects already proposed in the past or copied from other artists).
- The project may be presented in the form of a text, a projected presentation, a video or any other medium.
- The project will be prepared, adapted (if necessary) and further developed during the one-month timeframe between the announcement of the semi-finalists and their arrival in Geneva. Online interactive sessions with professional coaches are organized. .
- When in Geneva, a journalist will conduct a filmed interview in English, which will allow to better understand the personality of the quartet and the relevance of the artistic project.
- The Jury will review the projects at the end of the semi-final phase. It will evaluate the project, taking into consideration its artistic interest, its originality, whether it is adapted to the quartet who presents it, and its relevance in the context of the beginning of a career.
- The Jury will take into account the report of the specialist(s) who assisted the quartet and examine the stages of realization of the project, judging to what extent they are realistic.

D. FINAL ROUND (3 QUARTETS)
VICTORIA HALL, GENEVA

- One string quartet at free choice (max 45min)