

80° CONCOURS DE GENÈVE
INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION
6 - 13 NOVEMBER 2026
Composition & Conducting



SING-YAT CHEN, HANURIJ LEE AND RAFAEL MARINO ARCARO ANNOUNCED AS FINALISTS FOR THE CONCOURS DE GENÈVE'S COMPOSITION COMPETITION 2026

WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON 11 NOVEMBER IN GENEVA



Sing-Yat Chen; Hanurij Lee; Rafael Marino Arcaro

17 March 2026

The chair of the jury for the Concours de Genève's Composition Competition, renowned composer Unsuik Chin, today announced the three finalists whose works will be performed in Geneva on 11 November 2026 by the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, under the baton of the three finalists of the 2026 Conducting Competition.

By bringing together these two concurrent disciplines in a bold new form, the Competition places contemporary creation firmly at its centre.

Sing-Yat Chen [24, Hong Kong], **Hanurij Lee** [20, South Korea] and **Rafael Marino Arcaro** [35, Brazil] were chosen by the jury from a shortlist of 188 composers who ranged in age from 9 to 39, representing 46 countries. This year saw the highest ever number of applications for the Composition Competition.

The Composition Competition 2026 rewards new works for symphony orchestra composed after March 2024. The Competition is open to candidates born after 11 November 1986 and applicants were tasked with composing a work of between 12 to 16 minutes long for a symphony orchestra of no less than 40 players, and without soloists or the use of electronic systems.

The three finalists will be competing for a first prize of CHF 15,000, a second prize of CHF 10,000 and a third prize of CHF 5,000.

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.

The Composition Prize jury consists of five world-renowned composers: Unsuk Chin, (Chair), Toshio Hosokawa, Magnus Lindberg, Augusta Reed Thomas and Katharina Rosenberger.

Unsuk Chin, Chair of the Jury, said: *"All of the works submitted for this year's Composition Competition were of a very high standard. It was exciting to encounter such a cornucopia of compositional styles, but it also meant that selecting merely three works for the finals was a demanding task! The jury hopes that each of these composers finds their path to establishing themselves as a composer."*

"The three finalists all possess an impressive level of musical ideas, technical prowess, and artistic personality. Moreover, the works represent completely different worlds, running a gamut of compositional styles and showcasing a very broad musical spectrum, which I'm sure will fascinate the audience in the final concert."

Didier Schnorhk, Secretary General, Concours de Genève, said: *"We're thrilled to announce the three finalists for the Composition Competition 2026, and are immensely proud that it will be the finalists of our Conducting Competition who will bring their works to life with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in November. Promoting new music is not merely a stance or a trend - it is both a demand and a necessity if we are to keep the art of music alive. Bringing together composition and conducting within a single competition is an absolute innovation: only in Geneva would one dare to do such a thing!"*

From May onwards, the three finalists will collaborate with the six semi-finalists of the Conducting Competition as part of the preparation and development process leading up to the Final Round. The finalists will be in Geneva in September for workshops before returning on 9 November to follow the rehearsals of their work for the Final Round with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, conducted by the three finalists of the Conducting Competition.

This year, the Concours de Genève celebrates its 80th Anniversary edition with the Conducting Competition returning for the first time since 1994 when Alan Gilbert won the top prize. Throughout the Competition's prestigious history, it has launched major international careers with its unique annual presentation of two musical disciplines and ongoing commitment to supporting laureates after their victory.

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Please find press images [here](#).

Notes for Editors

Please find a press kit for the Concours de Genève [here](#).

The Concours de Genève

Founded in 1939, the Concours de Genève is one of the world's leading international music competitions. Its mission is to discover, promote and support young talented artists, providing them with the necessary tools to launch an international career.

Within the world of international music competitions, a multi-disciplinary approach is rare and represents one of the Concours de Genève's most distinctive assets. Since its creation in 1939, 26 disciplines have been presented: instrumental, vocal, ensemble music or conducting.

Today, the Competition alternates between eight main disciplines: piano, flute, clarinet, cello, viola, string quartet, voice and percussion. Every second year, it offers the Composition Competition.

The list of Concours de Genève prize-winners is a rollcall of many of the greatest musicians including Martha Argerich, Arturo Benedetti-Michelangeli, Victoria De Los Angeles, Alan Gilbert, Nelson Goerner, Friedrich Gulda, Heinz Holliger, Nobuko Imai, Quatuor Melos, Emmanuel Pahud, Maurizio Pollini, Georg Solti, José Van Dam, Christian Zacharias, Tabea Zimmermann – and many more.

Concours de Genève laureates are offered an ambitious career development programme, providing precious support and advice to help boost their careers. This includes management representation, two years of international concert tours with one winner given the opportunity to record an album, with orchestra, on the La Dolce Volta label.

Sing-Yat Chen

Sing-Yat Chen (陳星逸) is a Hong Kong composer-pianist, and 2026 Gaudeamus Award finalist. Praised by *Neue Musik Zeitung* for her “impressively reflective inner struggle,” she integrates literature, science and visual arts into immersive soundscapes. A former Bang on a Can Fellow, she has collaborated with Ensemble Modern and cellist Jeffrey

Zeigler. Her works, bridging dualities, have been featured at Festival Mixtur and performed on the historic 1746 Hildebrandt organ.

Hanurij Lee

Hanurij Lee (b. 2006, Seoul) is a composer studying at the Korea National University of Arts. His work focuses on exploring sonic relationships between instruments through their inherent possibilities and restricted gestures rather than conveying explicit concepts. His music has been presented at Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik, Verbier Festival, Daegu International Contemporary Music Festival, and Initiative Neue Musik OWL.

Rafael Marino Arcaro

Rafael Marino Arcaro is a Brazilian composer now based between Berlin and London. His music emerges from the sensibilities of his rural childhood – fruit trees, insects, nighttime creatures – and his reflections on Brazilian artistic identity. Known for an aesthetic of clarity and restraint, he writes works that carry a flavour of sour mango and cotton candy. His pieces are emotionally direct yet tinged with a kind of serious playfulness and, sometimes, dire violence.

The Concours de Genève - upcoming events

7 November 2026 - Semi-Final 1- Conducting Competition 2025-26

Candidates will conduct excerpts of works by Bizet, L. Farrenc and F. Mendelssohn.
With the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève

8 November 2026 - Semi-final 2 – Conducting Competition 2025-26

Candidates will conduct excerpts from Ligeti's *Kammerkonzert* and either U. Chin's *Gougalon* or R. Saunder's *Scar*.
With the Ensemble Contrechamps

9 November 2026 - Semi-Final 3 – Conducting Competition 2025-26

Candidates will conduct a movement from Debussy's *La Mer* and the first movement from either R. Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor Op. 54 or R. Schumann's Cello Concerto in A minor Op. 129.
With the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
Victoria Hall, Geneva

10-11 November 2026 - Final Round 1 – Conducting Competition 2025-26/Composition Competition 2026

This round is both the Final Round of the Composition Competition and the first Final of the Conducting Competition. The subject of the 2026 Composition Competition is a work for symphonic orchestra; the conducting finalists must prepare the three composition finalists' works.

With the Orchestre de le Suisse Romande
Victoria Hall, Geneva

12-13 November 2026 - Final Round 2 – Conducting Competition 2025-26

Finalists will conduct works by Bartók, Debussy, Mahler, Prokofiev, Strauss or Stravinsky.

With the Orchestra de la Suisse Romande
Victoria Hall, Geneva