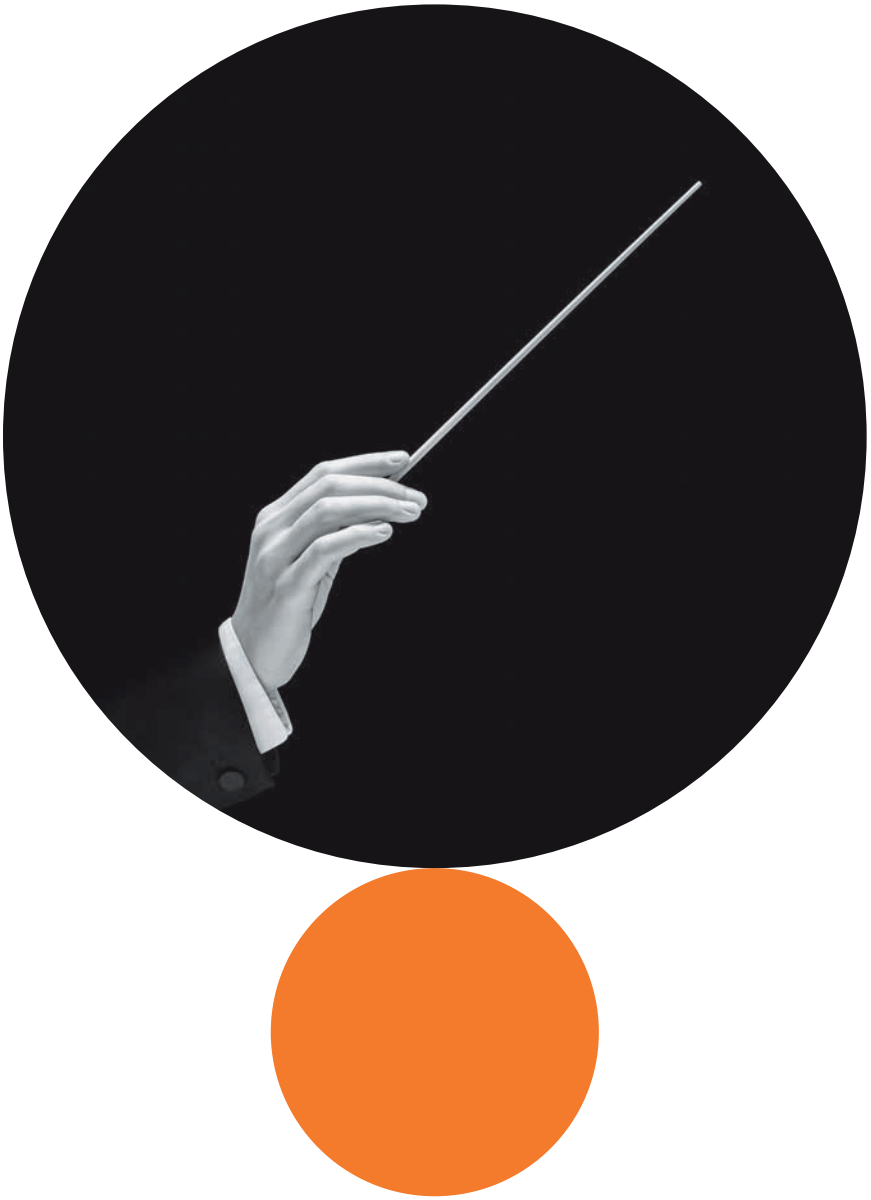
80e CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

6 – 13 NOVEMBER 2026

Conducting & Composition / Press Kit



REPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX

fondation Reine Marie José

OSR Orchestre de la Suisse Romande Genève

MEMBRE DE LA FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DES CONCOURS INTERNATIONAUX DE MUSIQUE

CONCOURS DE GENÈVE
INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

Voice Awards Ceremony 2024 © Anne-Laure Lechat

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.

RENOWNED LAUREATES

The list of Concours de Genève prize-winners is a roll-call 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.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

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.

SUPPORTING CONTEMPORARY CREATION

Every second year, Geneva hosts a Composition Competition, continuing the tradition of the Prix Reine Marie José. By placing musical creation at the heart of its artistic project, the Concours de Genève plays a pioneering role and contributes to the renewal of classical and contemporary music.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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.

80TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

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.

NEXT COMPETITIONS

2026 - Conducting & Composition
2027 - Piano & Baroque Violin

CONCOURSGENEVE.CH

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
A COMPETITION IN TWO STAGES

The six semi-finalists © Anne-Laure Lechat

The return of Conducting to the Concours de Genève, more than thirty years after the 1994 edition, called for a dedicated format. Bringing together several orchestras, numerous musicians and substantial resources, the Competition was designed to take place over two seasons, in 2025 and 2026.

The first two rounds took place in autumn 2025 with the **Orchestre de la Haute école de musique de Genève**, followed by the **Orchestre de Chambre de Genève**, resulting in the selection of six semi-finalists.

In November 2026, they will continue the Competition through **three Semi-Final Rounds**, each featuring a different ensemble and repertoire: the **Orchestre de Chambre de Genève** in 19th-century symphonic repertoire, **Ensemble Contrechamps** in contemporary repertoire, and the **Orchestre de la Suisse Romande** in a programme of concertos with soloists.

Three candidates will then advance to the Finals with the **Orchestre de la Suisse Romande**. The first will bring them together with the finalists of the **Composition Competition**, whose works they will conduct, while the second will be devoted to major symphonic repertoire.

This format allows the candidates to be assessed **across a wide range of settings, musical styles and repertoire,** on a journey spanning from Beethoven and Schubert to contemporary creation.

The six semi-finalists are:

Alejandro Cantalapiedra (Spain)
Jacobus de Jager (South Africa)
Michal Oren (Israel)
Gabriel Pernet (Switzerland)
Mats Thiersch (Germany)
Leonard Weiss (Australia)

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

Workshop avec Pascal Rophé en mai

Between the first rounds in 2025 and the Semi-Finals in November 2026, the six semi-finalists of the Conducting Competition have benefited from a dedicated development programme, inspired by the support traditionally offered by the Concours de Genève to its laureates. Masterclasses, work on contemporary music, professional workshops and the development of a personal artistic project have punctuated their year.

In February, the six conductors took part in a **five-day masterclass with Daniele Gatti**, organised in partnership with the **Orchestre de la Suisse Romande**. This first stage gave them the unique opportunity to work closely with the Italian conductor and the orchestra, several months before their return to Geneva for the Semi-Finals.

In May, the Conducting semi-finalists met the three finalists of the **Composition Competition** to explore the works selected by the jury. Led by conductor **Pascal Rophé**, a specialist in contemporary repertoire, the session focused on analysing and approaching new scores, in preparation for the joint Composition and Conducting Final in November.

Finally, in September, the six semi-finalists return to Geneva for a **professional development workshop** addressing key aspects of a conducting career, including career development, working with agents, artistic identity and positioning within the music industry. They will also present their **Personal Artistic Project**, developed in advance, to a jury of industry professionals. The selected project will receive the Fondation Etrillard Prize, awarded in November.

Together, these three initiatives extend the Competition beyond the competitive rounds themselves, providing the semi-finalists with artistic and professional support throughout the year as they prepare for the final stages of the Competition.

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PROGRAMME 2025-2026

© Cédric Widmer

VIDEO PRESELECTION
17-18 MAY 2025, GENEVA
168 APPLICANTS
Candidates had to submit two videos presenting contrasting repertoire (7–10 minutes each):
– one piece with orchestra or ensemble (min. 16 musicians)
– one piece with orchestra, ensemble, or two pianos.

FIRST ROUND
31 OCT-1 NOV 2025, AUDITORIUM ANSERMET
24 CANDIDATES
With the Orchestre de la HEM
25-minute public rehearsal:
– L. v. Beethoven, Symphony No. 2
– F. Schubert, Symphony No. 5
Excerpts drawn by lot at the start of the round

SECOND ROUND
2-3 NOV 2025, AUDITORIUM ANSERMET
12 CANDIDATES
With the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève
45-minute public rehearsal:
– I. Stravinsky, Danses concertantes
– P. I. Tchaikovsky, Serenade for Strings
– R. Wagner, Siegfried Idyll
Excerpts drawn by lot at the start of the round

SEMI-FINAL - PART 1
7 NOV 2026, CONCORDE ESPACE CULTURE
6 SEMI-FINALISTS
With the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève
45-minute public rehearsal:
– G. Bizet, Symphony in C
– L. Farrenc, Symphony No. 3
– F. Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 3 “Scottish”
Excerpts drawn by lot at the start of the round

SEMI-FINAL - PART 2
8 NOV 2026, CONCORDE ESPACE CULTURE
6 SEMI-FINALISTS
With the Ensemble Contrechamps
45-minute public rehearsal:
– G. Ligeti, Chamber Concerto (required piece)
– U. Chin: Gougalon (2008) or R. Saunders: Scar

SEMI-FINAL - PART 3
9 NOV 2026, VICTORIA HALL
6 SEMI-FINALISTSS
With the Orchestre de la Suisse romande
45-minute public rehearsal:
– C. Debussy, La Mer
And one these 2 concertos drawn by lot (1st mvt):
– R. Schumann, Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54
– R. Schumann, Cello Concerto in A minor, Op. 129
Excerpts drawn by lot at the start of the round
Soloists: Kevin Chen (1st Prize Piano 2022), Michiaki Ueno (1st Prize Cello 2021)

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PROGRAMME 2025-2026

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FINAL ROUND - PART 1
10-11 NOV 2026, VICTORIA HALL
3 FINALISTS
With the Orchestre de la Suisse romande
Closed rehearsals (10 Nov) and Public Final (11 Nov):
– L.v. Beethoven, Egmont Overture
– One of the three Composition finalists' works, assigned by random draw.

Note: This round is both the Final of the Composition Competition and the first Final of the Conducting Competition..

FINAL ROUND - PART 2
12-13 NOV 2026, VICTORIA HALL
3 FINALISTS
With the Orchestre de la Suisse romande
Closed rehearsals (12 Nov) and Public Final (13 Nov).
One orchestral work from the following list:
– B. Bartók, The Miraculous Mandarin Suite
– C. Debussy, Ibéria
– G. Mahler: Totenfeier
– S. Prokofiev, Romeo and Juliet (free choice of excerpts, suites n°1 & 2)
– R. Strauss, Don Juan
– I. Stravinsky, The Firebird Suite (1919).
One of two chosen works will be drawn by lot at the beginning of the semi-finals.

Followed by the Awards Ceremony

PRESELECTION JURY
Bertrand de Billy (Chair)
Sonia Ben-Santamaria
Rémi Durupt
Laurent Gay
Claire Levacher

2025 JURY
Mark Stringer (Vice-Chair)
Marzena Diakun
Rémi Durupt
Laurent Gay
Natalia Ponomarchuk
Frauke Roth
Arturo Tamayo

2026 JURY
Bertrand de Billy (Chair)*
Mark Stringer (Vice-Chair)
Baldur Brönnimann
Martin Campbell-White
Unsuk Chin*
Laurent Gay
Sarah Nemtanu
Eva Ollikainen
Peter Oundjian
Natalia Ponomarchuk
Arturo Tamayo
Wingsie Yip
** only finals*

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
OFFICIAL JURY 2026

BERTRAND DE BILLY, CHAIR
Preselection round, finals

MARK STRINGER, VICE-PRÉSIDENT
1st & 2nd rounds, semi-finals, finals

SONIA BEN-SANTAMARIA
Preselection round

BALDUR BRÖNNIMANN
Semi-finals, finals

MARTIN CAMPBELL-WHITE
Semi-finals, finals

UNSUK CHIN
Final rounds

MARZENA DIAKUN
1st & 2nd rounds

RÉMI DURUPT
Preselection round, 1st & 2nd rounds

LAURENT GAY
Present during all rounds

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
OFFICIAL JURY 2026

CLAIRE LEVACHER
Preselection round

SARAH NEMTANU
Semi-finals, finals

EVA OLLIKAINEN
Semi-finals, finals

PETER OUNDJIAN
Semi-finals, finals

NATALIA PONOMARCHUK
1st & 2nd rounds, semi-finals, finals

FRAUKE ROTH
1st & 2nd rounds

ARTURO TAMAYO
1st & 2nd rounds, semi-finals, finals

YIP WING-SIE
Semi-finals, finals

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PRIZES & AWARDS

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OFFICIAL PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE CHF 20,000.-
SECOND PRIZE CHF 12,000.-
THIRD PRIZE CHF 8,00.-

FRANCIS & MARIE-FRANCE MINKOFF FONDATION

The official prizes of the Conducting Competition are generously funded by the Francis & Marie-France Minkoff Foundation

SPECIAL PRIZES

SEMI-FINALIST PRIZE CHF 3,000.–
This incentive prize is awarded to the three semifinalists of the Conducting Competition who were not selected to advance to the Final.

AUDIENCE PRIZE CHF 1,500.-
The Audience Prize is awarded by the spectators of the Final Rounds with orchestra. The finalist who receives the most ballots is the winner of this prize.

YOUNG AUDIENCE PRIZE CHF 1,000.–
The Young Audience Prize is awarded by a group of students from public and private schools in Geneva, who have previously received specific training. Their evaluation asses the two Final Rounds with orchestra.

STUDENTS' PRIZE CHF 1000.–
The Students' Prize is awarded by a group of students from the Faculty of Music and the Department of Musicology of the University of Geneva, who evaluate both Finals. It is integrated in their official curriculum. The Students' Prize is offered by Ms. & Mr. Hervieu-Causse.

ROSE-MARIE HUGUENIN PRIZE CHF 10 000.–
This prize rewards all the 2026 Conducting Laureates with a grant to carry out a project of their choice. The grant is administered by the Concours de Genève.

OSR MUSICIANS' PRIZE
The prize is awarded by the musicians of the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande to a finalist of the Conducting Competition. It consists of a concert engagement during the two seasons following the award.

HEM ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS' PRIZE
This prize is awarded by the musicians of the HEM orchestra who took part in the first round of the competition in 2025. It consists of a commission to conduct the orchestra for a project during the 2027–2028 season.

FONDATION ETRILLARD PRIZE CHF 5000.–
This prize is awarded by a special jury to the conducting finalist who presented the most outstanding artistic project during the professional workshop held in September 2026. The Foundation commits to supporting the realization of the winners' project in the years following the competition.

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
REGISTERED CANDIDATES

Candidates born after **13 November 1991** had until **7 May** to submit their application.

168 candidates registered

20 – 33 years old Aged between

36 women

132 men

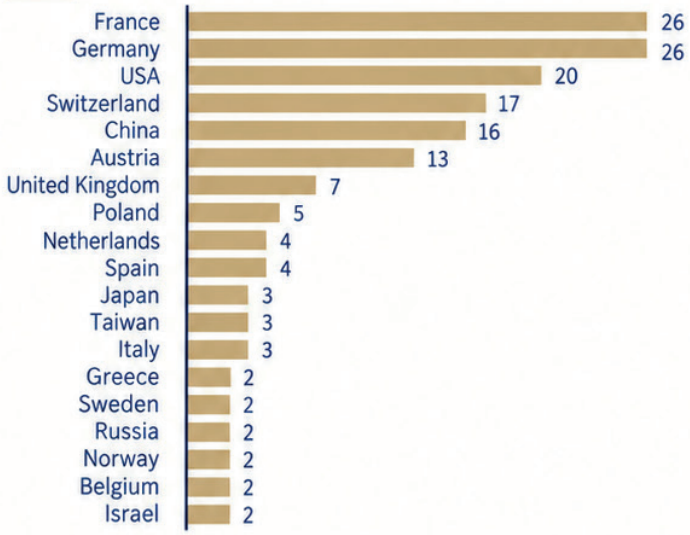
33 nationalities

NATIONALITIES

Other nationalities (1–2 candidates)

Israel (2)
Hong Kong (2)
Canada (2)
Greece (2)
Japan/Germany (1)
Colombia/USA (1)
Morocco (1)
Brazil (1)
Italy/Venezuela (1)
Cuba (1)
Norway (1)
Chile (1)
Israel/Poland (1)
Australia (1)
Italy/Switzerland (1)
Germany/USA (1)
Belgium (1)
Costa Rica (1)
Malaysia (1)
Belgium/Colombia (1)
Hong Kong/UK (1)
Netherlands (1)
USA/Germany (1)
Czech Republic (1)
USA/Canada (1)
UK/Bulgaria (1)
Finland (1)
Sweden (1)
Finland/USA (1)
Switzerland/Italy (1)
Palestinian Territories (1)
Germany/Canada (1)
Venezuela (1)
South Africa (1)
France/Mexico (1)

COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE



Other countries of residence (1 candidate)

Armenia
Finland
Hong Kong, SAR of China
South Korea
Bulgaria
Denmark
Colombia
Japan
Australia

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
SELECTED CANDIDATES

SELECTED CANDIDATES

24 selected candidates

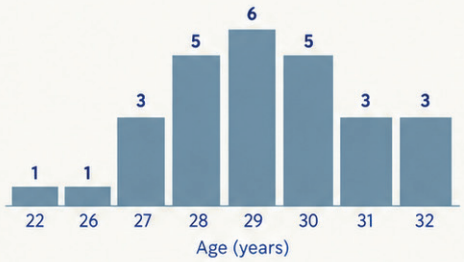
5 women

19 men

22 – 32 years old
Aged between

17 nationalities

AGE OF SELECTED CANDIDATES



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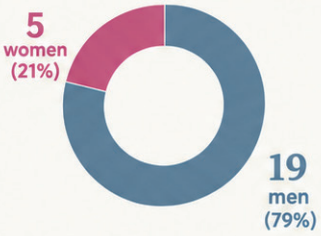
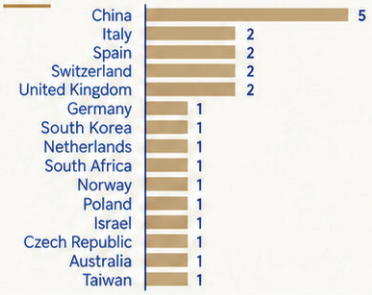


NATIONALITIES



THE 24 SELECTED CANDIDATES

1	**Nicolò Azzena**, 32 years old	Hometown: Sassari (IT) / Residence: Parma (IT)
2	**Alejandro Cantalapiedra**, 31 years old	Hometown: Soria (ES) / Residence: Amsterdam (NL)
3	**Jooyoung Chang**, 27 years old	Hometown: Seoul (KR) / Residence: Vienna (AT)
4	**Jaehyuck Choi**, 30 years old	Hometown: Seoul (KR) / Residence: New York (US)
5	**Lars Corijn**, 29 years old	Hometown: Oostburg (NL) / Residence: Antwerp (BE)
6	**Julia Cruz Carceller**, 28 years old	Hometown: Valencia (ES) / Residence: Madrid (ES)
7	**Jacobus De Jager**, 28 years old	Hometown: Pretoria (ZA) / Residence: Glasgow (UK)
8	**Chao Dong**, 27 years old	Hometown: Shanghai (CN) / Residence: Shanghai (CN)
9	**Zhongling Fang**, 28 years old	Hometown: Shenzhen (CN) / Residence: Shenzhen (CN)
10	**Giovanni Fanizza**, 29 years old	Hometown: Nardò (IT) / Residence: Genève (CH)
11	**Guro Ansteensen Haugli**, 31 years old	Hometown: Bærum (NO) / Residence: Oslo (NO)
12	**Nathanaël Iselin**, 32 years old	Hometown: Châteauroux (FR) / Residence: Arnhem (NL)
13	**Zofia Kiniorska**, 28 years old	Hometown: Warsaw (PL) / Residence: Geneva (CH)
14	**Josephine Korda**, 29 years old	Hometown: London (UK) / Residence: Paris (FR)
15	**Celia Llácer**, 31 years old	Hometown: Valencia (ES) / Residence: Zurich (CH)
16	**Gabriel Pernet**, 26 years old	Hometown: Aigle (CH) / Residence: Zürich (CH)
17	**Michal Oren**, 28 years old	Hometown: Tel-Aviv (IL) / Residence: London (UK)
18	**Simon Schmied**, 30 years old	Hometown: Bienne (CH) / Residence: Madrid (ES)
19	**Ondrej Soukup**, 30 years old	Hometown: Usti nad Labem (CZ) / Residence: Copenhagen (DK)
20	**Mats Thiersch**, 22 years old	Hometown: Cologne (DE) / Residence: Paris (FR)
21	**Leonard Weiss**, 32 years old	Hometown: Sydney (AU) / Residence: Melbourne (AU)
22	**Yu-Te Wu**, 30 years old	Hometown: Taipei (TW) / Residence: Taoyuan City (TW)
23	**Sunny Xuecong Xia**, 29 years old	Hometown: Guangzhou (CN) / Residence: Seattle (US)
24	**Moyue Zhou**, 29 years old	Hometown: Shanghai (CN) / Residence: Cincinnati (US)

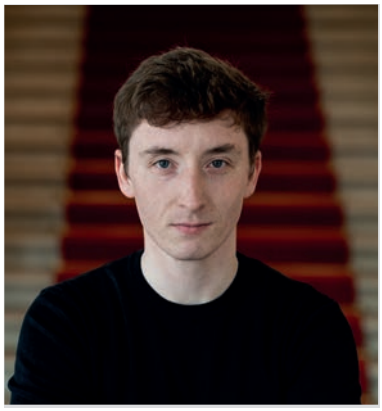
CONDUCTING COMPETITION
SEMI-FINALISTS

ALEJANDRO CANTALAPIEDRA, 32 YEARS OLD, SPAIN

Active across major European institutions, Alejandro Cantalapiedra served as Assistant Conductor of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and Dutch National Opera from 2023 to 2025, working closely with Lorenzo Viotti and leading guest conductors. He has collaborated with orchestras including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, and has conducted Sinfonia Varsovia, the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, the Residentie Orkest, and the Orquesta Sinfónica del Principado de Asturias. He has also held assistant positions at Madrid's Teatro Real and Valencia's Palau de les Arts.
www.alejandrocantalapiedra.com

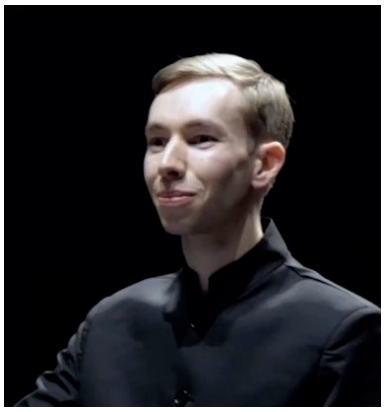
JACOBUS DE JAGER, 29 YEARS OLD, SOUTH AFRICA

Recipient of the 2025–2026 Mills Williams Junior Fellowship in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music and a Royal Philharmonic Society Conducting Fellowship, conductor and pianist Jacobus de Jager is a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where he studied with Martyn Brabbins and received the RCS Conducting Prize. He won the 5th South African Conductors' Competition and was twice a semi-finalist in the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award. He has worked with orchestras across Europe and South Africa. A semi-finalist in the 2026 Mahler Competition, he was also selected for this year's Lucerne Festival Contemporary Conducting Programme.
www.jacobusdejager.com



GABRIEL PERNET, 27 YEARS OLD, SWITZERLAND

Recipient of the Neeme Järvi Prize at the Gstaad Conducting Academy, the Paavo Järvi Scholarship, and the Audience Award of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich Conductors' Academy, Gabriel Pernet has worked with ensembles including the Tonhalle- Orchester Zürich, Kammerorchester Basel, the OCL, the Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, and the Gstaad Festival Orchestra. Co-founder, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre Symphonique en Vogue, he is currently studying at the Zurich University of the Arts with Christoph-Mathias Müller and Johannes Schlaefli. He was recently appointed Assistant Conductor of the Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège.
www.gabrielpernet.com



SIMON SCHMIED, 31 YEARS OLD, SWITZERLAND

Music Director of the Bern Student Orchestra since 2020, Simon Schmied has worked with the Gstaad Festival Orchestra, Festival Strings Lucerne, Basel Chamber Orchestra and Málaga Camerata. In 2024, he served as Assistant Conductor to Sir Mark Elder for Tristan und Isolde at the Gstaad Menuhin Festival and participated in the Gstaad Conducting Academy under the guidance of Jaap van Zweden and Johannes Schlaefli. A graduate with distinction from the Lucerne University of Music, he currently continues his studies at the Reina Sofía School of Music in Madrid. Also a violinist, he served as concertmaster of the Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra from 2015 to 2020.
www.simonschmied.com

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
SEMI-FINALISTS

MATS THIERSCH, 23 YEARS OLD, GERMANY

After studying composition with Miroslav Srnka in Cologne, Mats Thiersch pursued conducting studies with Alain Altinoglu at the Conservatoire de Paris. He has participated in masterclasses with Daniele Gatti, Mikko Franck and Jaap van Zweden, and has served as assistant conductor with the Orchestre national de Cannes and the Orchestre national d'Île-de-France. A scholarship holder in the German Music Council's Forum Dirigieren programme, he took part in the Gstaad Conducting Academy in 2024. Since 2024, he has served as Music Director of the Orchestre et Choeur Symphonique du COGE in Paris and regularly collaborates with leading European ensembles.
www.matsthiersch.com

LEONARD WEISS, 34 YEARS OLD, AUSTRALIA

The 2026 season marks a major milestone in Leonard Weiss's career, with debuts at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Munich Biennale, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Victoria. In 2025, he was a Conducting Fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center and won the Khachaturian Competition as well as Third Prize at the Toscanini Competition. He served as Assistant Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in 2024 and 2025, following his appointment as Assistant Conductor in Residence in New Zealand in 2022. He studied with Marin Alsop at the Peabody Institute and the Australian Conducting Academy. - www.leonardweiss.com

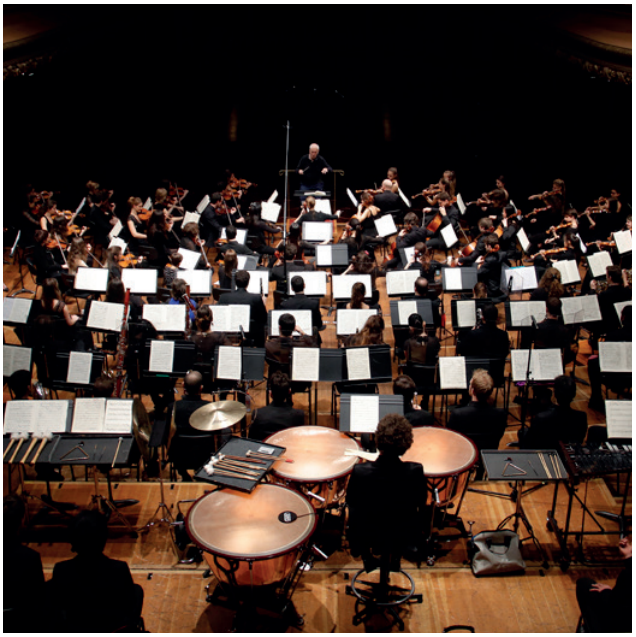
NB. 18/09/26 - Due to unforeseen circumstances, Michal Oren has withdrawn from the Conducting Competition semi-finals. We thank her for her participation in this year's Concours de Genève and wish her every success in the future. We are delighted that reserve candidate Simon Schmied will now join the finalists for the final rounds in Geneva this November. The competition programme and schedule remain unchanged..

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
ORCHESTRAS

ORCHESTRE DE LA SUISSE ROMANDE
Semi-Final 3 : 9 Nov. 2026
Finals 1 & 2 : 10-13 Nov. 2026

ORCHESTRE DE CHAMBRE DE GENÈVE
2nd Round : 2-3 Nov. 2025
Semi-Final 1 : 7 Nov. 2026

ENSEMBLE CONTRECHAMPS
Semi-Final 2 : 8 Nov. 2026



ORCHESTRE DE LA HEM
1st Round : 31 Oct. - 01 Nov. 2025

CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PRESENTERS

CHARLOTTE GARDNER

Charlotte Gardner is a British classical music journalist and critic who is most associated with Gramophone (where she also presents the Gramophone Listening Room young artists podcast), The Strad and dCS Only the Music. Her programme notes include for Snape Maltings. Beyond the Concours de Genève, she presents regularly for the Verbier Festival. She holds a Music MA from the University of Cambridge. This year Charlotte presents the Conducting and Composition Competitions with Antoine Pecqueur, as well as conducting public interviews with the semi-finalists as part of the personal artistic project.

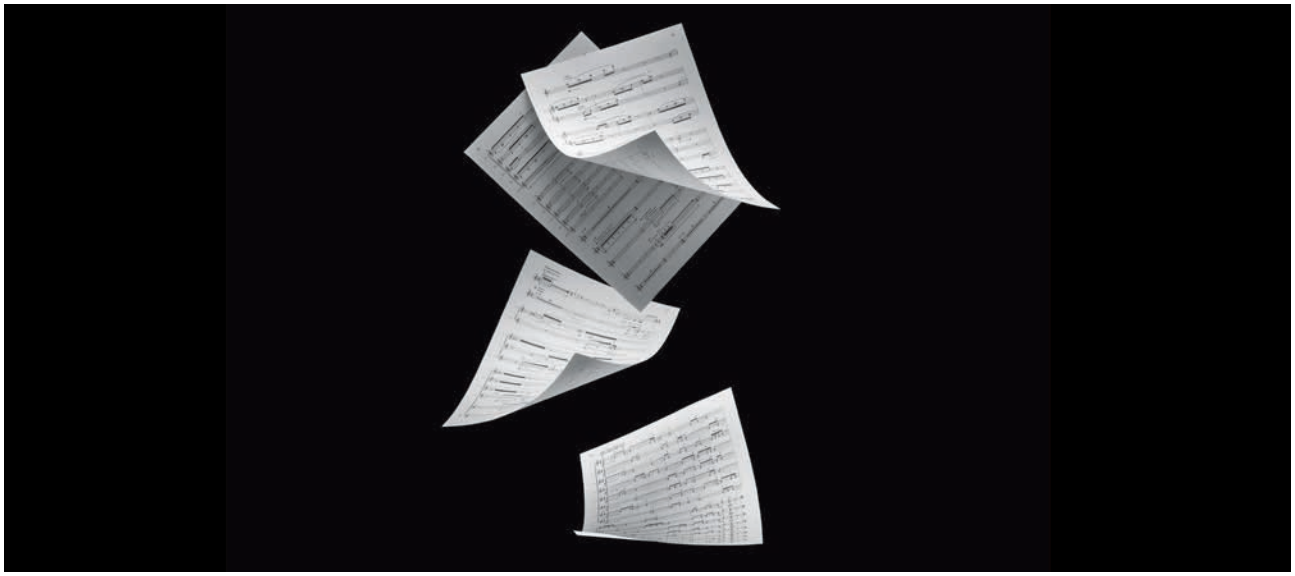
ANTOINE PECQUEUR

Antoine Pecqueur is a journalist and musician. A presenter on Mezzo, he also writes for Alternatives économiques and Le Monde diplomatique. He specialises in the politics and economics of culture. A bassoon prize-winner at the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Lyon, he performs in orchestras playing period instruments and contemporary music ensembles. He is one of the co-founders of the collective Les Affranchi·e·s. He is the author of Géopolitique du rail, Atlas de la culture, Les espaces de la musique, l'architecture des salles de concert, Les plus beaux opéras du monde. He will co-present the 2026 Competition with Charlotte Gardner.

OSR Orchestre de la Suisse Romande Genève

The Conducting Competition is in partnership with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.

COMPOSITION COMPETITION
PRESENTATION



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Every two years, the Concours de Genève presents its Composition Competition, continuing the legacy of the Queen Marie José Prize. Its purpose is to encourage the creation of new works and to support excellence in contemporary musical creation.

SUBJECT OF THE COMPETITION

The Composition Competition was open to candidates born after 11 November 1986. For the 2026 edition, candidates were invited to submit a work for symphony orchestra meeting the following requirements:

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

SELECTION ROUND
12-14 MARCH, RTS, GENEVA
188 applicants

A total of 188 candidates, aged 8 to 39 and representing 46 countries, registered for the competition. The Official Jury, chaired by Unsuk Chin, met in Geneva to review the submitted scores and selected three finalists:

- **Sing-Yat Chen**: *Shattered Sky / Remaining Land*
- **Hanurij Lee:** *Stuff #1*
- **Rafael Marino Arcaro:** *invention in language of child*

*more details on instrumentation in the official rules

FINAL ROUND
11 NOVEMBER, 19:00, VICTORIA HALL
3 FINALISTS

The Composition and Conducting Competitions culminate in a joint Final. The three conducting finalists each conduct Beethoven's Egmont Ouverture, followed by one of the three finalist works from the Composition Competition, assigned by random draw. The works are performed by the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.
The Final is followed by the Composition Awards Ceremony.

OFFICIAL JURY

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

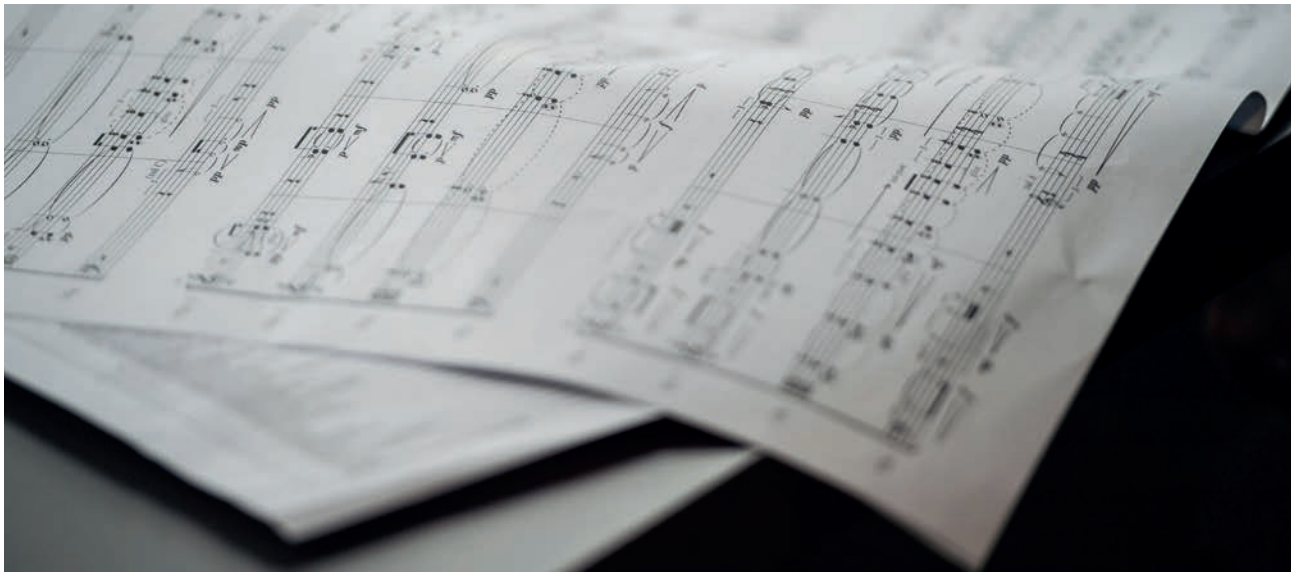
INTERNATIONAL BROADCAST

The Final is broadcast live on our website and social media channels, as well as on medici.tv, amadeus.tv, Mezzo TV and RTS - Espace 2.

Partner of the Composition Competition
Fondation Reine Marie José

fondation Reine Marie José

COMPOSITION COMPETITION
PRIZES & AWARDS



© Anne-Laure Lechat

OFFICIAL PRIZES

FIRST PRIZE CHF 15,000.-
SECOND PRIZE CHF 10,000.-
THIRD PRIZE CHF 5,000.-

SPECIAL PRIZES

AUDIENCE PRIZE CHF 1,500.-
The Audience Prize is awarded by the spectators of the Final Rounds with orchestra. The finalist who receives the most ballots is the winner of this prize.

YOUNG AUDIENCE PRIZE CHF 1,000.–
The Young Audience Prize is awarded by a group of students from public and private schools in Geneva, who have previously received specific training. Their evaluation asses the two Final Rounds.

STUDENTS' PRIZE CHF 1,000.–
The Students' Prize is awarded by a group of students from the Faculty of Music and the Department of Musicology of the University of Geneva, who evaluate both Finals. It is integrated in their official curriculum. The Students' Prize is offered by Ms. & Mr. Hervieu-Causse.

NICATI-DE LUZE PRIZE CHF 5,000.–
The Nicati-de Luze Prize consists of a commission for a work lasting between 7 and 10 minutes for a solo instrument or voice. The Nicati-de Luze Prize is awarded by the Competition Jury to the First Prize winner (or, failing that, to the Second Prize winner). The Nicati-de Luze Foundation will cover all or part of the production costs of the premiere and/or subsequent performances, up to a maximum of CHF 7,000..

BASEL SINFONIETTA PRIZE
The Basel Sinfonietta Prize is awarded by the representatives of the Basel Sinfonietta to a finalist of the Composition Competition at the end of the Final. It consists of the commitment to play a work of the winner within two seasons of obtaining the prize.

PRIMEURS MUSICALES PRIZE CHF 3,000.-
Awarded by representatives of the Primeurs Musicales Festival, this prize is presented to one of the finalists of the Composition Competition following the Final. It consists of a commission to compose a short work for string ensemble, which will be premiered at the Festival in autumn 2027.

COMPOSITION COMPETITION
OFFICIAL JURY

UNSUK CHIN, CHAIR

Unsuk Chin was born in 1961 in Seoul and has lived in Germany since 1985. Her music is widely acclaimed around the world and has been celebrated with a series of prestigious international awards. She was composer in residence at the Lucerne Festival, the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, the BBC's Total Immersion Festival, and many more. She is also a dedicated concert curator and Artistic Director. Having directed the Seoul Philharmonic's Ars Nova and the London Philharmonia's Music of Today series, she is currently Artistic Director of the Tongyeong Festival in Korea and the Weiwuying International Music Festival in Taiwan.

TOSHIO HOSOKAWA

Born in Hiroshima, Toshio Hosokawa is one of the most significant Japanese composers of his time. He has written around 200 works, including orchestral works, concertos, chamber music and operas, and has been a member of the Berlin Academy of Arts since 2001. He has received the Japan Foundation Award (2018), the Goethe Medal (2021), the Berkeley Japan Prize (2023) and the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award (2025). He is Artistic Director of the Takefu International Music Festival and the Suntory Hall Programme for Music Composition. His recent works focus on nature and often combine European and traditional Japanese instruments.

MAGNUS LINDBERG

Magnus Lindberg is one of the leading European composers of his generation, particularly admired for his orchestral music. His works are performed worldwide by major orchestras, ensembles and soloists, including Yefim Bronfman, Yuja Wang, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Pekka Kuusisto, Avanti, Ensemble InterContemporain, London Sinfonietta, Philharmonia Orchestra, and the Los Angeles and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, under conductors such as Salonen, Saraste, Oramo, Lintu, Franck, Rattle, Heras- Casado and Gilbert. He has been composer-in-residence with the New York Philharmonic, SWR Stuttgart and the London Philharmonic, and his music is widely recorded on Deutsche Grammophon, Sony, Ondine and Finlandia..

AUGUSTA READ THOMAS

Named "Chicagoan of the Year" by the Chicago Tribune in 2016, Augusta Read Thomas is one of today's most acclaimed and widely performed contemporary composers. Her music "embodies unbridled passion and fierce poetry" (American Academy of Arts and Letters), while The New Yorker has described her as "a true virtuoso composer." Former Mead Composer-in-Residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra – the longest-serving composer to hold the position – she founded and directs the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition and the Grossman Ensemble. Among her many honours is the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize..

COMPOSITION COMPETITION
OFFICIAL JURY

KATHARINA ROSENBERGER

Composer Katharina Rosenberger is Professor of Composition at the Haute école de musique de Genève and co-director of the SONIC MATTER Festival in Zurich. She regards the act of music-making as intertwined with its environment, inherently social and anti-hierarchical. Her work questions traditional ways of producing, performing, and experiencing music. Rosenberger has received numerous awards, including the 2023 Swiss Music Award, the 2019 Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Mediaprojects/Sitemapping Award from the Swiss Federal Office of Culture in Bern.

Jury during the Preselection Round in Geneva - March 12th © Anne-Laure Lechat

COMPOSITION COMPETITION
REGISTERED CANDIDATES

Candidates born after **11 November 1986** had until **12 February** to submit their application.

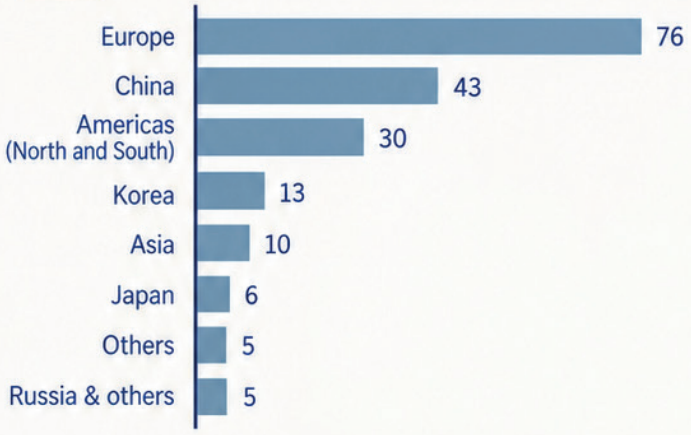
188 candidates registered

8 – 39 years old
Aged between

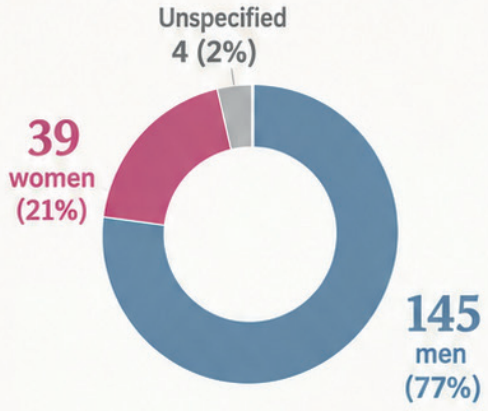
39 women
145 men
4 unspecified

52 nationalities

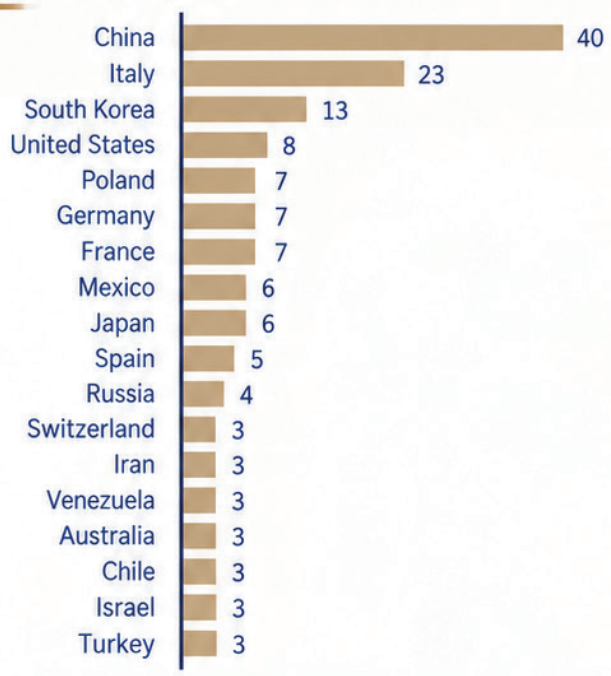
REGION OF ORIGIN



DISTRIBUTION BY GENDER



NATIONALITIES



Other nationalities (1–2 candidates)

Serbia (2)
Netherlands (2)
Brazil (2)
United Kingdom (2)
Colombia (2)
Austria (2)
Hong Kong, SAR of China (2)
Romania / Ukraine (1)
Thailand (1)
Canada (1)
Hungary (1)
South Africa (1)
Bolivia (1)
United Kingdom / Austria (1)
China / United States (1)
Slovenia (1)
Belgium (1)
Ukraine (1)
Brazil / Italy (1)
Romania (1)
Latvia (1)
Ecuador (1)
Mauritius (1)
United Kingdom / Italy (1)
Croatia (1)
Canada / Viet Nam (1)
Norway (1)
Finland (1)
Cuba (1)
Belarus (1)
Denmark (1)
Greece (1)
Poland / Spain (1)
Portugal (1)

COMPOSITION COMPETITION
FINALISTS

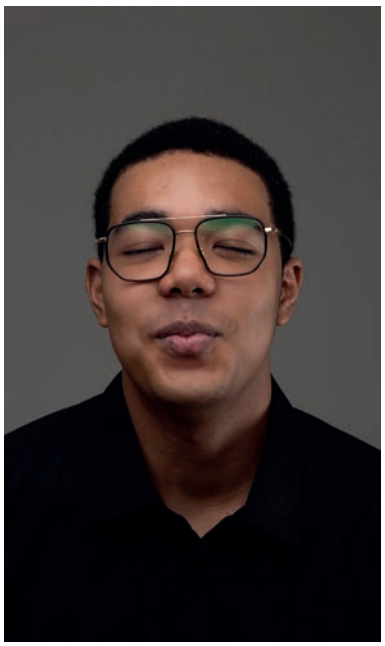
SING-YAT CHEN, 25 YEARS OLD, HONG KONG

Sing-Yat Chen is a Hong Kong composer and pianist, and a 2026 Gaudeamus Award finalist. Described by Neue Musik Zeitung as displaying an "impressively reflective inner struggle," she creates immersive soundscapes inspired by literature, science and the visual arts. A former Bang on a Can Fellow, she has collaborated with Ensemble Modern and cellist Jeffrey Zeigler. Her works, which explore themes of duality, have been presented at Festival Mixtur and performed on the historic 1746 Hildebrandt organ.

HER WORK

SHATTERED SKY / REMAINING LAND

"Inspired by James Turrell's Skyspace, this work explores samsara through breath. Gazing at an aperture recalls a pale sun after a bleak winter–a punctured sky where light pierces with sharp agony. From a fragile bass clarinet monologue, the sound gradually fractures into noise, mirroring the crackling glaze of Song Dynasty Ru ware."



HANURIJ LEE, 20 YEARS OLD, SOUTH KOREA

Born in Seoul, Hanurij Lee is currently studying composition at the Korea National University of Arts. His work explores the sonic relationships between instruments through their inherent possibilities and restrained gestures, rather than seeking to convey explicit concepts. His music has been performed at the Wittener Tage für Neue Kammermusik, the Verbier Festival, the Daegu International Contemporary Music Festival, and as part of the Initiative Neue Musik OWL.

HIS WORK

STUFF #1

"The Stuff series originates from an interest in the endlessly repetitive structures of Khrushchyovka apartments and the gradual erasure of individual sensation within them. However, Stuff #1 (Hymne pour le Velu qui hoche la tête) departs slightly from the dry and rigid atmosphere of the previous works, instead emerging from images of dust, fur, and a shaggy figure subtly nodding its head. Repetition remains central, but here it functions less as a structural device than as a kind of sensory residue accumulating inside an aging interior."

RAFAEL MARINO ARCARO, 36 YEARS OLD, BRAZIL/ITALY

Rafael Marino Arcaro is a Brazilian composer now based between Berlin and London. His music draws on memories of his rural childhood – fruit trees, insects, nighttime creatures – as well as his reflections on Brazilian artistic identity. Known for an aesthetic of clarity and restraint, he writes works imbued with the flavours of sour mango and cotton candy. His music is emotionally direct, combining playful seriousness with, at times, striking violence.

HIS WORK

INVENTION IN LANGUAGE OF CHILD, OP. 22

——

a cloudless night; grandma forgot me outside
and I forgot bedtime and
spent the whole night with ants and bats
making friends with the dark
a cold dewy-winter-dawn grew ten metres
and swallowed down the night in a gulp

AROUND THE COMPETITION
EVENTS

THURSDAY 17 SEPT. – 11:00 AM

PRESENTATION
PRIZEWINNERS' WORKSHOP
HAUTE ÉCOLE
DE MUSIQUE DE GENÈVE
FREE ENTRY

Each year, as part of our Career Development Programme, the Prizewinners' Workshop supports young musicians in building the foundations of an international career.

The 2026 edition is dedicated to the six semi-finalists of the Conducting Competition. It is the third and final session in a series of workshops offered throughout 2026 to the young conductors selected in 2025.

Over three days of workshops, talks, and meetings with music professionals, participants will develop and present their artistic projects to the public and to a special jury. The most outstanding project will receive the Fondation Etrillard Special Prize, which will be awarded following the Competition Final.
——
Haute école de musique de Genève, Salle GD-10
Rue du Général-Dufour 2 – 1204 Genève

SPEAKERS 2026

EMMANUEL HONDRÉ
General Director, Opéra National de Bordeaux
CAROLA REUL
General Director, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin (RSB)
MARIE STRUBÉ
Artist Manager, HarrisonParrott Ltd
ANDREAS VIERZIGER
Music Curator and Strategic Consultant

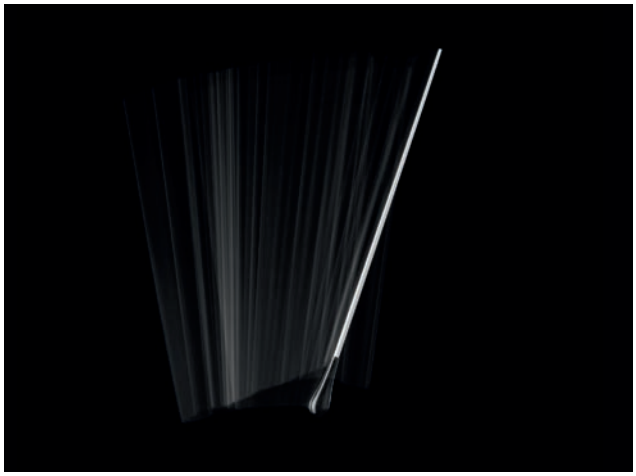
PARTICIPANTS
SEMI-FINALISTS
CONDUCTING COMPETITION 2026

ALEJANDRO CANTALAPIEDRA (Spain)
JACOBUS DE JAGER (South Africa)
MICHAL OREN (Israel)
GABRIEL PERNET (Switzerland)
MATS THIERSCH (Germany)
LEONARD WEISS (Australia)

JURY MEMBERS
ETRILLARD SPECIAL PRIZE

INES DE SAUSSURE
ANDREAS VIERZIGER
EUGÉNIE GUIBERT
BÉATRICE ZAWODNIK
ULRICH MOSCH
NICOLAS BUCHER

AROUND THE COMPETITION
EVENTS



SATURDAY 3 OCT. - 5 PM/7:30 PM
SUNDAY 4 OCT. - 3 PM/5:30 PM

DOCUMENTARY FILM WEEK-END AROUND THE ART OF CONDUCTING
LA CITÉ BLEUE GENÈVE

As a prelude to its 80th edition, the Concours de Genève invites you to a weekend of documentary film screenings dedicated to the art of conducting. Through four films, discover the many facets of this fascinating discipline and immerse yourself in the world of the upcoming competition!

——
La Cité Bleue Genève
Av. de Miremont 46 – 1206 Genève

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBRE
— 5 PM « Celibidache. You don't do anyting – you let it evolve » by Jan Schmidt-Garre (1992)
— 7:30 PM « The Conductor »
by Bernadette Wegenstein (2021)

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER
— 3 PM « Joana Mallwitz – Momentum »
de Günter Atteln (2024)
— 5:30 PM « Nous l'orchestre »
by Philippe Béziat (2026)

Meet the Director Philippe Béziat following the screening

FRIDAY 16 OCT. – 8PM

CONCERT QUATUOR TERPSYCORDES & CÉDRIC PESCIA
SALLE FRANZ LISZT, CONSERVATOIRE

Twenty-five years ago, the Quatuor Terpsycordes made a remarkable impression by winning First Prize at the very first String Quartet Competition organised by the Concours de Genève. Since then, the Terpsycordes have remained loyal partners of the Competition – companions on our journey, friends, and artists we have always been able to count on. Their anniversary and ours deserved to be celebrated in style. For the occasion, the Terpsycordes Quartet is joined by pianist Cédric Pescia, who is also President of the Competition's Artistic Committee.

——
Conservatoire de Genève, Salle Franz Liszt
Place de Neuve 5 – 1204 Genève

AROUND THE COMPETITION
EVENTS

FRIDAY 6 NOV. – 7:30 PM

OPENING CONCERT
SALLE FRANZ LISZT, CONSERVATOIRE

This year, the Concours de Genève celebrates its 80th edition! To mark this anniversary, an exceptional opening concert brings together two recent First Prize winners who have already embarked on remarkable international careers: pianist **Kevin Chen** (1st Prize 2022) and cellist **Michiaki Ueno** (1st Prize 2021).

——

Conservatoire de Genève, Salle Franz Liszt
Place de Neuve 5 – 1204 Genève

PROGRAMME

Michiaki Ueno, cello
- J. S. Bach: Partita for Solo Flute BWV 1013 (arr. M. Ueno)
- M. Mori: Phoenix, for solo cello (2022)

Kevin Chen, piano
A. Scriabin : Prelude in B major, op. 11 No. 11 / Fantasy, op. 28 / Vers la flamme, op. 72
F. Liszt : Les Préludes S. 27 (trans. K. Chen)

Michiaki Ueno, cello & **Kevin Chen, piano**
F. Bridge : Sonata for cello and piano H. 125

This opening concert is made possible through the generous support of the Fondation Reine Marie José, a longstanding partner of the Concours de Genève.
Broadcast on Medici.tv & Mezzo / Direct broadcast on Espace 2

MONDAY 9 NOV. – 3:00 PM

MASTERCLASS WITH UNSUK CHIN
HAUTE ÉCOLE DE MUSIQUE DE GENÈVE
FREE ENTRY

As part of its outreach programme, the Concours de Genève organises public masterclasses each year in collaboration with the Haute école de musique Genève-Neuchâtel. This year, a selection of piano students will have the opportunity to work with **Unsuk Chin**, **Chair of the 2026 Composition Jury**, exploring the interpretation of her piano Études.

——

Haute école de musique de Genève
Rue Général-Dufour 2 – 1204 Genève

AROUND THE COMPETITION
EVENTS

SATURDAY 14 NOV. – 5:30 PM

PRIZEWINNERS' CONCERT
TEMPLE DE JUSSY
FREE ENTRY

True to a long-standing tradition, the Association Les Concerts de Jussy welcomes one of our prizewinners each year for a concert in an intimate and privileged setting. In 2026, the audience will have the pleasure of hearing our laureates **Brian Isaacs (joint 1st Prize, Viola 2025)** and the **Quatuor Elmire (2nd Prize 2023).**

——
Temple de Jussy
Chemin de la Laiterie 4 – 1254 Jussy

Concert organized by Les Concerts de Jussy

SUNDAY 15 NOV. – 5:00 PM

PRIZEWINNER'S CONCERT
THÉÂTRE LES SALONS
FREE ENTRY

To bring the 2026 edition to a close, our prizewinners **Brian Isaacs (joint 1st Prize Viola 2025)** and the **Elmire Quartet (2nd Prize 2023)** will come together once again for a programme centred on Beethoven's Quintet, this time on stage at the Théâtre Les Salons, in partnership with the Institut National Genevois.

Mandatory registration on inge.ch

——
Théâtre Les Salons
Rue Jean-F. Bartholoni 6 – 1204 Genève

Concert offered by the Institut National Genevois

AROUND THE COMPETITION
MEDIATION

A true cultural project, the Concours de Genève has brought together the city's main musical institutions for over 80 years. Outreach activities are an important part of the Competition, which seeks to transmit its values and introduce young people and local communities to classical music.

AUDIENCE PRIZE
The Audience Prize gives those attending the Finals the opportunity to express their own opinion by voting for their favorite finalist.

YOUNG AUDIENCE PRIZE
Today's youth forms tomorrow's audience. Participating in the Young Audience Prize teaches young people to become active listeners, but also how to form a judgement, how to review an artist's performance. This project brings together music students, but also students from local public and private schools.

STUDENTS' PRIZE
The Students' Prize brings together in the same jury music students from the Haute école de musique de Genève and musicology students from the University of Geneva. Future professionals of the music field, they will someday become performers, composers, music critics, scholars, presenters, and concert organizers...

MASTERCLASSES
For more than ten years, the Concours de Genève has organised, in collaboration with the Haute école de musique Genève-Neuchâtel, a masterclass led by one of the members of its juries. This year's masterclass is dedicated to piano students from the HEM Genève.

NEW AUDIENCES
The Concours de Genève has recently created an outreach policy directed towards remote, impeded, or distant audiences. By offering concerts in public spaces, in companies and in institutions, it aims at arousing curiosity, stimulating interest in classical music, and reaching new audiences.

YOUNG AUDIENCE PRIZE

The Young Audience Prize reflects the Concours de Genève's commitment to cultural participation and to making classical music accessible to younger generations. Open to participants aged 12 to 25, the programme offers a unique immersion in the world of the Concours.

It welcomes young people from a wide range of backgrounds, whether they are pursuing musical studies or simply wish to discover classical music from a new perspective. Through workshops, meetings with music professionals and opportunities for discussion, participants develop listening skills and learn how to express thoughtful and informed artistic opinions. They then serve as a jury and award the Young Audience Award to the candidate of their choice, with the winner announced at the Awards Ceremony.

2026 PROGRAMME

- **Composition**: An immersion in the world of contemporary music creation, including a preparatory workshop, discussions with composers, access to the Final Round and a behind-the-scenes experience.
- **Conducting**: An opportunity to experience the art of conducting at close range, with a preparatory workshop, access to a Semi-final Round, a practical conducting workshop alongside professional musicians, followed by access to the Final Round and a behind-the-scenes experience.

COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA

Each year, the University of Geneva and the Haute école de musique de Genève jointly offer an introductory course in music mediation. Students from both institutions are invited to design mediation projects aimed at helping diverse audiences engage with musical works and instruments, reflect on the social and aesthetic dimensions of music, and gain insight into the profession of musician. These activities, which take place prior to the musical performance itself, can take a variety of forms, ranging from sound productions and programme notes to more interactive exchanges with audiences.

A partner of the course since its inception, the Concours de Genève offers students the opportunity to put their ideas into practice by connecting them with audiences and showcasing their work. This year, course participants will meet the composers competing for the Composition Competition, write texts about the works performed during the Finals, and develop a mediation activity for concertgoers on the evening of the concert.

PRIZEWINNERS
CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Sarah Strohm, Prizewinners 2025 - presentation of her artistic project © Anne-Laure Lechat

In 2003, the Concours de Genève launched its ambitious Career Development Programme. Consisting of various modules, the programme is designed to help our laureates explore and define their artistic identity while equipping them with the tools necessary for an international career.

I. CONCERTS & MANAGEMENT

In addition to the official prizes, laureates benefit from two years of support from the Paris-based concert agency Sartory Artists. The programme is structured around three key areas: **visibility**, through concerts, collaborations, professional encounters and connections with networks and agencies; **mentoring**, through training, shared experience and a deeper understanding of the profession, its codes and practical realities; and **exploration and development**, with personalised coaching designed to foster musical growth, strengthen artistic identity and support the development of new projects.

II. PRIZEWINNERS' WORKSHOP

Each year, the Concours de Genève organizes professional workshops, offering participants sessions on topics such as stage presence, health and well-being, career management, personal branding, and social media. This year, the six semi-finalists of the Conducting Competition took part in two workshops, one in May and one in September.

III. ARTISTIC PROJECT

To enable young musicians to express their artistic vision and pursue their professional ambitions, the Concours de Genève introduced the Artistic Project round, supported by the Fondation Etrillard. The most compelling project will receive the support of both the Competition and the Fondation to make it a reality.

SARTORY
ARTISTS

Sartory Artists, official concert agency of the Concours de Genève

PRIZEWINNERS
CONCERTS 2025/2026

Brian Isaacs, 1er Prix ex aequo Alto 2025 © Anne-Laure Lechat

France
Festival de Quatuors du Luberon
Festival international de piano de La Roque-d'Anthéron
Festival Pablo Casals de Prades
Festival Radio France Occitanie Montpellier
Générations France Musique, Le Live
Les Estivales de Musique en Médoc
Les Grandes Heures de Cluny
Musique et Nature en Bauges
Orchestre National de Cannes
——
Switzerland
AMG Rising Stars - Basel
Association Ponticello - Geneva
Concert Souffle - Salle Franz Liszt, Geneva
Concerts d'été à Saint-Germain
Festival des Haudères
Festival Les Ondes
INGE - Genève
Lavaux Classic
Les Concerts de Jussy
Musicales d'Épalinges
Orchestre de Chambre de Genève
Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
Orchestre symphonique de l'AMAA - Victoria Hall, Geneva
Orpheum Foundation
Piano à Saint-Ursanne
Pour l'Art - Pully
RTS - Émission « Nouveaux Talents », La Chaux-de-Fonds
Société des Arts de Genève
Week-End Musical de Pully

United Kingdom
Bath Mozart Festival
BBC National Orchestra of Wales
LSO St Luke's - London
Monday Lunchtime Concerts - Harrogate
Norfolk & Norwich Festival
University of Birmingham
Wigmore Hall - London
——
Italy
Festival Flautissimo - Rome
Festival LagoMaggioreMusica
Fondation Gioventù Musicale d'Italia
——
Germany
Teatime Classics Series - Laeiszhalle, Hamburg
Beethoven-Haus Bonn
——
Canada
Salle Bourgie - Montreal
——
Colombia
Tour in Colombia
——
Hong Kong
Hong Kong Sinfonietta
——
Poland
La Folle Journée de Varsovie

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
AN ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES

Concert des Amis avec Bryan et Silvie Cheng © Anne-Laure Lechat

The mission of the Concours de Genève Friends' Association is to contribute to the promotion and success of the Competition, by:

- Organising and helping to finance the candidates' stay in Geneva. Annual membership fees contribute to covering candidates' meal and local transportation expenses.
- Providing high-quality accommodation for all candidates through the generosity of host families.
- Strengthening and fostering lasting ties between the Concours de Genève and its laureates by actively supporting the Career Development Programme, particularly through the organisation of private and public concerts.

Members of the Friends' Association enjoy numerous benefits while, above all, contributing to the quality of the welcome extended to each candidate – a quality praised by musicians from across the world.

FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Board
Beatrice Roetheli-Mariotti, Chair
Thierry Rochat, Vice-President
Annemarie Khetib, Trésorière
Jessica Bach, Secrétaire

Committee
Sylvie Beyeler
Yves Beyeler
Isabelle Gachon
Marianne Morgan Gini
Jelena Rochat.

More information:
Mme Sandy Kasper, coordinator
amis@concoursgeneve.ch
022 328 62 08
www.concoursgeneve.ch

Les Amis
CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

ORGANISATION

CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

FOUNDATION BOARD

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Etienne Jeandin, Vice-Chair
Cédric Pescia, Secretary
Corinne Dumonthay, Treasurer
Laurent Winkelmann, Member

Members
Catherine Eckert
Madeleine Mirabeau
Ulrich Mosch
Alain Perroux
Steve Roger
Beatrice Roetheli-Mariotti
Sandrine Salerno

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE

Cédric Pescia, Chair
Inès de Saussure
Clément Dumortier
Michael Jarrell
Ulrich Mosch
Antoine Pecqueur
Alain Perroux
Steve Roger
Didier Schnorhk
Nina Uhari
Béatrice Zawodnik

ADMINISTRATION

Didier Schnorhk, Secretary General
Sandy Kasper, Executive & Friends Assistant
Lisa Elias, Press & Communications
Maxime Van Heghe, Production & Logistics
Alicia Pugin, Communications Assistant ad interim
Séraphin Morland, Communications Assistant

FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Committee
Beatrice Roetheli-Mariotti, Présidente
Thierry Rochat, Vice-Président
Annemarie Khetib, Trésorière
Jessica Bach, Secrétaire

Committee
Sylvie Beyeler
Yves Beyeler
Isabelle Gachon
Marianne Morgan Gini
Jelena Rochat

EXTERNAL COLLABORATORS

Concert Agency
Sartory Artists, Eugénie Guibert

Box Office
Xavier Bauer

Graphic Design
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Accounting & HR
Comptaservice, Marc Racordon

IT & Networks
Jean-François Marti, TPPI

Record Label
La Dolce Volta

Outreach & Youth Programmes
Noémie Calpini

Photography
Anne-Laure Lechat / Cédric Widmer

Translations
Lisa Elias

Videographer
Flavio Sanchez

Webmaster
Nicolas Zanghi

Journalists / Presenters
Charlotte Gardner
Antoine Pecqueur

2026 Competition Team
Lola Lamamy, Production Assistant
Thomas Pastor, Candidates' Secretary
Ariadna Terol Donat, Jury Secretary

PARTNERS & FUNDERS

AUTORITÉS PUBLIQUES

REPUBLIQUE ET CANTON DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX

PARTENAIRE COMPOSITION

fondation Reine Marie José

PARTENAIRES INSTITUTIONNELS

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GRAMOPHONE

RATES

DOCUMENTARY FILM WEEKEND 3-4 OCT. LA CITE BLEUE GENEVA

	Single rate			
1 film	10.-			
Day pass (2 films)	17.-			
Weekend pass (4 films)	35.-			
Free for young people and students				

OPENING CONCERT 6 NOV. SALLE FRANZ LISZT, CONSERVATOIRE

	Full rate	Reduced rate	Student/Youth	20 ans / 20 francs
	40.-	34.-	24.-	20.-

CONDUCTING SEMI-FINALS 7-8 NOV. ESPACE CONCORDE CULTURE

	Full rate	Reduced rate	Student/Youth	20 ans / 20 francs
1 session	20.-	17.-	15.-	10.-
2 sessions	35.-	29.-	25.-	15.-

CONDUCTING SEMI-FINAL WITH THE OSR 9 NOV. VICTORIA HALL

	Full rate	Reduced rate	Student/Youth	20 ans / 20 francs
1 session	30.-	25.-	22.-	15.-
2 sessions	50.-	40.-	35.-	18.-

FINALS 11 & 13 NOV. VICTORIA HALL

	Full rate	Reduced rate	Youth	20 ans / 20 francs
Boxes	80.-	70.-	60.-	
Category 1	60.-	51.-	45.-	
Category 2	50.-	42.-	37.-	
Category 3	40.-	34.-	30.-	20.-
Category 4	30.-	25.-	22.-	17.-
Category 5	20.-	17.-	15.-	10.-

MASTERCLASS

FREE ADMISSION

SPECIAL RATES

- Reduced rate: upon presentation of proof, for unemployed persons and AVS pensioners, Friends of the Competition & other privileged partners
- Youth rate: ages 13-20, students (under 25)
- 20 ans / 20 francs rate: cardholders
- Children up to age 12: free admission when accompanied by an adult
- Music students: free admission, except Finals at CHF 5.- (purchase at the box office)

CALENDAR
2026 EDITION

THURSDAY 17.09 →
PRDSENTATION
PRIZEWINNERS' WORKSHOP
CONDUCTING COMPETITION

Haute école de musique de Genève
Bâtiment Dufour, Room GD-10, 11 pm

An opportunity to meet the six semi-finalists of the 2026 Conducting Competition. They will present their personal projects in public and before a special jury.

SATURDAY 03.10 – SUNDAY 04.10 →
DOCUMENTARY FILM WEEKEND
CONDUCTING COMPETITION

La Cité Bleue Genève
Sat. 5 pm & 7:30 pm / Sun. 3 pm & 5:30 pm

Ahead of its 80th edition, the Concours de Genève invites you to a weekend of documentary films devoted to conducting. Through four films, discover the many facets of this fascinating profession and immerse yourself in the world of the upcoming Competition.

FRIDAY 06.10 →
CONCERT WITH THE QUATUOR TERPSYCORDES & CÉDRIC PESCIA

Salle Franz Liszt, Conservatoire de Genève, 8 pm

In 2001, the **Quatuor Terpsycordes** won a brilliant First Prize in the Concours de Genève's newly created String Quartet Competition. 25 years later, they return for an anniversary concert - theirs and ours!

FRIDAY 06.10 →
OPENING CONCERT

Salle Franz Liszt, Conservatoire, 7:30 pm

This year, the Concours celebrates its 80th edition! To mark the occasion, an exceptional opening concert brings together two recent laureates already enjoying brilliant careers: pianist **Kevin Chen** (1st Prize 2022) and cellist **Michiaki Ueno** (1st Prize 2021).

SATURDAY 07.11 →
SEMI-FINAL
CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PART 1

Concorde Espace Culture
Sessions at 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm

The six semi-finalists return to the **Orchestre de Chambre de Genève** for a 45-minute public ehearsal. Candidates conduct excerpts from symphonies by Bizet, Farrenc and Mendelssohn, drawn by lot at the start of the round.

SUNDAY 08.11 →
SEMI-FINAL
CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PART 2

Concorde Espace Culture
Sessions at 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm

The six semi-finalists have 45 minutes of public rehearsal with **Ensemble Contrechamps** to work on excerpts from Ligeti's *Kammerkonzert*, as well as one contemporary work of their choice (Unsuk Chin's *Gougalon* or Rebecca Saunders' *Scar*).

CALENDAR
2026 EDITION

MONDAY 09.11 →
SEMI-FINAL
CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PART 3

Victoria Hall
Sessions at 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm

The six semi-finalists lead a 45-minute public rehearsal with the **Orchestre de la Suisse Romande**, working on excerpts from Debussy's *La Mer* and the first movement of either Schumann's Piano Concerto or Cello Concerto, drawn by lot at the start of the round.
Soloists: **Kevin Chen** (1st Prize Piano 2022), **Michiaki Ueno** (1st Prize Cello 2021).

MONDAY 09.11 →
MASTERCLASS
COMPOSITION

Haute école de musique de Genève, 3 pm

Public masterclass with Unsuk Chin, President of the Composition Jury, on the interpretation of her piano études.

WEDNESDAY 11.11 →
COMPOSITION FINAL
& FINAL ROUND
CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PART 1

Victoria Hall, 7 pm

The three conducting finalists lead the **Orchestre de la Suisse Romande** in Beethoven's Egmont *Overture* and one of the three finalist works from the Composition Competition, assigned by draw. **The Final is followed by the Composition Awards Ceremony.**

FRIDAY 13.11 →
FINAL ROUND
CONDUCTING COMPETITION
PART 2

Victoria Hall, 7 pm

Devoted to major symphonic repertoire, the second Final brings together the three finalists with the **Orchestre de la Suisse Romande** in works by Bartók, Mahler, Prokofiev, Strauss or Stravinsky. **The Final is followed by the Conducting Awards Ceremony.**

SATURDAY 14.11 →
PRIZEWINNERS' CONCERT

Temple de Jussy, 5:30 pm

Join our laureates **Brian Isaacs** (1st Prize ex aequo Viola 2025) and **Quatuor Elmire** (2nd Prize 2023) in the intimate setting of the Temple de Jussy. In partnership with Les Concerts de Jussy.

SUNDAY 15.11 →
PRIZEWINNERS' CONCERT

Théâtre Les Salons, 5 pm

To close the 2026 edition, our laureates **Brian Isaacs** and **Quatuor Elmire** come together once again, this time on the stage of Théâtre Les Salons. Concert presented by the INGE.

CONTACT

Michiaki Ueno, lauréat 2021 © Anne-Laure Lechat

CONCOURS DE GENÈVE
Bd de Saint-Georges 34
CP 268 – 1211 Genève 8
T +41 22 328 62 08
music@concoursgeneve.ch
www.concoursgeneve.ch

PRESS RELATIONS

PR - FRENCH-SPEAKING SWITZERLAND
Christine Anthonioz-Blanc
Lisa Elias (Head of Communications)
presse@concoursgeneve.ch

PR - UNITED KINGDOM
Premier PR
Victoria.Bevan@premiercomms.com
Yasmin.Hoy@premiercomms.com

PR - FRANCE
Lanzafame Presse
marielanzafamepresse@gmail.com

PR - GERMANY, AUSTRIA, GERMAN-SPEAKING SWITZERLAND
Schimmer PR
bettina.schimmer@schimmer-pr.de
friederike.eckhardt@schimmer-pr.de

FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION
Mme Sandy Kasper, coordinator
amis@concoursgeneve.ch
022 328 62 08

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
Noémie Calpini
mediation@concoursgeneve.ch

BOX OFFICE
Xavier Bauer
billetterie@concoursgeneve.ch
www.concoursgeneve.ch