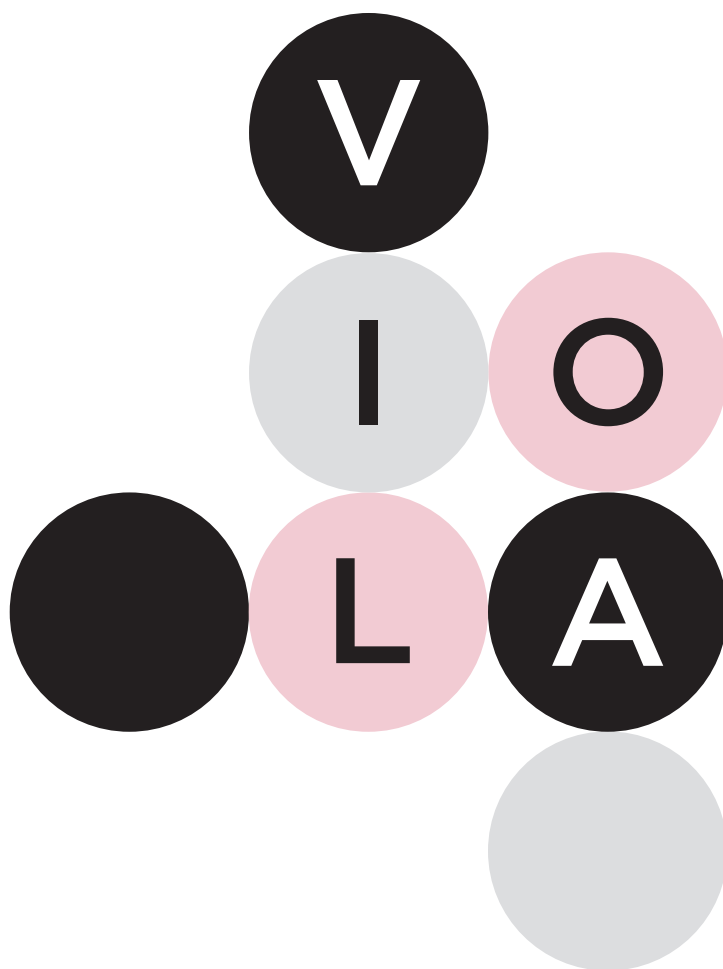

79^e CONCOURS DE GENÈVE

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

4 - 12 NOVEMBRE 2025

Viola rules



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Subject to change: Please note that this document is subject to modification. Any updates or changes will be communicated as necessary.

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.

COMPETITION FORMAT

ONLINE COMPETITION	Video Preselection Round
	Online Recital
COMPETITION IN GENEVA	Semi-Final Round in 3 parts Solo recital, Chamber music, Personal artistic project
	Final Round with orchestra Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

The 79th Concours de Genève is open to all violists born after 12 November 1995, regardless of gender or nationality.

Candidates who have already won a First Prize at one of the earlier Concours de Genève may not re-apply for the same discipline.

REGISTRATION

Application deadline: 10 April 2025

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

To finalize the application, candidates must upload the following documents to Muvac:

- A valid copy of ID or Passport
- A completed resume on Muvac (including studies, teachers, professional activities and awards)
- A short written biography in English or French (max. 500 characters spaces not included).
- 2 recent, high-quality colour photographs (min. 300dpi)
- 3 video recordings with the programme of the Video Preselection Round.
- A signed certificate attesting to the authenticity and integrity of the recordings. This certificate, which must be signed by a professor or technician involved in the recording, should specify the location and date of each recording (certificate available for download on Muvac).
- A detailed programme list of works performed during the Competition.
- A brief personal presentation (either a text of up to one page or a video not exceeding 3 minutes) in which candidates introduce themselves and share their motivation for participating in the 2025 Concours de Genève.

For any questions or issues regarding registration, please contact us at application@concoursgeneve.ch

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VIDEO PRESELECTION ROUND

- Candidates must submit recent (recorded within the last 12 months), high-quality video recordings with the required repertoire for the Video Preselection Round only.
- Recordings must remain anonymous—do not include your name, school logo, or any identifiable mark in the video or file title.
- 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 performer must always remain visible. For the piece with piano, both performers must be visible.
- Candidates must submit separate recordings for each piece.
- Each piece must be recorded in a single, continuous take.
- Public recordings are allowed as long as they meet the above requirements.
- It is highly recommended to prioritize sound quality, as this is crucial for the Jury's evaluation.

REGISTRATION FEE

AMOUNT OF THE FEE

The registration fee for the 2025 Concours de Genève is **CHF 250** (two hundred and fifty Swiss francs) payable in a single instalment.

PAYMENT METHOD

By debit or credit card directly on the registration platform.

The registration fee is non-refundable under any 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 performances in Geneva, live stream)
- Final Round with orchestra (live performance in Geneva, live stream)

Results are announced after each round. The Jury's decisions are final.

VIDEO PRESELECTION ROUND

The Preselection Round, based on video recordings, aims to select candidates who meet the standards required for participation in the public stages of the Competition. This preselection process will take place in Geneva, in a closed-door session, with a Preselection Jury consisting of five members, including at least two members of the Official Jury for the 2025 Viola Competition. The selection process will be conducted in a studio that ensures optimal listening conditions.

The names of the selected candidates will be announced on our website on 4 May 2025. Selected candidates will also be notified personally and provided with further information regarding the next stages of the Competition, including the technical specifications for recording their Online Recital.

ONLINE RECITAL

The first stage of the 2025 Viola Competition will be held online and will consist of a 30-45-minute pre-recorded recital to be broadcast from 8-14 September 2025.

The running order of the candidates will be determined by random draw and will remain the same for the Semi-Final Round of the Competition. This order may be adjusted after the draw if unforeseen circumstances require it.

Candidates will have until 4 July 2025 to submit their video for this first stage of the Competition. The recording will have to comply with a set of technical specifications, which will be provided to the selected candidates.

SEMI-FINAL & FINAL ROUNDS

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

WELCOME CEREMONY

Candidates advancing to the Semi-Final Round will be invited to a Welcome Ceremony in Geneva on 4 November 2025. Official registrations will take place during this event.

Attendance to this event is mandatory in order to participate in the following stages of the competition (exceptions may be granted in duly justified cases).

ACCOMMODATION, MEALS, TRAVEL EXPENSES & INSURANCE

ACCOMMODATION

Semi-Finalists will be provided with free accommodation with a host family during their stay in Geneva. Semi-Finalists who wish to stay with a family member or spouse must submit a special request to the Competition; however, this request cannot be guaranteed.

MEALS

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

TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Competition will cover travel expenses of all Semi-Finalists. The Competition will cover the cost of a round-trip economy class air ticket, a 2nd class train ticket or the equivalent of the latter for a car trip.

TRANSPORT

Semi-Finalists will have free access to public transportation in Geneva during their stay.

INSURANCE

The Competition is not liable for any costs related to candidates' illness or accidents 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

Prizes, awards and diplomas - signed by the President of the Jury, the President, and the Secretary General of the Concours de Genève - will be presented to the Laureates during the prize-giving ceremony, held immediately after the Final Round.

RECORDINGS

The Semi-Final and Final rounds will be filmed, recorded and broadcast live via radio and video streaming.

By participating, selected candidates waive all rights to audio and video recordings, as well as to any radio, television, or internet broadcasts of their performances—including the Online Recital and all public sessions of the Competition.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Concours de Genève offers an ambitious Career Development Programme, providing precious support and advice to boost laureates' careers.

MANAGEMENT & CONCERTS

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

WORKSHOPS

Each year, the Concours de Genève offers a Prizewinners' Workshop: over the course of a week, participants take part in a series of workshops on topics such as performance, health, career management, image and social media.

ARTISTIC PROJECT

Since 2022, Semi-Finalists 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

OFFICIAL JURY

Tabea Zimmermann, Chair
Tomoko Akasaka
Ettore Causa
Hsin-Yun Huang
Cynthia Phelps
Jean Sulem
German Tcakulov

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 candidates. At least two members of the Official Jury take part in the Preselection Jury.
- The Jury abstains from voting for candidates that 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/his 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 candidates 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

The programme submitted with the candidate's application must be as accurate as possible. Selected candidates may request to make minor changes until 4 July 2025.

No changes may be made to the programme after this date unless specifically requested by the Artistic Committee.

MUSICAL SCORES

Candidates who advance to the Semi-Finals must present themselves at the Welcome Ceremony with their own original musical scores. They must also provide a digital copy of each work in their programme. During the Competition, candidates are expected to use their own original musical scores of the works they perform. The Concours de Genève cannot be held responsible for any fraud that might be committed by a candidate in this field (such as the public use of illegal copies).

ACCOMPANISTS

The Competition provides candidates with official piano accompanists. Candidates may bring their own accompanists to Geneva at their own expense (including travel and accommodation).

CHAMBER MUSIC

During the Chamber Music Round, Semi-Finalists will perform with official guest musicians provided by the Competition. Performing with the official guest musicians is mandatory for both pieces of the Chamber Music Round.

V. CALENDAR

CALENDAR 2025

10 April

Application deadline

1–3 May

Video Preselection Round

4 May

Announcement of selected candidates

4 July

Deadline for submitting videos for the online recital

Deadline for submitting changes to your programme

8 – 14 September

Online Recital broadcast

16 September

Announcement of Semi-Finalists

6 September

Beginning of the online Artistic Project Workshop

4 November

Welcome Ceremony

Conservatoire, Geneva

6-9 November

Semi-Final Round: Solo recital, Chamber music, Artistic project

Conservatoire, Geneva

12 November

Final Round with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

Victoria Hall, Geneva

Subject to possible changes.

VI. COMPETITION PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Performing by heart is not mandatory.

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

RECOMMENDATION

Please build your program in a way to highlight:

- cantabile & phrasing,
- polyphonic voicing,
- rhythm & articulation,
- flexibility in thinking and technique,
- spectrum of expressions & skills,
- hearing & intonation,
- sound quality in different styles,
- imagination & respect for the text,
- listening & leading,
- stage qualities & spontaneity

A. VIDEO PRESELECTION ROUND (20-30 MINUTES)

1) One baroque piece from the following list:

- J. S. Bach: BWV 1001-1012 (2 contrasting movements from one of the Suites, Partitas or Sonatas)
- G. P. Telemann: 2-3 movements from one of the 12 Fantasies TWV 40:14-25
- H. I. F. Biber: Passacaglia in G minor

2) One virtuoso Etude from the following list:

- P. Rode: 24 Caprices: N° 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9
- N. Paganini: 24 Caprices: N° 9, 13, 14, 16 or 20
- F. Hermann: Concert Studies op.18: N° 1 to 6
- M. Vieux: 20 Etudes: N° 2, 3, 5, 10 or 16

3) One piece with piano at free choice

NB: Works chosen for the Video Preselection Round may be performed again during the competition. The piece at free choice is meant to highlight candidates' musical personality. Recording all movements of the piece at free choice is not mandatory.

Candidates 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 2025 Concours de Genève.

B. ONLINE RECITAL (MAX. 40 CANDIDATES / 30-45 MINUTES)

1) Compulsory piece:

J. N. Hummel: Sonata op. 5/3 (Mvt 1 OR Mvts 2 and 3) (10')

2) Contemporary piece(s):

Candidates must choose one or two pieces for solo viola from the list below, ensuring a minimum of 8 minutes of music in total. Combinations of two shorter pieces from different composer are allowed. Scores are available for consultation from the Competition office.

- A. Arad: Tikvah, for viola solo (approx. 13')
- L. Berio: Sequenza VI (12')
- E. Carter: Figment IV (5.30')
- D. Fujikura: Engraving (8')
- H. Holliger: Trema (13')
- M. Jarrell: Some leaves II... (9')
- G. Knox: Three Weddings and a Fight (8')
- G. Kurtág: any 2-3 pieces from 'signs, games and messages' (approx. 5')
- G. Ligeti: Solo Sonata (any 1-2 movements) (approx. 8')
- U. Mamlock: From my garden (approx. 8')
- T. Murail: C'est un Jardin secret (approx. 5')
- S. Sciarrino: Ai limiti della notte (5')

3) Romantic piece:

One of the following pieces:

- H. Sitt: Albumblätter op.39 (excerpts possible) (17')
- R. Fuchs: 6 Phantasiestücke op.117 (excerpts possible) (23')
- R. Schumann: Märchenbilder op.113 (15')
- R. Schumann: Fantasiestücke op.73 (arr.) (12')
- R. Schumann: Romances op.94 (arr.) (12')
- C. Schumann: Romances op.22 (arr.) (12')

NB: The recital duration must be between 30 and 45 minutes, including stage entrances/exits and any pauses.

C. SEMI-FINAL ROUND IN 3 PARTS

PART 1 - SOLO RECITAL (MAX. 60 MINUTES)

45% of the evaluation

50-60 minute recital at free choice

- Repertoire may include works for solo viola and/or for viola and piano.
- Works already performed in the Online Recital may not be repeated.

NB: Candidates are encouraged to choose a varied, cohesive programme that highlights their musical personality and interpretative skills. They will need to provide a programme note (due after the preselection stage).

PART 2 - CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL

35% of the evaluation

1) **W. A. Mozart:** Divertimento KV563 (movt 1-3) (26')

2) **L. Berio:** Naturale, for viola, percussion and electronic (19')

PART 3 - ARTISTIC PROJECT

20% of the evaluation

Presentation and defense of a personal artistic project

- 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 semi-finalist (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 semi-finalist 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 artist 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 semi-finalist and examine the stages of realization of the project, judging to what extent they are realistic.

D. FINAL ROUND WITH ORCHESTRA (3 CANDIDATES)

VICTORIA HALL, GENEVA

1) Compulsory concerto:

L. Albisetti: "Nouvel Élan"

1st Prize of the 2024 Composition Competition (12')

Recording available here: <https://youtu.be/1TcSHt13C1A?si=cqb-5Hx5o0spNSQdp>

Score will be sent to candidates selected for the Online Recital.

2) One concerto at choice from the following list:

- K. Penderecki: Viola concerto (21')
- S. Beamish: Viola concerto N°2 "The Seafarer" (30')
- B. Bartók: Viola concerto (Bartok/Dellamaggiore) (23')
- P. Hindemith: Viola concerto "Der Schwanendreher" (26')

With the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

NB: The Final Round will be structured as a concert in two parts. In the first part, all three finalists will perform the compulsory concerto. After an intermission, each finalist will perform their chosen concerto.