

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

HARPSICHORD COMPETITION

Vienna, 24–27 September 2025

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1. General Information

The harpsichord competition takes place as part of the Cultural Festival **SICHTweisen 2025** in Vienna. The aim is to support musicians dedicated to **historically informed performance practice**.

The competition is divided into four phases:

- **Pre-selection** based on submitted materials and video recordings
- **1st round** (non-public): Harpsichord solo
- **2nd round** (public final): Concerto for harpsichord and string ensemble with award ceremony
- **Final concert** of the prizewinners

By being integrated into the festival program, the artistic visibility of the participants and prizewinners is significantly enhanced.

Note: The English translation of these Terms and Conditions is provided for convenience only. The German version shall prevail and is legally binding.

2. Eligibility

Musicians of **all nationalities** are eligible to participate. There is **no age limit**.

The following are excluded from participation:

- Individuals with a **regular teaching position** in harpsichord or related keyboard instruments at universities
- **Ensembles**; participation is reserved exclusively **for individuals**

3. Accommodation and Meals

Participants are **responsible for their own accommodation and meals during the competition period.**

The **organizer does not provide lodging or catering.**

4. Application

Application deadline: August 14, 2025, 11:59 p.m. (CEST)

Required documents:

- **Curriculum vitae (CV)** including details of artistic education and previous career
- **Copy of a valid passport or national ID card**
- **Proof of payment of the application fee**
- **Two unedited video recordings** (smartphone recordings are permitted if the sound quality is adequate); see also Section 6 “Repertoire”:
 - **Compulsory piece:** A three-part invention (Sinfonia) by J. S. Bach (BWV 787–801).
 - **Free-choice piece:** A lesser-known harpsichord work from around 1600–1770, preferably one that is rarely performed or not included in standard published repertoire. Proof of origin must be provided (e.g. archive reference, library link, or digital scan). Maximum performance duration: 15 minutes. The exact performance duration must be stated. For suites or variation works, individual movements or sections may be chosen.
- **Planned programme** (see also Point 6 “Repertoire” and Point 7 “Instruments”) for:

1st Round – Harpsichord solo

2nd Round – Concerto for harpsichord and string ensemble

For each work or selected movement, the following information is required:

- Composer
- Work and selected movements
- Source (edition, manuscript, etc.)
- Performance duration per work or movement

Important:

The performance material for the string ensemble (2nd Round / public final) **does not need to be submitted** at the time of application.

The material must be submitted **only after the pre-selection** and **exclusively upon explicit request by the organizer to all participants of the first round.**

- **Optional (recommended): Recent portrait photo** for publications

Technical requirements for the videos:

- Formats 3gpp, mp4, mpeg, quicktime, webm, x-ms-wmv
- Maximum file size per video: 1 GB

The required files must be uploaded via the online application form.

The current link to the application form is available on the competition website:

<https://festival-sichtweisen.com/en/wettbewerb-sichtweisen-2025-en#anmeldung>

Application Fee: EUR 50.00

- The application fee must be paid **even if the applicant is not admitted to the 1st round.**
- A **proof of payment** (e.g. bank statement) must be uploaded and **explicitly confirmed** via the online application form as part of the registration.
- A **refund in the event of withdrawal** is excluded.

The number of participants may be **limited**.

There is **no entitlement to participate**.

By submitting the application, **all terms and conditions are fully accepted.**

5. Competition Procedure

Pre-selection

Period: August 15–31, 2025

The selection is made by the jury based on the submitted documents and video recordings.

1st Round (non-public)

Date: September 24 / 25, 2025

Format: Harpsichord solo (between 25 and 30 minutes – must be strictly observed)

2nd Round (public final)

Date: September 26, 2025

Format: Concerto for harpsichord and string ensemble

- The performance should last between 12 and 20 minutes; individual movements may be selected
- The performance must be strictly observed
- A string ensemble with baroque instruments (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Violone / Double Bass) will be provided by the organizer.
- Rehearsals with the ensemble will take place in the morning or afternoon
- The public performance will take place on the same evening

Final Concert (public)

Date: September 27, 2025

Performers: Awarded participants

Attendance is mandatory for:

- The 1st round
- the final round (if selected)
- the final concert (if awarded)

The venue and time of each competition round will be announced in due time.

The order of performances will be communicated in advance.

Suitable harpsichords for the 1st and 2nd rounds will be provided.

Personal registration by participants on the first day of the competition is mandatory.

6. Repertoire

Pre-selection (video submission):

Compulsory piece:

- A three-part invention (Sinfonia) by J. S. Bach (BWV 787–801)
- Exact performance duration must be indicated

Free-choice piece:

- Time period: approx. **1600–1770**
- The work must be **rarely performed** or **not part of the standard published repertoire**
- **Proof of origin** is required (e.g. library link, digital scan, archive reference)
- Maximum performance duration: **15 minutes**
- **Exact performance duration** must be stated
- In the case of **suites or variation works**, **individual movements or sections** may be selected

General Notes:

- The **jury** reserves the right to review the **submitted program** for **suitability** and **originality** and to **propose changes**.
- The **performance material for the string ensemble for the second round (public final)** must be submitted **digitally via email** by all participants of the first round no later than **one week before the start of the first round**, to ensure thorough preparation of the ensemble.
- A **separate notification will be sent to all participants of the first round** after the pre-selection has been completed.

1st Round – Harpsichord Solo

Repertoire: Free-choice programme

Performance duration: 25–30 minutes (must be strictly observed)

- The jury may interrupt the performance after 30 minutes **without disadvantage to the participant**

Available instruments (subject to change):

- A **two-manual Franco-Flemish harpsichord** (8' 8' 4' , GG–f³), well-tempered tuning
- A **single-manual Italian harpsichord** (8' 8' , short octave CDEFGA–c³), 1/5 comma meantone

General Notes:

- **Memorization is not required..**
- The **jury** reserves the right to review the **submitted program** for **suitability** and **originality** and to **propose changes**.

2nd Round (Final) – Concerto for Harpsichord and String Ensemble

- **Repertoire:**
 - Time period: **before 1770**
 - The work must be **rarely performed** or **not part of the standard published repertoire**
 - **Proof of origin** is mandatory (e.g., library link, digital scan, archive reference)
 - **Performance duration:** 12–20 minutes (must be strictly observed)
 - Individual movements may be selected
- **Rehearsals and performance:**
 - The concerto will be rehearsed together with a string ensemble (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Violone / Double Bass) in the morning or afternoon
 - The public performance will take place **the same evening**
- **Rehearsal time per finalist:**
 - **50 minutes of rehearsal** with the ensemble
- **Score and parts:**
 - The **printed score** must be submitted by the finalists **on the day of the final** in **clearly legible** and **performance-ready** form.

General Notes:

- The **performance material for the string ensemble for the second round (public final)** must be submitted **digitally via email** by all participants of the first round no later than **one week before the start of the first round, to ensure thorough preparation of the ensemble.**
- A **separate notification will be sent to all participants of the first round** after the pre-selection has been completed.
- **Memorization is not required.**
- Changes to the repertoire after the application deadline are only permitted in **exceptional, justified cases** and with the jury's approval.

7. Instruments

For the first round (non-public - harpsichord solo) and the second round (public final – concerto for harpsichord and string ensemble), suitable harpsichords will be provided (subject to change):

- **Two-manual Franco-Flemish harpsichord**

Disposition: 8' 8' 4' , Range: GG–f³

Tuning: **well-tempered**

- **Single-manual Italian harpsichord**

Disposition: 8' 8' , Short octave: CDEFGA–c³

Tuning: **1/5 comma meantone**

An additional instrument will be available for rehearsal purposes.

8. Jury

The jury consists of **national and international experts** in the fields of **music performance, musicology, and music education**. The panel is composed in a **diverse and interdisciplinary manner**.

Decision-making authority:

- The decisions of the jury are **final, not subject to appeal**, and are based on **artistic and professional criteria**.
- The jury reserves the right to:
 - award multiple prizes to a single participant,
 - withhold prizes, or
 - split prizes.

9. Prizes

A total of EUR 3,500.00 in prize money will be awarded as part of the competition.

From this amount, prizes may be awarded in various categories in recognition of **out-standing artistic achievements**. Prizes may – depending on the artistic level – also be awarded **cumulatively to a single participant**.

Categories and Prize Amounts:

1. Interpretation

Prize: EUR 1,000.00

Awarded for a performance that demonstrates musical expressiveness, stylistic nuance, and a historically informed approach to the work.

2. Best Orchestral Collaboration

Prize: EUR 1,000.00

Honouring the artistic achievement in conjunction with the string ensemble. The evaluation focuses on historically informed performance, stylistic coherence, and a balanced musical interaction.

3. Innovation and Research

Prize: EUR 750.00

This prize is awarded for contributions that open up new perspectives in the field of early music through source-based research, creative concepts, or innovative approaches to interpretation. The preparation of original editions will be positively considered in this category.

4. Audience Award

Prize: EUR 750.00

This special prize is awarded by the concert audience independently of the jury. It recognises the performance that makes the strongest and most lasting impression.

Additional non-cash or special prizes from external partners may be awarded and will be announced during the second round, if applicable.

The **award ceremony** will take place following the public final round on **26 September 2025**.

10. Feedback and Certificates

Individual Feedback

Upon request, participants who do not advance beyond the 1st round may receive **personal feedback** from the jury at the end of the round.

Certificate of Participation

A **certificate of participation** can be issued upon request.

Letter of Recommendation

For particularly compelling artistic achievements, a **letter of recommendation** may be issued by a jury member upon the jury's recommendation.

11. Use of Audio, Photo, and Video Recordings

By submitting their application, participants agree that **audio, photo, and video recordings** made during the competition may be used by the organizer for **documentation and public relations purposes**. This includes in particular:

- Festival website
- Social media
- Print and press publications

Use is **unlimited in terms of time and territory**. No **compensation** will be provided.

There is no **entitlement to review or obtain** the recordings made.

12. Data Protection

As part of the application and management of the competition, the following **personal data** will be collected:

- Name, address, date of birth
- Email address, telephone number
- Information on musical education
- Audio/video recordings
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Copy of a photo ID
- Payment confirmation
- Portrait photo (optional)

Purposes of use:

- Organization and management of the competition
- Communication with participants
- Publication for public relations purposes (only for finalists and prizewinners)

Privacy policy:

The personal data submitted during application will be processed exclusively by the organizer based in Austria, acting as the controller, for the sole purpose of organizing and managing the competition. No data will be passed on to third parties, except for its transfer to the data processor **Muv.ac GmbH, Alt-Moabit 19, 10559 Berlin**, who supports the organizational and technical processing of the competition on our behalf (including application, communication, file uploads, and jury management) within the framework of a **data processing agreement pursuant to Art. 28 GDPR**. The data will not be used for advertising purposes or shared with any other third parties.

Data processing is carried out by the organizer based in Austria in accordance with **Art. 6 para. 1 lit. b GDPR**.

The data will be stored for the duration of the competition's organization and management and will then – **subject to statutory retention obligations** – be deleted.

Data subjects have the right of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing, and data portability pursuant to **Art. 15 to 20 GDPR**. They also have the right to lodge a complaint with the **Austrian Data Protection Authority**.

Responsible for data processing:

Verein KulturPerspektiven
Embelgasse 49/7
1050 Vienna
AUSTRIA
Email: datenschutz@kulturperspektiven.org

Further information and updates can be found at:
<https://festival-sichtweisen.com/datenschutzerklaerung/>

13. Liability

The organizer assumes **no liability** for instruments or personal belongings brought by participants. Participants are responsible for the security of their own property.

No liability is assumed for other damages unless **caused by intent or gross negligence** on the part of the organizer.

In the event of **cancellation of the competition**, there shall be **no entitlement** to compensation or reimbursement of costs.

Force majeure events (e.g., **natural disasters, pandemics, official orders, or similarly unforeseeable events**) that lead to changes to or cancellation of the competition **do not constitute grounds for compensation or reimbursement of costs**.

Participants are strongly advised to take out travel cancellation insurance to cover potential personal absences or inability to attend.

Participants are responsible for their **own insurance coverage**. This applies in particular to:

- Health insurance
- Accident insurance
- Liability insurance

This applies to the entire period of travel to and from the competition, as well as the duration of the stay.

If a cloakroom is provided, the organizer is only liable for **properly deposited items** and only within the scope of the statutory provisions.

The organizer accepts **no liability** for damages caused by **third parties** (e.g., other participants, audience members, visitors, or external service providers).

During the competition, the house rules and the organizer's instructions must be followed. Any violation may result in exclusion from the competition.

14. Legal Notice and Organizer Information

Note: The English translation of these Terms and Conditions is provided for convenience only. The German version shall prevail and is legally binding.

Verein KulturPerspektiven

Music Competition as part of the Cultural Festival SICHTweisen 2025
Embelgasse 49/7
1050 Vienna
AUSTRIA

Email (general inquiries): info@kulturperspektiven.org

Organizer's website: www.kulturperspektiven.org

Festival website – SICHTweisen 2025: www.festival-sichtweisen.com

Competition page: www.festival-sichtweisen.com/en/wettbewerb-sichtweisen-2025-en

For questions regarding the competition and participation, feel free to contact us at wettbewerb@kulturperspektiven.org.