

La Maestra International Competition for Women Conductors

GENERAL REGULATIONS

La Maestra International Competition for Women Conductors (hereafter referred to as “the Competition”) was established and is managed by the non-profit Organisation PARIS MOZART ORCHESTRA and the EPIC (Etablissement Public à caractère Industriel et Commercial) LA CITE DE LA MUSIQUE-PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS (hereafter referred to as “the Organisers”). The Competition is co-directed by Claire Gibault, Music Director of Paris Mozart Orchestra, and Olivier Mantei, General Director of Cité de la musique-Philharmonie de Paris. Its aim is to encourage the discovery and recognition of talented women conductors.

Registration for the Competition implies full acceptance of the following regulations.

PLACE & DATES OF THE COMPETITION

The fourth edition of the Competition will be held at Cité de la musique-Philharmonie de Paris from Monday 23 February 2026 to Saturday 28 February 2026.

CANDIDATES

The Competition is open to women conductors of all nationalities. There is no age limit. The winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes at the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Competitions in 2020, 2022 and 2024 are not eligible to compete in the 4th edition of the Competition.

REGISTRATION FEE

Candidates must pay a non-refundable registration fee of €150 (one hundred and fifty euros) net. This amount is due upon registration and must be paid online. This non-refundable fee becomes the property of the Organisers, even when the candidate is not selected to participate in the Competition. In exceptional circumstances the Organisers may at their discretion agree to accept a lower registration fee on social grounds.

REGISTRATION DOCUMENTS

Registration for the Competition is to be made exclusively online via the La Maestra website.

The following documents are required:

- The online registration form duly completed by the candidate, specifying the works chosen for the 1st round
- Copy of a valid official identity document (format .jpg or .pdf)
- CV and biography specifying career path, awards obtained and recent engagements (format .docx or .pdf)
- 2 recent photographs (format .jpg or .png)
- 1 cover letter (format .pdf)
- 2 letters of recommendation written by a teacher or personality from the musical world (format .jpg or .pdf)
- 2 video recordings showing the candidate (front) conducting an orchestra, each video lasting a maximum of 10 minutes. These videos must specify the repertoire, performers, date and place of recording
- A copy of these regulations signed and dated by the candidate with the declaration "read and approved" (format .pdf or .jpg)

Documents other than official documents must be provided in one of the two official languages of the Competition (French or English).

Only completed applications meeting all of the above criteria will be considered. Registration will only be considered finalised upon payment of the registration fee.

SELECTION OF THE SIXTEEN NOMINEES

Once completed, all applications are submitted to a Selection Committee composed of musical personalities jointly selected by the Organisers. On the basis of the applications submitted, the Committee will nominate 16 candidates to participate in the Competition (hereafter referred to as “the nominees”).

VISA

Every nominee is responsible for ensuring that the legal requirements for entry into France are respected, including any visa formalities required to participate in the Competition events. The Organisers may, at a nominated candidate's request, issue an official letter of invitation.

TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES

The Organisers will reimburse to each nominee a portion of her travel expenses, to a maximum of €300 (three hundred euros) for those residing in Europe and €700 (seven hundred euros) for those residing outside Europe. This refund will be made at the conclusion of the Competition upon presentation of supporting documents. Whenever possible, the nominees commit to favouring rail transportation for their journeys to and from Paris.

Accommodation for the nominees during the Competition events taking place in Paris from 23 to 28 February 2026 will be arranged and paid for by the Organisers, ensuring the necessary reservation of hotel nights for one person. Each nominee will be responsible for any additional expenses incurred.

SCHEDULE

- Online registration opens: 8 March 2025
 - Closing date for registration: 8 July 2025 at midnight (French time CEST)
 - Selection of nominees: Summer 2025
 - Announcement of the 16 nominees: September 2025
 - Competition event: from 23 to 28 February 2026 at Philharmonie de Paris
- 23 & 24 February 2026: Quarter-final (open to all 16 nominees)
Rehearsal and performance with the Paris Mozart Orchestra
Duration: 20 minutes per nominee
Location: Studio - Philharmonie de Paris
At the end of this round the Jury will select 8 semi-finalists
 - 26 February 2026: Semi-final (open to the 8 semi-finalists)
Rehearsal and performance with soloists and the Paris Mozart Orchestra
Duration: 40 minutes per semi-finalist
Location: Studio - Philharmonie de Paris
At the end of this round the Jury will select 4 finalists
 - 27 February 2026: Final (open to the 4 finalists)
Rehearsal with Orchestre de Paris : 45 minutes per finalist
Rehearsal with the Paris Mozart Orchestra : 45 minutes per finalist
Location : Grande Salle Pierre Boulez, Philharmonie de Paris
 - 28 February 2026: Final (open to the 4 finalists)
Concert (part 1) with the Paris Mozart Orchestra : 20 minutes per finalist
Concert (part 2) with Orchestre de Paris : 20 minutes per finalist
Location: Grande Salle Pierre Boulez, Philharmonie de Paris
At the end of this event the Jury and the various committees will award their prizes

COMPETITION PROCEDURES

The order of appearance of the nominees in each round will be decided by the drawing of lots. All Competition events are open to the public and each nominee will perform free of charge. Under no circumstances does participation in the Competition entitle nominees to any form of artistic remuneration. Late arrival at any event will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be considered grounds for elimination from the Competition.

REPERTOIRE AND ORCHESTRA

The Competition repertoire is mandatory.

The orchestras for the Competition are the Paris Mozart Orchestra (quarter-final, semi-final and final) and Orchestre de Paris (final).

First Round (Quarter-final)

Rehearsal and performance of a chosen orchestral work or excerpt (20')

On application, each candidate must choose and specify 2 pieces from the 4 set works listed below.

The Selection Committee will decide which of their two chosen pieces each of the 16 nominees will be required to perform in the quarter-final of the Competition. Nominees will be informed of the Committee's decision when the nominations are announced.

W. A. MOZART Symphony No. 41 in C major “Jupiter” - 1st mvt (*Bärenreiter*)
 or AUGUSTA HOLMES Pologne (*Editions Henry Lemoine*)
 or GABRIEL FAURE Masques et Bergamasques, orchestra suite, opus 112 - Overture & Gavotte
 (*Bärenreiter*)
 or MAURICE RAVEL Le Tombeau de Couperin - Forlane & Rigaudon (*Editions Durand*)

Second Round (Semi-final)

Rehearsal and performance of a movement or section from a concerto and an accompanied vocal work (40')

All nominees will prepare the concerto movements and vocal works listed below. The concerto movement and vocal work to be performed by each of the 8 selected nominees will be decided by the drawing of lots at the end of the quarter-final.

GIOACHINO ROSSINI Il Barbiere di Siviglia - Rosina Aria « Una voce poco fa » (*Editions Durand*)
 or W. A. MOZART Le Nozze di Figaro - Count Almaviva Recit & Aria « Hai già vinta la causa »
 (*Bärenreiter*)

ODETTE GARTENLAUB Flute Concerto - 1st mvt (*Editions Billaudot*)
 or SOFIA GOUBAÏDOULINA Fachwerk for bayan, percussion and strings – from bar 146 to bar 439 (*Sikorski*)

Third Round (Final)

1 - *General Rehearsal* : 1 session of 45' with Orchestre de Paris and 1 session of 45' with the Paris Mozart Orchestra
 2 - *Performance* : 1 concert part of 20' with the Paris Mozart Orchestra and 1 concert part of 20' with Orchestre de Paris

All nominees will prepare the 6 works or movements listed below. The 4 finalists will conduct the 2 mandatory pieces and 2 additional works decided by the drawing of lots at the end of the semi-final.

1st part with the Paris Mozart Orchestra :

Mandatory work:
 DIANA SOH New work 5' (commissioned by La Maestra 2026, world premiere)

Works drawn by lot:
 JOHANNES BRAHMS Symphony No. 2 - 1st mvt (*Breitkopf*)
 or L. v. BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7 - 1st mvt (*Bärenreiter*)

2nd part with Orchestre de Paris :

Mandatory work:
 IGOR STRAVINSKY Petrushka (1947, original revised version) - 1st tableau (*Boosey & Hawkes*)

Works drawn by lot:
 MAURICE RAVEL La Valse (*Editions Durand*)
 or XXXXX orchestral work to be confirmed

SCORES

Nominees will need to bring their own scores in the editions specified in the Competition rules. The score of Diana SOH's composition will be sent to all nominees by the end of November 2025.

JURY & JURY PRIZES

The Jury is composed of 7 members:

- A female president - general manager or music director of an internationally-recognised musical institution
- 6 members (3 women, 3 men) - distinguished conductors, soloists or classical music personalities appointed by mutual agreement between the Organizers

The Jury's deliberations take place *in camera* at the end of each round. The Jury's decisions will be determined by majority vote.

The decisions of the Jury are final and cannot be contested, nor do they have to be justified.

The Jury will award three Prizes:

- The 1st Prize of the Jury: € 20,000
- The 2nd Prize of the Jury: € 10,000
- The 3rd Prize of the Jury: € 5,000

Further regulations specific to the Jury will complement these general regulations.

COMMITTEES & OTHER PRIZES

Alongside the Jury, several committees will form and will award Prizes.

The French concert-halls and orchestras committee is formed from representatives of French concert-halls and orchestras.

The ECHO committee is formed from representatives of the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO).

The ARTE committee is formed from representatives of the Franco-German TV channel ARTE.

The committee of the Paris Mozart Orchestra is formed from members of the orchestra. They vote on all 16 nominees of the Competition.

The committee of Orchestre de Paris is formed from members of the orchestra. They vote on the 4 finalists of the Competition.

Further committees may form and award Prizes.

LA MAESTRA ACADEMY

The La Maestra Academy for Women Conductors will run for a period of two years from February 2026. Like the Competition, it is co-directed by the Cité de la musique-Philharmonie de Paris and the Paris Mozart Orchestra.

Finalists of the 2026 La Maestra Competition take precedence in participating in the 2026 La Maestra Academy. The Cité de la musique-Philharmonie de Paris and Paris Mozart Orchestra reserve the right to include other women conductors in the Academy at their discretion and by mutual agreement.

The aim of the Academy is to provide professional support both on a national level (in partnership with other regional venues and orchestras) and also internationally, working in particular with the European Concert Hall Organisation (ECHO) network.

Taking advantage of its many resources, resident artists and regular guests, the Cité de la musique-Philharmonie de Paris has established a series of artistic, pedagogical and social programmes and activities to support the Academy participants, with concerts, assistantships, masterclasses, advice, workshops, communication and more.

The Paris Mozart Orchestra also supports Academy participants within the Academy structure through concerts, mentoring, masterclasses, workshops and coaching with its Musical Director.

AWARDS CEREMONY

All nominees commit to being present at the Awards Ceremony to be held at the Philharmonie de Paris on Sunday 28 February 2026 at 22:00.

RECORDING OF COMPETITION ROUNDS

By agreeing to participate in the Competition, each candidate hereby authorises the Organisers to undertake or to have undertaken the sound and/or audiovisual recording of the various artistic performances that she will give as conductor with the Paris Mozart Orchestra and Orchestre de Paris during the Competition rounds, and therefore to fix, reproduce, represent and adapt by any means and process, on or via any medium (materialised or dematerialised) known or unknown to date, the said performances for any commercial, promotional and advertising exploitation of the Competition.

The Candidate's transferred rights specifically concern:

- the exclusive right to fix, record or have recorded her interpretation on any medium (mechanical, digital, magnetic, acoustic, analogue, opto-numeric or other) known or unknown to date, in any format and by any technical means (chemical, analogue, digital, opto-numeric or other), known or unknown to date, alone or in combination with other interpretations in all definitions and formats, using all framing ratios, colour or black and white, two- or three-dimensional images, original and dubbing sounds, titles or subtitles, still photographs and moving sequences.
- the exclusive right to reproduce or have reproduced, in whole or in part, her interpretation, whether or not it be associated with other sound, musical and/or visual recordings (animated or not), by any means (mechanical, magnetic, acoustic, digital, opto-numeric) or other known or unknown to date, in any form whatsoever, on any

medium allowing the reproduction of sound and/or image (analogue, digital and or any other materialised or dematerialised technical reproduction).

- the exclusive right to represent or have represented, in whole or in part, her interpretation, whether or not it be associated with other sound, musical, and/or visual recordings (animated or not), by any means (mechanical, magnetic, acoustic, digital or other known or unknown to date), in any form whatsoever, on any medium (analogue, digital and/or any other materialised or dematerialised reproduction technique) allowing the dissemination of sound and/or image associated with sound and by any network.

The audiovisual works thus produced may be exploited by the Organizers on a non-commercial and/or commercial basis, without financial compensation, with a view to:

- The promotion of the Competition and more generally the promotion of all the activities of the Paris Mozart Orchestra and Cité de la musique-Philharmonie de Paris.

- Distribution on the internal media platforms of the Paris Mozart Orchestra and Cité de la musique-Philharmonie de Paris, including archives and all presentations made as part of the media libraries of these institutions

- Presentations made as part of any cultural event, trade show, market, festival and exhibition.

- Retransmissions by any mode of broadcasting, in particular by television, radio, Internet, in newspapers, magazines and general news sites as well as in cultural programmes.

- Television exploitation (terrestrial, online networks such as the Internet, on-demand programming, cable television, satellite) or streaming for an unlimited number of broadcasts worldwide, without restriction or reservation.

- Exploitation by video-transmission, in the form of commercial videograms or in the form of video-on-demand with final download.

- Exploitation by means of an audiovisual documentary destined for cinema release as well as for any other mode of broadcasting (television, online networks such as the Internet, on-demand programming, cable television, satellite, videograms) worldwide, without restriction or reservation.

These authorisations are granted free of charge worldwide and for the entire legal term of protection of the rights from the date of the first day of registration.

PROMOTION / COMMUNICATION

Each nominee authorises the Competition Organisers to use her image free of charge for the promotion of the Competition via the following media: videos, photos, posters, press, websites of the Competition Organisers and its partners, newsletters, blogs, social network etc. This authorisation is granted free of charge worldwide and for an unlimited duration. Each nominee undertakes to lend her support free of charge to any promotional operation of the Competition, interview, filmed or recorded press conference, radio broadcast, photo call etc as required by the Competition Organisers.

INSURANCE / LIABILITY

Candidates must agree to take out all necessary insurance to cover any prejudice, of any nature whatsoever, that they may cause to others during their participation in the Competition events. They guarantee the Competition Organisers against any complaint or claim due to harm they may cause to others on this occasion. The Competition Organisers have taken out a civil liability insurance policy covering damage caused to candidates by its employees or service providers in connection with the Competition events.

REGULATION CHANGES

The Competition Organisers reserve the right to modify these regulations. Should this occur, candidates will be informed of any changes in writing.

CANCELLATION / FORCE MAJEURE

In the event of cancellation of the Competition due to force majeure (war, civil and political unrest, epidemics, floods, public bereavement etc), no registration fee or expenses incurred by candidates may be refunded and no recourse may be taken against the Competition Organisers or their partners.

PERSONAL DATA

These Regulations take into account the new rules on the protection of personal data imposed by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of 25 May 2018.

Only the information necessary for the proper conduct of the Competition is collected, namely: surname, first name, postal address (street number, postal code, city, country), telephone number, date of birth and e-mail address. Candidates agree to the collection of this personal data upon registration for the Competition.

The PARIS MOZART ORCHESTRA is responsible for collecting this data, required for the following purposes: registration and participation in the Competition, allocation of prizes, and all communication of information to candidates relating to the ongoing production of the Competition.

By entering the Competition, candidates accept these regulations and the collection of the data required for registration. Candidates are informed that all the information requested as part of the registration process is

mandatory and indicated as such. Failure to provide this mandatory data will result in elimination of the candidate from participation in the Competition.

All personal data collected will remain confidential and will not be used for commercial purposes; the PARIS MOZART ORCHESTRA will not communicate this data to third parties. Data is kept only for the duration of the Competition and no later than three months following the prize-giving ceremony. The PARIS MOZART ORCHESTRA undertakes to guarantee the security and confidentiality of the data collected during the registration of candidates for the Competition in order to avoid their loss, alteration, deterioration or misuse.

Pursuant to Act No. 78-17 of 6 January 1978, amended by Act No. 2018-493 of 20 June 2018 following the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of 25 May 2018 taking effect, candidates are reminded that they have a free and permanent right of access to modify, rectify, delete, oppose portability and limit processing in respect to their personal data.

This right may be exercised at any time by candidates relative to information concerning them by sending a letter, accompanied by a photocopy of proof of identity, to the following e-mail address:
contact@lamaestra-competition.com

LEGISLATION / ELECTION OF DOMICILE

These regulations are subject to French law. Any dispute that may arise in connection with the interpretation or execution of these rules or the conduct of the tests will be submitted to the competent Tribunal in Paris, after all avenues of conciliation have been exhausted.

Date:

Signature of the candidate preceded by the handwritten declaration "Read and approved":