Concours musical international de Montréal

RULES

INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

25th edition

Concours musical international de Montréal

Piano 2027

APRIL 24 – MAY 5

concoursmontreal.ca

Concours musical international de Montréal

CONCOURS 2027

RULES
INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The Concours musical international de Montréal – Piano 2027
will take place from April 24 to May 5, 2027.

1. ELIGIBILITY

The Concours musical international de Montréal – Piano 2027 is an elite-level international competition open to classical pianists of all nationalities, ready to launch a professional performance career.

Competitors must be at least 18 years old and no older than 30 years old at the start of the Concours 2027. Pianists' date of birth must fall no earlier than April 25, 1996, and no later than April 24, 2009.

All selected competitors are required to be free of all professional engagements and available to be present in Montréal between April 23 and May 5, 2027, inclusive.

Finalists from previous piano editions are not eligible to compete in Concours 2027.

Students of the Jury President of the current edition of the Concours are not eligible to compete.

2. IMPORTANT DATES

2026

- September 3: Applications open
- October 31: Applications close at 23:59 Montréal time (EDT)
- December 18: All applicants are informed of their status
- December 22: Deadline for invited competitors to confirm their participation

2027

- January 18: Confirmation of final programs for all rounds

- February 4: Announcement of the Concours 2027 competitors
- April 22: Arrival of all competitors in Montréal
- April 23: Welcome event and Concours media launch
- April 24-26: First Round
- April 28-29: Semifinal
- April 30: Chamber Music
- May 4: Final with orchestra – First evening
- May 5: Final with orchestra – Second evening and Closing Award Ceremony

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted online via the site Muvac.com by 23:59 Montréal time (EDT) on October 31, 2026.

An application comprises the following:

- A completed online application form
- A non-refundable application fee of $200 Canadian Dollars
- Two high-resolution colour photos, including one headshot, suitable for promotional use
- Contact information (name, title, email address, and phone number) for two musical references willing to provide *upon request by the Concours only* a recommendation in support of the applicant
- A list of proposed repertoire for all rounds of the competition* (except the required Canadian work for the Semifinal)
- Four audition videos (one video per work):
    1. A prelude and fugue by J.S. Bach
    2. A complete sonata by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, or Schubert
    3. A virtuoso étude
    4. A work of the candidates' choice in a contrasting musical style

*Invited competitors must confirm their final program no later than January 18, 2027, including the definitive order of performance for each round and the respective timing of each work.

Important notes on audition videos:

Videos must be of high-quality video and audio and shot from one angle with a single fixed camera (no zooming, tilting, or panning).

Each work must be submitted as a separate video (one video per work). Videos must not be edited or modified in any way to enhance the musical performance. Any candidate who submits

such a video will be automatically disqualified from consideration. There is no official maximum timing for the four videos.

Recordings must be performed and recorded in a single continuous take. This includes video no. 2, a complete sonata by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, or Schubert. For video no. 4, a single movement of a work is permitted. There is no official time restriction.

Videos may have been recorded at different locations and times, but all must have been recorded after July 1, 2025.

Live videos that have been recorded from multiple angles at other competitions, who are **members of the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC)**, may be accepted, at the discretion of the Concours. Please write to candidates@concoursmontreal.ca to verify such a video before submitting.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
For any questions regarding submitting an application, please contact:
candidates@concoursmontreal.ca

4. SELECTION PROCESS

4.1 Review

The Concours administration will review all applications to ensure they are eligible, complete, and meet the required technical standards. The Concours reserves the right to disqualify any candidates who have failed to fulfill all the application requirements.

4.2 Preselection

A preliminary jury is appointed by the Concours management to review the audition videos and evaluate the pianists' performances.

The names of the preliminary jury members are confidential during the preselection stage and will be revealed at a later date.

Each candidate's application will be reviewed by a minimum of three and a maximum of six members of the preliminary jury.

The members of the preliminary jury do not have access to information such as the applicant's name, age, nationality, biography, or professors.

The pianists who receive the highest rankings will advance to a second preselection round. Following this round, the competitors are selected.

4.3 Invitation

All applicants will be notified of the results of the preliminary selection by December 18, 2026. Invited competitors are required to confirm their participation by December 22, 2026.

From this preselection process, 24 pianists will be invited to compete in Montréal. One laureate of the 2026 OSM competition will be invited as a 25th competitor for the Concours 2027.

5. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CONCOURS

By completing the online application form of the Concours musical international de Montréal 2027, candidates agree to comply with the Concours' *Rules, Information and Conditions of Participation*, and with the jury's decisions.

Failure to comply with the rules and conditions as stated in the present document may result in a candidate's disqualification, without right of appeal.

6. INTERNATIONAL JURY

The International Jury consists of a minimum of seven internationally recognized music professionals. All jury decisions are final and binding.

6.1 Jury President

A Jury President is appointed by the Concours management. This person is bound by a duty of discretion and neutrality to ensure the impartiality of the results, the smooth operation of voting procedures, and the integrity of the competition.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the vote of the Jury President is not counted. It is sealed and used only in specific cases, as described in *The Jury Handbook* of rules and voting procedures.

Note: *The Jury Handbook* of rules and voting procedures will be available for consultation by April 1, 2027.

6.2 Voting Procedure

The Concours employs an approval voting system. At the end of each round, jury members indicate which competitors they would like to advance to the next round.

Special prizes and the three Concours laureates are determined by majority vote.

The International Jury is required to award first, second, and third prizes to three distinct laureates.

Prizes may not be shared *ex aequo* between competitors.

6.3 Conflicts of Interest

The Jury President and all Jury members are required to disclose any current or pre-existing conflict of interest with competitors and to sign a document declaring a conflict of interest. The procedure for tabulating the votes of jury members with conflicts of interest are outlined in *The Jury Handbook.*

A conflict of interest arises when a juror has a past or present spousal, familial, teaching, or professional relationship with a competitor. Masterclasses do not constitute a teaching relationship for this purpose. When doubt exists about whether a conflict of interest is present, the Artistic Director shall make the final determination.

7. PRIZES, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

More than $200,000 CAD in prizes, awards, and grants* will be awarded to the laureates and winners of the Concours 2027, including:

- **First Prize: $70,000**
  - Grand cash prize: $30,000
  - Joseph-Rouleau Career Development Grant: $40,000

- **Second Prize: $25,000**
  - Cash prize: $15,000
  - Joseph-Rouleau Career Development Grant: $10,000

- **Third Prize: $20,000**
  - Cash prize: $10,000
  - Joseph-Rouleau Career Development Grant: $10,000

Special Prizes:

- Steinway Recording Prize: valued at $55,000
- Audience Choice Award: $5,000
- André-Bourbeau Award for the Best Canadian Artist: $5,000
- Concours Grants for non-laureate finalists: 3 awards of $3,000 each
- Canadian Work Prize: $2,500

- Chamber Music Prize: $2,500
- OSM Prize: An engagement with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal for a concert or recital in a subsequent season: value to be determined
- Artist Residency: A one-week residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

** All amounts are in Canadian dollars. Additional prizes may be announced at a future date.*

8. OFFICIAL ORCHESTRA

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) is the official orchestra of the Concours musical international de Montréal.

The OSM accompanies the six finalists for the two evenings of the Final, on May 4 and 5, 2027, at the Maison symphonique de Montréal.

9. TRANSPORTATION

The Concours provides an economy-class round-trip flight or the equivalent to Montréal for all Concours 2027 competitors.

9.1 Conditions for travel

The competitor's city of origin for the purposes of travel is established when the Concours extends the invitation to participate in Montréal. Any additional charges related to changes to the city of departure or return, an extended stay, an early departure, or other special requests or modifications, are solely the responsibility of the competitor, as well as any fees charged by the competitor's banking institution.

Travel expenses for any person accompanying a competitor will not be assumed by the Concours.

The Concours assumes the fee for one checked bag.

9.2 Cancellation of travel

A competitor who withdraws from the competition after the Concours has issued their plane ticket is responsible for reimbursing the Concours for costs incurred.

10. VISAS FOR ENTRY TO CANADA

Obtaining a Visitor's or Tourist Visa for entry to Canada, and associated fees, are the sole responsibility of the competitor.

Find out if you need a Visa to travel to Canada at:
https://ircc.canada.ca/english/visit/visas.asp

Please note that there may be significant delays in Visa processing. Any competitor requiring a Visa is expected to begin the application process immediately after confirming their participation in the Concours 2027. The Concours will provide an official Letter of Invitation.

A competitor who cannot demonstrate that they have initiated the Visa application process by January 25, 2027, by indicating their file number, may be required to forfeit their place in the competition.

11. ACCOMMODATIONS

The Concours will provide free accommodation for all competitors with a host family in the Montreal area.

Competitors who wish to make alternative accommodations may do so at their own expense.

Accommodation expenses for any person accompanying a competitor will not be assumed by the Concours.

12. COMPETITION ROUNDS

The International Jury will consider the technical difficulty and artistic merit of the competitor's program for each round.

Repertoire selected for the competition may include works recorded for the audition videos. No other duplication of repertoire is permitted during the competition rounds.

The Concours will validate the respective timing of each work to be sure that it conforms with the total required timing for each round.

The competitors' musical program for each of the rounds, including the definitive order of performance, must be confirmed no later than January 18, 2027. Any changes after this date are at the discretion of the Artistic Director. Programs performed in competition out of prescribed order and without the prior approval of the Concours, will be penalized by the International Jury.

First Round – April 24, 25 and 26

The twenty-five competitors must each present a program of 25 to 28 minutes of music for solo piano.

The repertoire for the First Round must comprise a minimum of three works representing at least three musical periods. The inclusion of a single movement of a work is permitted.

All works in the First Round must be performed from memory.

Pianists are not permitted to exit the stage during the First Round.

Twelve pianists will be selected by the International Jury to advance to the Semifinal.

Semifinal – April 28 and 29

The twelve semifinalists must each perform a program of 50 to 55 minutes of music for solo piano.

The repertoire for the Semifinal round must comprise a minimum of three works, including the following elements:

- A complete sonata by Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, or Schubert
- A work by a Canadian composer*
- Another work of the competitor's choice

*A list of admissible Canadian works will be provided by the Concours to the selected competitors by the end of December 2026.

Works in the Semifinal must be performed from memory, with the exception of the required Canadian work.

Pianists may choose to exit the stage one time only during the Semifinal.

Six pianists will be selected by the International Jury to advance to the Chamber Music round and Final with orchestra.

Chamber Music – April 30

The six finalists must perform a piano concerto by W.A. Mozart arranged for piano and string quartet, from the following four options:

- Piano Concerto No. 11 in F major, K. 413
- Piano Concerto No. 12 in A major, K. 414
- Piano Concerto No. 13 in C major, K. 415
- Piano Concerto No. 14 in E-flat major, K. 449

The concerto is to be performed from memory. Scores for the selected edition will be provided by the Concours.

Final – May 4 and 5

The six finalists present a major concerto for piano and orchestra with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. The choice of concerto must be selected from the list on pages 11 and 12 of the present document.

13. PERFORMANCE ORDER

The performance order of the competitors in the First Round will be determined by a random draw undertaken by the Concours management approximately one month before the start of the event.

The Concours reserves the right to modify the performance order to satisfy programming and orchestral requirements, or for other reasons deemed to be of priority.

Competitors who are unable to perform at the designated time will be disqualified, unless their absence can be justified in advance to the Concours management.

14. PERSONAL PRACTICE AND REHEARSALS

The Concours musical international de Montréal undertakes to ensure adequate access to practice spaces for all competitors in the Concours 2027 with the best quality pianos possible.

Each finalist will be entitled to a 40-minute rehearsal with string quartet for the Chamber Music round. For the Final, each pianist is entitled to a 40-minute one-on-one rehearsal with the conductor, and a 45-minute rehearsal with the conductor and the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal.

15. RIGHTS, CLEARANCES, AND ENGAGEMENTS

Concours 2027 competitors forfeit all recording, broadcasting, and distribution rights of any kind to the Concours, as well as all artists' resale rights, for an indefinite period. By completing the

Concours application form, candidates agree to release all rights regarding the future use of recordings of their performance(s) at the competition.

Competitors are required to make themselves available for all interviews, videos, and promotional meetings relating to the Concours in the weeks leading up to and during the competition.

16. LAUREATES AND WINNERS

Only winners of the three main prizes may describe themselves as laureates of the Concours musical international de Montréal.

Laureates and winners of special prizes are required to make themselves available for interviews, videos, and promotional meetings relating to the Concours.

Laureates will mention any prizes won at the Concours on their websites and in their artist biographies.

17. THE CONCOURS ON THE ROAD

Competitors who do not advance to the Semifinal will be invited to perform as part of the "Concours On the Road" at a concert venue outside Montréal. Additional information will be provided directly following the First Round of the competition.

18. FORCE MAJEURE

The Competition reserves the right to postpone or cancel an edition that could be compromised due to events of a force majeure.

19. USAGE AND INFORMATION

In the event of any dispute concerning the content of this document, the French version of the text shall prevail. The Concours management reserves the right to modify this document at any time and without prior notice.

CONCOURS MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL DE MONTRÉAL

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Address: 305, Mont-Royal Avenue East, Montréal (Québec) H2T 1P8, Canada
For potential applicants: candidates@concoursmontreal.ca
For general information: info@concoursmontreal.ca

LIST OF CONCERTOS AUTHORIZED FOR THE FINAL WITH ORCHESTRA

BARTÓK

Concerto No. 3, Sz. 119, in E major

BEETHOVEN

Concerto No. 1 in C major, Opus 15

Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Opus 19

Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Opus 37

Concerto No. 4 in G major, Opus 58

Concerto No. 5 “Emperor” in E-flat major, Opus 73

CHOPIN

Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Opus 11

Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Opus 21

GRIEG

Concerto in A minor, Opus 16

LISZT

Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major

Concerto No. 2 in A major

PROKOFIEV

Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Opus 16

Concerto No. 3 in C, Opus 26

RACHMANINOV

Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Opus 18

Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Opus 30

Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Op. 43

RAVEL

Concerto in G major

Concerto for the left hand, in D major

SAINT-SAËNS

Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Opus 22

Concerto No. 5 in F major, Op. 103

SCHUMANN

Concerto in A minor, Opus 54

TCHAIKOVSKY

Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Opus 23