



Brussels Early Music Festival

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

CONCOURS PREMIÈRE 2025

Application criteria

- Voice and/or historical instruments as a duo, trio or quartet (maximum 4 people).
- The average age of the members must be less than or equal to 32 on 22 February 2025.
- A candidate may compete in only one ensemble.
- A candidate (or a selected candidate who has not won a prize) may compete no more than two times.
- A candidate ensemble (or a selected group) that has not won a prize may compete no more than two times.

Pre-selection and selection criteria

- The quality of the artistic performance.
- Quality of communication with the audience.
- Quality of research relative to the topic.
- Originality of the repertoire in relation to the theme.
- Organological coherence.
- Respect for cultural/historical practices.
- Compliance with the instructions.

Application deadline:

- Before midnight on 15 November 2024: the application must be completed using [the online form](#).

You will be asked (in FR, EN or NL):

- o The name of your ensemble.
- o The names, dates of birth and contact details of the members of your ensemble.
- o A photo of your ensemble.

- o Title and brief description of the musical program planned for the finals.
- o The complete musical program (20 to 25 minutes of music).
- o Text describing your research (no more than two A4 pages).
- o Your specific requirements (keyboard instruments, tuning/temperament, staging of your presentation, etc.).

- By 15 December 2024, midnight:

- o A single video, totalling 10 to 12 minutes, must include part of the proposed program (c.10 minutes) and an oral presentation (c.2 minutes). This video must be uninterrupted and unedited.
- o The jury will judge the musical quality, the quality of the research, and the quality of the oral presentation.
- o The YouTube link (or other online viewing platform) giving access to this video alone should be sent to rafael@festivita.be.

Pre-selection

- Beginning on December 16th, 2024 the jury will watch the videos and select the five top ensembles who will take part in the FestiVita!25 finals. The jury consists of Marc Vanscheeuwijck, Michel Keustermans, Benoit Laurent, Hervé Douchy, Kris Verhelst.

Selection

- By Monday, 6 January 2025 at the latest, the five selected ensembles will be invited to take part in the Première competition at the Cercle Gaulois in Brussels as part of FestiVita!25 on Saturday, 22 February 2025. Ensembles that are not selected will be informed by e-mail. Each of the five selected ensembles may be asked to perform for about ten minutes during the "[Banquet qu'on sert](#)" on Sunday, 23 February at noon. Please keep both dates available.

Finals

- Saturday, 22 February 2025

- o Each winning ensemble will perform for the jury and the festival audience.
- o The performance lasts 30 minutes in total, including 20 to 25 minutes for the musical performance and 5 to 10 minutes for the presentation in either French, Dutch or English.
- o A rehearsal time will be provided for each group in the morning. Performances are scheduled to start at 1pm.

- o Amandine Beyer, sponsor of FestiVita!25, will join the jury, which consists of the people as for the pre-selection.
- o At the end of the performance, the jury and the audience will select the winner of the two awards. The results will be announced at the end of the competition, on Saturday, 22 February at about 5pm.
- o Each selected artist taking part in the finals will receive a fee of €500 (gross, incl. VAT). This fee will be paid upon presentation of proof of expenses (travel, accommodation or other) and/or invoice (self-employed, non-profit organization/association, temporary worker).
- o Keyboard instruments (harpsichords and organ Positiv) will be made available to the finalists (fortepiano if necessary). The tuning and temperament will be chosen by the candidates (subject to availability).

- Sunday, 23 February

- o From 12 noon: 10-15-minute artistic performance by three or four ensembles as part of the "Banquet qu'on sert."

Awards

- Premiere Prize

- o Concert in FestiVita! 2026.
- o €1,000 offered by the National Lottery.

- Audience Prize

- o Honorary title.

Jury

- Chairperson	Marc Vanscheeuwijck (cellist and musicologist)
- Members	Amandine Beyer (finals) (violinist and sponsor of FestiVita!25)
	Michel Keustermans (recorder player and director)
	Benoît Laurent (oboist)
	Hervé Douchy (cellist)
	Kris Verhelst (harpsichordist)
	Julie Calbete (singer)

Image rights

With or without the intention of broadcasting them, Festivita reserves the right to televise, broadcast, photograph, and record (sound and image) the performances of 22 and 23 February 2025.

Clarification of the oral presentation to the public

The oral presentation—one of the three criteria of the competition along with musical quality and quality of research—should help the audience better appreciate your musical performance. It is above all about establishing an atmosphere and effective communication with the audience. The winners of the *Première* 2023 and 2024 prizes have worked particularly hard on this rhetorical presentation, to the point of "scripting" their musical performance. However, you do not necessarily need to "stage" your presentation, but it may be advisable to use means such as dialogue, even address the audience in several languages, imaginary letter exchange, play a the role of a diva/o, come up with an invented narrative, humor... or anything else you can think of with to make it appealing.

