



COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

PREMIÈRE 2026

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 14 February 2026.
- A candidate may compete in only one ensemble.
- A candidate ensemble (or a selected group) that has not won a prize may compete no more than two times.
- A program based on the Festival theme (Dresden and Saxony).

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 11 pm on 1 November 2025: 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 Title and brief description of the musical program planned for the finals.

· Before 11 pm on 15 November 2025, you must send by e-mail to the address rafael@festivita.be:

- o A photo of your ensemble.
- 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.).
- o A stage plan (stage of 6x3m).

· Before 11 pm on 1 December 2025:

- 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 1st, 2025 the jury will watch the videos and select the five top ensembles who will take part in the FestiVita!26 finals. The jury consists of Marc Vanscheeuwijck, Kris Verhelst, Peter Van Heyghen, Caroline Weynants, Michel Keustermans, Benoît Laurent, and Hervé Douchy.

Selection

· By Monday, 5 January 2026 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!26 on Saturday, 14 February 2026. Ensembles that are not selected

will be informed by e-mail. The Jury will not comment on applications from groups that have not been selected. Each of the five selected ensembles may be asked to perform for about ten minutes during the "Banquet qu'on sert" on Sunday, 15 February at noon. Please keep both dates available.

Finals

- Saturday, 14 February 2026
 - 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 The jury is the same 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, 14 February at about 5.30 pm.
 - 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, 15 February
 - o From 12 noon: 10-15-minute artistic performance by three or four ensembles as part of the ["Banquet qu'on sert."](#)

Awards

- **Prize of the Jury**
 - o Concert in FestiVita! 2027.
 - o €1,000 offered by the National Lottery.

Audience — Midis-Minimes Festival Prize

o 2 concerts in the Midis-Minimes 2026 Festival program (Brussels and Leuven).

Jury

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|---------------|---|
| - Chairperson | Marc Vanscheeuwijck (cellist and musicologist) |
| - Members | Kris Verhelst (harpsichordist and sponsor of FestiVita! 26) |
| | Caroline Weynants (singer) |
| | Peter Van Heyghen (conductor, recorder player and sponsor of FestiVita! 26) |
| | Michel Keustermans (recorder player and director) |
| | Benoît Laurent (oboist) |
| | Hervé Douchy (cellist) |

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 14 and 15 February 2026.

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.