

Big Little Music COMPETITION

Rules and Regulations

PART I: ENSEMBLES

I. Registration conditions

Profile ensemble

- The competition is open to chamber music ensembles of any nationality. Applying musicians must be at least 18 years old and the average age limit of the ensemble is 30 years old.
- Applying musicians may belong to different participating ensembles.
- The size of the ensemble is unlimited.

Registration information

- All applications are via the online registration form on the Music Centre De Bijloke website (www.debijloke.be/blmcompetition). Other ways of applying will be not be considered.
- Applications and attachments must be submitted between We 10 June 2026 and We 30 September 2026 at 23:59 hrs at the latest. This deadline can under no circumstances be postponed.
- Candidates will receive confirmation of the validation of their registration via email. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

PART II: COURSE OF THE COMPETITION AND PROGRAM

Calendar

- We 10.06.2026 – We 30.09.2026 online registrations
- Mo 07.12.2026..... results preselection
- Th 28.01.2027 10:00 – 17:00 .. semifinal
- Fr 29.01.2027 10:00 – 16:30 .. masterclasses semi-finalists
- Fr 29.01.2027 19:00 – 22:00 .. final

Semifinal, master classes and final are open to the public and will take place in the Kraakhuis concert hall of Music Centre De Bijloke.

General conditions for the competition rounds

The public competition rounds are preceded by a preselection behind closed doors in which the videos submitted by the candidates are screened. The public competition rounds are organized in three stages:

- a) The first round will determine maximum eight contestants that will proceed to the semifinal.
- b) The semifinals will determine maximum four contestants that will proceed to the final.
- c) The final will determine the winner.

Semifinals, master classes and final are open to the public. Except in case of illness or accident all candidates allowed to the semifinal, master classes and final must be available to take part in the rounds.

General remarks about the program

- Big Little Music Competition focuses on the classical chamber music repertoire in its purest form.
- Candidates draw up a program for each round of the competition (preselection – semifinals – final), which can be regarded as a concert. The program should be finely composed as a thought out concept with a clear storyline.



- a) Baroque and renaissance music on period instruments are not allowed.
 - b) Works for solo instruments are not allowed.
 - c) Self composed works are not allowed.
 - d) Special technical (multimedia) requirements are not allowed.
 - e) Arrangements are allowed as long as the authenticity of the chamber music interpretation is respected.
- All pieces presented in the video preselection can be resumed in the program of the semi finals and the final.
 - The program of the semifinal and the final needs to be different, but a maximum of 50% of the program can be corresponding.
 - After the deadline of registration (We 30.09.2026) the program of the semifinal and the final may not be altered, unless required by the competition management.

Preselection: screening of the videos

- A jury of experts will be appointed to assess the screening of the videos.
- Candidates will be informed about the results of the selection procedure on Mo 07.12.2026 at the latest.
- Eight candidates will be selected for the semifinal.
- The preselection consists of a **music video**, a **pitch** and a **cv**.

Music video

- Candidates have to upload a new video of good image and sound quality.
- The recording consists of at least two pieces of at least two contrasting movements of a multi-movement work. Multiple pieces or movements are allowed.
- The recording takes at least 20' and a maximum of 25'.
- Candidates need to provide information about the place and date of the recording with the video.
- Each piece needs to be recorded in one take (editing is not allowed). It is strongly recommended to use a fixed camera angle, in which the hands and the faces of the contestants are always visible in picture.

Pitch

- Candidates present themselves and their ensemble in a separate video of maximum 2'. The way they do this is entirely free and is up to the creativity of the candidates.

Semifinal

- Th 28.01.2027 10:00 – 17:00 Kraakhuis, Music Centre De Bijloke.
- Duration of the performance: 30' – 35'
- Every ensemble will perform the works they have presented in the online registration. The order may differ.
- It is recommended (but not mandatory) to explain the program orally when performing.
- Semifinalists will get the opportunity to rehearse on the day of the semifinal in the premises of Music Centre De Bijloke for a maximum of 90'.

Masterclasses

- Fr 29.01.2027 10:00 – 16:30 masterclasses semifinalists
- Every semifinalist is offered a masterclass in Kraakhuis by a chamber music expert.
- Masterclasses take +/- 90' and are open to the public.
- Participation is mandatory for all semifinalists.
- Participation is mandatory for all (semi)finalists.

Final

- Fr 29.01.2027 19:00 – 22:00 in Kraakhuis, Music Centre De Bijloke.
- Duration of the performance: 30' – 35'
- Every ensemble will perform the works they have presented in the online registration. The order may differ.
- It is recommended (but not mandatory) to explain the program orally when performing.
- Finalists will get the opportunity to rehearse on the day of the semifinal in the premises of Music Centre De Bijloke for a maximum of 90'.
- Finalists will get the opportunity to have photos taken by a professional photographer from Music Centre De Bijloke.

PART III: JURY

- The jury is composed of experts in the field.
- The composition of the jury can differ per round.
- Judges may not vote for candidates they are related to nor participating students.
- Prior to the start of the semifinal and final every candidate will receive a list of the names of the judges.
- Throughout the competition judges will abstain from any direct or indirect contact with the candidates.

PART IV: PRIZE

- As an incentive prize the winning ensemble gets offered a concert at Music Centre De Bijloke in the 2027 – 2028 concert season. The ensemble will be paid a professional fee for this concert, determined by the concert organizer.
- The winning ensemble will receive a concert in the series Thursday Lunch Concerts in the MIM – Musical Instruments Museum in Brussels in the 2027 – 2028 concert season. The ensemble will be paid a fee for this concert, determined by the concert organizer.

PART V: GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Candidates registering for the competition agree to the rules and regulations.
- By registering for the competition all candidates commit to taking part in all the competition rounds, master classes and concerts assigned them by the competition management.
- If contestants at some point do not adhere to the registration conditions, they will immediately be excluded by the competition management.
- Music Centre De Bijloke does not refund travel and accommodation costs.
- The contestants are supposed to use the original scores of the works they perform. Music Centre De Bijloke cannot be held liable for possible fraud by contestants. Candidates have to provide a digital copy of the scores of their program to the competition management.
- The finalists of Big Little Music Competition commit to cooperating in the concerts that are organized.