



REGULATIONS
MA COMPETITION 2026

HARPSICHORD

First round 15-17.05.2026 Online
Rehearsals Semi-final 03.08.2026 in Bruges
Semi-final 04.08.2026 in Bruges
Rehearsal Final 05.08.2026 in Bruges
Final 06.08.2026 in Bruges

1. APPLICATIONS

- Applicants must be born after 31 December 1993.
- Applications can be submitted between **23 February 2026, 00:01 CET and 8 March 2026, 23:59 CET**. The applications close exactly on this deadline or at the moment the **limit of 90 participants** is reached.
- Candidates apply on the website of Muvac with following information and documents:
 - a curriculum vitae (max 1300 characters including spaces) for internal use
 - short bio in text form (600 characters including spaces in English) to share publicly
 - a copy of the participant's ID or passport, in pdf
 - a photograph, suitable for reproduction, with the name of the photographer in the file name, in jpeg
 - an overview of the repertoire the participant would perform during the first round, semi-final and final, with timing and in the correct order, as presented on the template below
 - the scores of the freely chosen repertoire of the semi-finale and final, with the name of the work and composer in the file name, in pdf
 - the video recordings of the first round
- MA Festival has the right to decline applicants who have not submitted the above-mentioned information and documents on time.
- An independent third party checks whether the submitted application and videos meet the Competition regulations. If not, the candidate will be disqualified. Shortly after the closure of the application, all candidates will be informed whether they are admitted or not to the first round.

1.1 Application fee

Registration is only valid when the non-refundable application fee (€ 150,00) is paid. The registration fee is paid through Muvac.

Bank costs are at the expense of the applicant.

1.2 General regulations

- All participants admitted to the semi-final are expected to be in Bruges on Sunday 2 August 2026 in the evening.
- MA Festival cannot be held liable for any law infringement committed by a participant regarding public use of illegal copies of scores.
- All participants agree to participate in all the rounds to which they are admitted, unless prevented from doing so by circumstances beyond their control.
- No pieces can be shared between the recitals or the competition rounds.
- The jury will be the same throughout the entire competition, except in case of force majeure.
- We will not provide a page-turner. If you are in need of a page-turner, you will have to provide someone yourself.

2. COMPETITION

The competition consists of three rounds. A first online round, a live semi-final in Bruges and a live final in Bruges.

2.1 FIRST ROUND

- The first round consists of a selection based on the videos submitted and will be streamed online for the audience on 15, 16 and 17 May 2026.
- The order of participation for the first round will be decided and communicated no later than 4 May 2026.

Repertoire

- It is recommended for the repertoire in this round to be played on at least two appropriate instruments.
- The programme should not be longer than 15 minutes.
- Pieces to play in the order of your choice:
 - J.S. Bach: one Contrapunctus (no Canon) from Kunst der Fuga. Play another (short, around 2') piece as a prelude to this fuga, and play both together as one Prelude and Fuge. This prelude can be improvised or it can be an existing piece (1 video).
 - G. Frescobaldi: one of the Canzoni alla Francese (1 video).
 - Add one or two short pieces or movements at your own choice in (a) different style(s) than the two compulsory composers above, to complete your maximum 15' repertoire (1 or 2 video's).

2.1.1 Video specifications

- The programme must be divided in separate videos. This means you will have to make and deliver three or four videos.
- Name your videos as followed and upload them in Muvac:
 - order_lastname_firstname_composer_work: e.g.
 - 1_John_Doe_JSBach_Contrapunctus I
 - 2_John Doe_Frescobaldi_Canzona seconda
 - 3_Composer_work
 - 4_Composer_work
 - Every video must be recorded in one take. Edited videos will not be accepted.
 - Recordings that have already been published as well as concert recordings are not admissible as competition entries.
 - The applicant may not share any recording of this first round before the proclamation of the results.
 - At all times, the full keyboard, hands and face (profile) should be visible from the same video angle (confer example below). Multi-camera video recordings are not allowed.
- Make sure your video meets the following export quality specifications:
 - Resolution: 1920 x 1080 (horizontal)
 - Framerate: 25 (progressive, not interlaced)
 - Audio: Stereo (AAC)
 - Video codec: H.264/H.265 at 8Mbps
 - Video container/extension: MP4
- You are free to decide which device you use to record your performance, as long as decent video- and sound quality is guaranteed.

- Make sure good audio quality is guaranteed as well. Make sure to avoid external disturbing sounds during your performance.
- Try to make your video background as clean as possible.
- Make sure the video is well lit, not overexposed or too dark. The use of natural lighting will do.
- Do not add any textual or graphical elements (logo's, names, etc...) to the video.



2.1.2 Voting procedure

- To adjudicate the first round, all members of the competition jury will receive a form with the names of the participants. In line with their evaluation of the participants' performances, each member of the competition jury will for each participant indicate whether they wish the participant to proceed to the semi-final round.
- Participants will be ranked according to the total score awarded by the competition jury.
- No more than 12 participants will proceed to the semi-final round.
- The list of participants for the semi-final will be published on 18 May 2026 at 13.00 CET on the website mafestival.be.

2.2 SEMI-FINAL

- The semi-final is played live in Bruges and accessible to the audience.
- MA Festival can arrange a basic single room with breakfast in our festival accommodation for participants starting at the semi-finals. Participants wishing to make use of these facilities pay ca. €40 per night. MA Festival sends an invoice for the accommodation at the end of August. Candidates have to check-in on Sunday 2 August 2026, and check-out latest on Sunday 9 August 2026.
- Participants for the semi-final must be available on 3 August 2026 for on-stage rehearsals.
- MA Festival provides keyboard instruments for rehearsals on Monday 3 August 2026.
- The order of participation for the semi-final will be decided (by drawing or according to the instruments played) and communicated on the morning of Sunday 2 August 2026.
- Upload the scores of your freely chosen repertoire with your application.

Repertoire

- Compile two half-recitals of maximum 40 minutes each. When the repertoire is too long or when your playing takes more than initially announced, the jury can interrupt and halt your performance. Please consider the time to change instruments between pieces has to fit within the 40 minutes. Repeats are at the discretion of the player.
- The president of the jury will choose which recital option will be played by the candidate. The choice will be announced at the latest in the morning of Sunday 2 August.
- No pieces can be shared between the recitals (except for the compulsory L. Couperin that will be played in both recitals) and between the competition rounds. The open repertoire in both recital options should be different.
- You can use the open repertoire to introduce new repertoire or to extend the other required works.
- You can choose the order of your programme freely. The definitive order has to be communicated when you apply.

Recital 1:

- Compulsory Piece: L. Couperin: compile your own Suite in a key of your choice, including at least a Prélude non-mesuré. (ca. 12'-15')
- At least one piece from J. J. Duphly's 2nd or 4th book.
- Choose one of the following virginalist pieces: P. Philips: Chi fara fede al Cielo (FVB78) **OR** Bon Jour mon Cœur (FVB79) **OR** G. Farnaby : Quodling's Delight (FVB114) **OR** J. Bull: Dr Bull's Juell (FVB 138)
- A pair of sonatas by D. Cimarosa
- open repertoire up to maximum 40' total playing time (including changes & including the L. Couperin).

Recital 2:

- Compulsory Piece: L. Couperin: compile your own Suite in a key of your choice, including at least a Prélude non-mesuré. (ca. 12'-15')
- At least one piece by P. Royer
- J. J. Froberger: Tombeau fait à Paris sur la mort de Monsieur Blancheroche ; **OR** his Lamentation faite sur la mort très douloureuse de Sa Majesté Imperiale, Ferdinand le troisième
- At least two movements from a sonata by J. A. Steffan
- open repertoire up to maximum 40' total playing time (including changes & including the L. Couperin)

Instruments provided on stage (in case of unforeseen changes, candidates will be informed immediately)

- Double manual 18th-century French harpsichord
- Double manual 18th-century German harpsichord
- Double manual 17th-century Flemish harpsichord (ravalement)
- Large single manual Italian harpsichord

2.2.1 Voting procedure

The voting procedure is the same as for the first round. No more than 5 candidates will proceed to the final round.

2.3.FINAL

- The final is played live in Bruges and accessible to the audience.
- Participants for the final must be available on 5 & 6 August 2026 for on-stage rehearsals.
- MA Festival provides keyboard instruments for rehearsals on 5 & 6 August 2026.
- The order of participation for the final will be decided (by drawing or according to the instruments played) and communicated in the evening of 4 August 2026.
- The finals will be accompanied by Il Gardellino (5 string players). The ensemble will be available for rehearsals on 5 & 6 August 2026 and for the final.
- Upload the scores of your freely chosen repertoire with your application.
- You can choose the order of your programme freely. The definitive order has to be communicated when you apply.

Repertoire

Choose one of the following options for a programme of maximum 35 minutes:

Option 1:

- Compulsory Piece: G. Ligeti: Passacaglia Ungherese (ca. 5')
- J. S. Bach: Toccata in e (BWV 914) **OR** in g (BWV 915) **OR** Toccata in G (BWV 916)
- J. Haydn: Concerto in F (Hob. XVIII:3) **OR** Concerto in G (Hob. XVIII:4)

Option 2:

- Compulsory Piece: G. Ligeti: Passacaglia Ungherese (ca. 5')
- W. F. Bach: a selection of Polonaises (for circa .10' if you play BWV 1053, OR for circa 13' if you play BWV 1054)
- J. S. Bach: Concerto in E (BWV 1053) **OR** Concerto in D (BWV 1054)

Instruments provided on stage in (case of unforeseen changes, candidates will be informed immediately)

- Double manual 18th-century French harpsichord
- Double manual 18th-century German harpsichord
- Double manual 17th-century Flemish harpsichord (ravalement)

2.3.1 Voting procedure

- For the final round, all members of the competition jury will receive a ballot paper with the names of the participants. Each member of the jury will give a score to each of the applicants.
- The proclamation of a first prize is not guaranteed: however, a second and third prize are to be awarded.

3. TEMPLATE OF REPERTOIRE

Thank you for providing comprehensive information in the following manner:

Composer, Work Opus/Book/Number/Key – Movement(s), XX'XX"

Note:

- Don't forget to indicate the timing of each piece
- Make sure you list the pieces in the definitive order
- The programme below is an example to show you how to use the template

Name candidate: First Name Last Name

First Round

1. Girolamo Frescobaldi, Canzon [number] alla francese detta [title], 4'00"
2. Johann Sebastian Bach, [Improvised Prelude, or Prelude from] & Kunst der Fuga BWV 1080 - Contrapunctus [number], 4'30"
3. etc.

Total timing: XX'XX"

Semi-final

Recital 1

1. Composer, Work Opus/Book/Number/Key – Movement(s), XX'XX"
2. Etc.
3. ...

Total timing: XX'XX"

Recital 2

1. Composer, Work Opus/Book/Number/Key – Movement(s), XX'XX"
2. Etc.
3. ...

Total timing: XX'XX"

Final

1. Composer, Work Opus/Book/Number/Key – Movement(s), XX'XX"
2. Etc.
3. ...

Total timing: XX'XX"

4. JURY

- In 2026, the jury consists of Korneel Bernolet (president), Richard Egarr, Béatrice Martin, Mitzi Meyerson and Jean Rondeau.
- The jury's sole mission is to rank the participants according to the procedure established by these rules. All secretarial activities of the jury will be executed by an external functionary appointed by the organisation. The secretary of the jury does not take part in the voting procedure.
- Immediate family members and other relatives of a participant, up to the third degree of kinship (great-grandparents; great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews (children of siblings); uncles and aunts (siblings of parents)), may not serve as a judge for the related participant.
- The jury will vote by secret ballot.

5. PRIZES

A number of prizes and awards will be awarded amongst some finalists. The prizes, awards, and certificates, signed by the president of the jury and all members of the jury, will be presented to the laureates at a formal ceremony following the final round, which they are required to attend. These will also be published on the competition website.

Money prize:

A first, second and third prize will be rewarded with a cash prize, respectively €2000, €1000 and €500.

Invitation for recitals:

The laureate of the first prize will receive an invitation for a concert during MA Festival 2027.

Professional recording:

- The laureate of the first prize will also receive the opportunity to make a professional CD-recording.
- The recording will be offered by Ricercar – Outhere Music.
- The winner of the prize gives permission to cooperate in a recording.
- The winner will **not** receive a fee for the recording.

Audience award:

- For the audience award, the audience of the final round can indicate which participant they evaluated as the best of the finalists. The participant with the most votes will receive the audience award.
- The counting of the votes will be overseen by the secretary of the competition.
- In the event of a tie between participants, the audience award will be awarded to both participants in the tie.

6. Management of the competition

- Competition venue is Concertgebouw Brugge, 't Zand 34, 8000 Bruges.
- MA Festival is a non-profit organization.
- MA Festival is responsible for overseeing the application of the rules.
- For all matters pertaining to the administration of MA Festival, the organization is authorized, under its own responsibility, to delegate particular powers or functions to persons not otherwise involved in the organization.

7. Privacy statement

Contact

As Festival van Vlaanderen Brugge vzw (MA Festival Brugge), we are responsible for processing your personal data. If you have any general questions after reading our privacy statement, or if you wish to contact us, please use the following contact details:

Festival van Vlaanderen Brugge vzw

't Zand 34 – 8000 Bruges

competition@mafestival.be

+32 50 33 22 83

General rules

- Applying to the Competition implies permission for MA Festival to take photographs or make videos during the Competition, ceremonies or meetings organised by MA Festival.
- MA Festival can publish every accepted video entry as a competition entry. By submitting the entry, participants agree to its publication.
- MA Festival may archive the photos and videos, and use the photos and videos for promotional purposes such as, but not limited to, social media, spots (TV & radio), own or other website. The principal will not sell the photos and videos.
- By applying to the Competition, the Candidate agrees to radio recordings of parts of all of the Competition. If radio recordings are planned, the candidates will be informed beforehand.
- MA Festival may fully archive the audio file of the recording, and use a maximum of 1 clip of 15 minutes, up to 5 years after recording, for promotional purposes such as, but not limited to, social media, spots (TV & radio), own website (not downloadable). The recording will not be sold or released on CD or record. No fee will be paid for above mentioned rights, without prejudice to the right to remuneration collected by a collective management company (e.g. PlayRight).
- MA Festival cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to participants' personal property.

Why we process your personal data

Festival van Vlaanderen Brugge vzw processes your personal data for the following objectives and under the following legal grounds:

- to be able to participate in the activities of Festival van Vlaanderen Brugge vzw
- to send you newsletters and invitations
- to gain government subsidies

For these objectives, we may ask you for the following personal data:

- Personal identity details: surname, first name, address, telephone number, email address
- Identity details issued by the government: identity card number
- national register number
- Personal information: gender, date of birth, place of birth, nationality

We only use the data we collect for the purposes for which it was collected.

Sharing data with third parties

We may share the data you provide us with third parties if this is necessary for the performance of the objectives described above.

For instance, we use third parties to:

- provide the internet environment (web hosting);
- provide the IT infrastructure (such as the IT network);
- provide and distribute newsletters and invitations;
- process and send tickets and digital tickets on the occasion of a performance by MA Festival Brugge We never share personal data with other parties with which we have not concluded a processing agreement.

We naturally make the necessary arrangements with these parties (processors) to guarantee the security of your personal data.

Other than this, we will not share the data you provide us with third parties, unless we are legally obliged or permitted to do so.

If you give consent, we may also share personal data with third parties. You have the right to withdraw your consent at all times without infringing the legality of the data processing.

We do not share any personal data with parties that are established outside of the EU.

Retention period

MA Festival Brugge vzw does not store personal data for any longer than is necessary for the purpose for which the data was provided or the period required by law.

Your rights concerning your data

You have the right to inspect, correct and remove personal data which we have received from you.

Details of how you can contact us are provided at the top of this privacy statement.

You can also object to the processing of your personal data (or part of this data) by us or by one of our processors.

In addition, you have the right to have the data you provided us transferred to you, or immediately to another party according to your instructions. We may ask you to prove your identity before we can perform the aforementioned requests.

Complaints

If you have any complaint about the processing of your personal data, please contact us immediately.

You have the right at all times to submit a complaint to the Belgian Data Protection Authority, which is the supervisory authority in Belgium concerning privacy protection.

Amendments to the privacy statement

Festival van Vlaanderen Brugge vzw may amend its privacy statement. We will announce any changes to this privacy statement on our website.