



OPEN CALL YOUNGER THAN JESUS 2027

We are pleased to launch an open call for young musicians, ensembles, and interdisciplinary artists working with Early Music in bold and imaginative ways.

This program supports artists under 33 years old, or groups with an average age under 33, who engage with historical repertoire or instrumentarium while exploring inventive approaches to staging, performance practice, audience interaction, visual storytelling, technology, movement, scenography, or cross-disciplinary collaboration, be they from the *quadrivium* or the *trivium*, from scientific or artistic disciplines.

We encourage proposals that challenge conventional concert formats and bring Early Music into dialogue with today's artistic and social landscape.

Who Can Apply

Applications are open to:

- Individual musicians
- Vocalists and instrumentalists
- Ensembles and collectives
- Composers and creators
- Dancers, actors, visual artists, digital artists, directors, scenographers, or interdisciplinary practitioners collaborating on an Early Music project

Applicants must:

- Be under 33 years old or, for groups, have an average age under 33 years old at the application deadline
- Demonstrate a strong artistic connection to Early Music

What We Are Looking For

We are looking for a project that hasn't been premiered before and encourage proposals that present one or several of these aspects:

- Reimagine concert experiences,
- Integrate theatre, dance, visual arts, video, installation, or digital media
- Explore unconventional performance spaces located in Bruges
- Engage new audiences
- Experiment with immersive, participatory, or site-specific formats
- Connect historical repertoire with contemporary themes or perspectives

Special attention will be given to projects that foster dialogue across artistic disciplines and expand the perception of Early Music today.

Residency Support

The selected project will benefit from:

- A residency during the festival dedicated to the creation of the project
- Technical support
- A grant of max. 15.000 Euros including travel, accommodation, meals and fees for one or several performance(s) during the festival

Application Materials

Please submit:

1. Biography/CV of the artist(s) (max. 1 page per person, pdf)
2. Link(s) to one or several audio/video excerpts featuring the participants performing (not necessarily from the presented project)
3. A project description including an artistic statement outlining the innovative aspect of the project (max. 2 pages, pdf)
4. Technical rider with stage plan if relevant and required materials (max. 3 pages, pdf)
5. Budget of the project (excel/sheet)
6. Link to an informal video of maximum 2 minutes presenting the project
7. If relevant to the project: portfolio material

Applications can be submitted in Dutch, English or French.

Selection Criteria

Projects will be evaluated based on:

- Artistic quality
- Originality and innovation
- Relevance to Early Music
- Feasibility within the residency framework
- Potential for audience engagement and experimentation

Timeline

- Application deadline: 15.09.2026
- Online meeting for shortlisted artists: 28.09.2026
- Notification of selected artists: 05.10.2026
- Residency period: during the MA Festival, 2027 edition

How to apply

1. Fill out the form <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/JMKcWamPgK>
2. Email application materials to applications@mafestival.be

Questions? Contact artistic director Anna Danilevskaia applications@mafestival.be