

Press release

Sion, 24 May 2023

## Tibor Varga Competition: 20% increase in participation for 2023

**The Tibor Varga International Violin Competition is on a roll. With 149 registrations, it has recorded a new increase in participation of 20% compared to the last edition (124 registrations in 2021). Proof, if any were needed, that it has become an unmissable event for talented young violinists from around the world. Only 28 candidates have been selected to take part in the public rounds, which will be held in Sion from 26 August to 2 September 2023 before an international jury chaired by Augustin Dumay. Seven prizes will be awarded.**

The jury selected 28 young violinists on video, of whom 13 are from Asia/Oceania, 11 from Europe and 4 from America. The youngest candidate is only 14 years old, while the average age is around 21. Three Swiss are among the selected candidates.

The next step for all these young people will be the first round on **26 and 27 August**. Those who have made it through this stage will then compete in the second round on **28 and 29 August**. Finally, on **31 August and 2 September**, the lucky ones will take part in the final in two parts - one for chamber music and the other with orchestra. All rounds of the Competition will also be livestreamed on our website. Both finals will be broadcast live by the regional television channel Canal 9.

Seven prizes are at stake: a First, Second and Third Prize, an Audience Prize, a Youth Jury Prize, an Over 20s Jury Prize and a Prize for the Best Performance of the compulsory work, a creation commissioned from the Italian composer Olivia Colasanti.

The Jury will be composed of renowned soloists and teachers: **Augustin Dumay** (France), President, **James Brown** (England), **Stella Chen** (USA), **Mihaela Martin** (Romania), **Natsumi Tamai** (Japan), **Ingolf Turban** (Germany), and **Pavel Vernikov** (Ukraine - Israel). **Alexander Chaushian**, cellist (Armenia) and **Ashley Wass**, pianist (England) will join the jury for the final and will play in trio with the finalists in the chamber music round.

Music lovers and amateur musicians will also have their say with a Youth Jury and An Over 20s Jury. The first will be made up of scholars from the Conservatoire Cantonal du Valais who, coached by teachers, will attend the second round and then the two finals. Introduced last year during the Tibor Junior International Violin Competition, the second will be open to anyone interested. Accompanied by musicologist Marie Favre, they will learn how to evaluate a musical interpretation during a workshop and will attend the second round as well as the finals.

The Tibor Varga International Violin Competition, which takes place every two years, is one of the three summer events organized by the Sion Violon Musique Foundation. All three have a long tradition. From July 10 to August 12, 2023, the 60th edition of the Tibor Varga Music Academy will take place, while from August 18 to September 3, 2023, the 58th Sion Festival will take place.

### Contacts :

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### List of candidates and illustrations :

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/leiZ9sfDMhg8L5daivu4refbkfttZmWBD?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/leiZ9sfDMhg8L5daivu4refbkfttZmWBD?usp=share_link)