

TIBOR VARGA INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION 2025

RULES

Edition 2025

Final Version, March 2025

Member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions

1 FOREWORD

The Tibor Varga International Violin Competition aims to discover new talents, to enrich the experience and musical practice of the participants and to provide encouragement and support to the winners for the rest of their careers. To achieve these objectives, the International Jury, comprised of recognized violin specialists (performers and teachers) and other world-renowned musicians, will focus on showcasing the musical qualities of each candidate.

The competition is organised by the Fondation Sion Violon Musique. The competition is managed by the Foundation Board or a delegation of the latter.

2 PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

The Tibor Varga International Violin Competition, Sion, Valais, is open, without distinction of sex or nationality, to all violinists born between the 31st of August 1994 and the 22nd of August 2008 (from 17 to 30 years old).

Candidates who have already won first prize at the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition in the past are not allowed to enter the competition.

3 PROGRAMME

Each candidate must select their competition pieces from the lists below.

The pieces must be played from memory, except the contemporary work for the first round, all pieces mentioned in lists A and B for the second round and the Trios for the chamber music final.

For repeats: at the liberty of the candidate to choose but preferably without repeats (Sonatas and J. S. Bach).

Preselection by Video

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| A. Niccolò Paganini | A Caprice of the candidate's choice, Op. 1 |
| B. Sonata | The first movement of a Sonata from the 2nd round list A |

First round: solo violin (maximum time of 30')

A piece from each category: A, B and C.

The Jury reserves the right to choose the movements to be played.

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| A. J. S. Bach | Two consecutive movements from a Partita or Sonata for solo violin, except the <i>Chaconne</i> from Partita for violin N°2 |
| B. Eugène Ysaÿe | One of the six Sonatas for solo violin, Op. 27 |
| C. Shin Kim | Capriccio for solo violin - Piece commissioned for the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition 2025 |

Second round : solo violin with piano (maximum time of 45')

A piece from each category: A, B and C.

The Jury reserves the right to choose the movements to be played..

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| A. | Ludwig van Beethoven | Sonata N° 3, 5, 6 or 8 |
| | Johannes Brahms | Sonata N° 1 in G major, Op. 78
Sonata N° 2 in A major, Op. 100
Sonata N° 3 in D minor, Op. 108 |
| | Wolfgang A. Mozart | Sonata N° 30 in C major, K.403
Sonata N° 26 in B-flat major, K.378 |
| | Franz Schubert | Sonata in A major, D. 574 |
| | Robert Schumann | Sonata N° 1 in A minor, Op. 105
Sonata N° 2 in D minor, Op. 121 |
| B. | Claude Debussy | Sonata for violin and piano |
| | Leoš Janáček | Sonata for violin and piano, JW VII/7 |
| | Sergueï Prokofiev | Sonata for violin and piano N° 1 or N° 2 |
| | Georges Enesco | Sonata for violin and piano N° 3 in A minor, Op. 25 |
| | Francis Poulenc | Sonata for violin and piano |
| | Béla Bartók | Sonata for violin and piano N° 1, Sz. 75 or N° 2, Sz. 76 |
| | Maurice Ravel | Sonata for violin and piano, M. 77 |
| | Arnold Schönberg | Phantasy for violin and piano, Op. 47 |
| | Karol Szymanowski | Sonata for violin and piano in D minor, Op. 9 |
| C. | Virtuosic piece of the candidate's choice for solo violin or violin with piano | |

Third round: Chamber Music with two members of the Jury who will play the piano and cello parts and a soprano (maximum time of 30')

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| A. | Amy Beach | 2 Songs Op. 100, N° 2 – “Stella Viatoris” for soprano, violin, cello and piano |
| B. | Ludwig van Beethoven | Irish Songs WoO152, N° 8 – “Come draw me round a cheerful ring” for soprano, violin, cello and piano |
| C. | <u>Trio of your choice from the following list</u> | |
| | Johannes Brahms | Trio N° 3 in C minor, Op. 101 (22') |
| | Dmitri Chostakovitch | Trio N° 2 in E minor, Op. 67 (26') |
| | Felix Mendelssohn | Trio n° 1 in D minor, Op. 49 (28') |
| | Maurice Ravel | Trio in A minor, M. 67 (28') |

Final : Concerto with Orchestra

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| A. | <u>Concerto of the candidate's choice from the following list, to be played from memory</u> | |
| | Ludwig van Beethoven | Concerto in D major, Op. 61 |
| | Johannes Brahms | Concerto in D major, Op. 77 |
| | Dmitri Shostakovich | Concerto N° 2 in C sharp minor, Op. 129 |
| | Felix Mendelssohn | Concerto N° 2 in E minor, Op. 64 |
| | Robert Schumann | Concerto in D minor, WoO 23 |
| | Piotr I. Tchaikovsky | Concerto in D major, Op. 35 |
| B. | <u>BIS</u> : Piece for solo violin, preferably composed after 1970, at the free choice of the finalist (max. 5') | |

4 PROGRAMME SUBMISSION

All candidates are required to submit their programme by midnight (UTC+1) on 23 April 2025. Under exceptional circumstances, changes may be made to the programme until 25 June 2025 at the latest. No further changes can be made to the programme after this deadline.

5 SCORES

All candidates must use the original scores of the works they perform. The organisers of the competition cannot be held responsible for any fraud by a candidate (public use of illegal copies). Candidates are required to provide the organisers of the competition with a copy of the scores for the pieces of their choosing (second round and final) when they register.

6 REGISTRATION

The registration deadline is midnight on **23 April 2025 by midnight (UTC+1)**. Candidates must register online on the website www.sion-concours.ch. **Registrations received by post will not be considered.**

The registration will be confirmed only when the online registration process has been successfully completed (please ensure that high-quality copies of the following documents are uploaded with your application):

- An official document showing proof of age (photocopy of birth certificate or passport).
- A brief curriculum vitae (education, teachers, titles obtained, professional activities).
- Two recent royalty-free photographs of excellent quality: one portrait and one photo of the candidate playing the violin.
- Two high-quality, unedited video recordings of the performance of the aforementioned preselection programme, that also displays the date and place of recording.

All candidates are responsible for obtaining their own visa for Switzerland for the duration of the competition and are requested to take all necessary steps to obtain it. The competition declines all responsibility regarding visas.

The choice of works indicated on the registration form is final, except in exceptional cases that have been approved by the organisers of the competition.

Registered and selected candidates who are unable to take part in the Competition must inform the organisers immediately.

Only communications made by the administrative team of the competition are official. Any information from any other source will not be considered valid.

7 REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee will be \$ 150.- (one hundred and fifty dollars, approximately one hundred and fifty Swiss francs). This fee is to be paid in one go in accordance with the online payment procedure. The registration fee will not be refunded under any circumstances.

8 ACCOMPANISTS AND REHEARSALS

Accompanists are provided to participants free of charge for the second round.

Each candidate is also able to use their own accompanist during the second round of the competition on condition that they do so at their own expense. Candidates who use the accompanists chosen by the organisers of the competition will have the opportunity to

rehearse with their designated accompanist free of charge. The free rehearsal time with the accompanist for each candidate is 90 minutes.

For the 3rd round, candidates will have 60 minutes of rehearsal time with the pianist, the cellist and the soprano.

For the final with orchestra, the finalists will have 60 minutes with the orchestra.

The organisers of the competition reserve the right to modify the rehearsal time according to the number of candidates or under exceptional circumstances. The organisers will inform the candidates of any changes as soon as possible.

The rehearsals with piano and orchestra are private; only the candidate and their accompanist can be present. However, all of the concerts are public.

The complete schedule of the competition includes a video submission and four public events, all of which are recorded.

9 VIDEO PRESELECTION

The goal of the video submission is to choose a maximum of 28 candidates to be invited to Sion to participate in the public rounds of the competition and 4 reserve candidates. The submissions will be considered behind closed doors in the presence of the international Jury chaired by the President of the Jury for the 2025 competition. The names of the selected candidates will be published on our website on 21 May 2025. Successful candidates will be personally notified and receive their official invitation before this date (by email) mentioning the place and time at which they must personally report to Sion for the subsequent rounds of the competition.

Reserve candidates are called upon in the event of the withdrawal of a selected candidate, no later than 9 July 2025.

10 ORDER OF PLAYERS

The order of players will be determined by a random drawing of names **on 22 August 2025 at 16:00 in Sion.**

If a candidate is unable to attend this meeting **due to unforeseen circumstances**, they must notify the organisers of the competition at least 72 hours before the draw. At the candidate's request, a designated representative of the candidate or a representative from the competition will partake in the draw in the candidate's place. Candidates who were not present at the draw are required to immediately contact the organiser at its conclusion to receive the allocated date and time at which they must be present for their first-round performance in front of the jury.

The order of players determined by the random draw may not be modified unless, under extraordinary circumstances, the organisers decide otherwise. In all cases, only the organisers of the competition are authorised to make any such decision.

As a general rule, the organisers of the competition will do their utmost to respect and adhere to the fixed performance times for each candidate. Similarly, once the order of appearance and schedule are known, each candidate is obliged to arrive at the performance venue within the communicated timeframes.

II PUBLIC ROUNDS

The competition is comprised of the following rounds:

- First Round (Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 August 2025)

- Second Round (Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 August 2025)
- Third Round: Chamber Music (Thursday 28 August 2025)
- Final: Concerto with Orchestra (Saturday 30 August 2025)

All events are broadcast live on the Foundation's website and social networks.

The results will be announced at the end of each round. The decisions of the Jury are final.

12 PRIZES

- First Prize: CHF 20'000.-
- Second Prize: CHF 10'000.-
- Third Prize: CHF 5'000.-
- Tibor Varga" Prize: Best Interpretation of Shin Kim's creation, commissioned for the 2025 Competition: CHF 3,000
- Youth Jury Prize: CHF 500.-
- Audience Prize: CHF 500.-

At the end of the second round, candidates not selected for the subsequent round will receive a certificate of participation.

The prizes will be presented to the winners at the end of the Final, with the exception of the Prize for Best Interpretation, which is awarded after the first round.

The winners may be invited, for a fee to be defined, to participate in concerts as soloists at a later date.

All candidates are required to respond to media requests during the period of the competition. The organisers reserve the right to select these requests and will inform candidates of any requests for interviews or photos that may be submitted.

13 JURY

- President – Pavel Vernikov, Switzerland
- Monika Baer, Switzerland
- Ariadne Daskalakis, USA
- Sunny Lee, South Korea
- Fumiaki Miura, Japan
- Lucie Robert, Canada
- Anton Sorokow, Russia
- Adrian Oetiker, pianist (Switzerland) and Thoms Grossenbacher, cellist (Switzerland), will join the Jury for the Final and will form part of the quartet with the finalists for the chamber music round.
- Shin Kim, composer (South Korea), will join the jury only for the award of the Prize for the Best Interpretation of the compulsory work of the 1st round.

During the competition, contacts between the Jury and candidates are strictly forbidden except at the end of each round when two or three members of the Jury will be at the disposal of the unsuccessful candidates.

14 JURY DECISIONS

The Jury reserves the right to modify the programme of the rounds, taking into account the works announced by each candidate. They also reserve the right to interrupt the performance of a candidate if they feel that they have formed a sufficient opinion, either good or bad, of that candidate.

At the end of the first round, two or three members of the Jury will be at the disposal of the unsuccessful candidates to provide feedback on their performances.

The deliberations of the Jury are governed by internal rules.

The decisions of the Jury are final.

15 YOUTH JURY

A jury comprised of young musicians is nominated by the organisers of the competition. This Jury, coached by a renowned figure in the music world, is completely independent to the International Jury.

At the end of the Final, the Youth Jury Prize will be presented to a selected candidate.

16 WELCOME, TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION

The candidates must present themselves in person at the competition office in Sion no later than 15h00 on 22 August 2025. A detailed map showing the location of the competition office (25' walk from the CFF train station) will be provided to candidates when their selection is confirmed. Upon their arrival at the office, the organisers will give candidates further useful information for their stay in Sion.

All accommodation and travel expenses are the responsibility of the participants. Accompanying persons are responsible for their own accommodation. The organisation will provide a list of accommodation possibilities in the region.

For candidates who are admitted to the final, the competition offers the following reimbursements on request and upon presentation of supporting documents:

- A lump sum of CHF 500 for accommodation;
- 50% of travel costs - maximum of CHF 700.

Candidates are responsible for taking out health and accident insurance for the duration of their stay in Sion.

17 RIGHTS

By submitting the online registration form, candidates declare that they accept the general terms and conditions of these regulations.

The organisers of the competition have the unlimited right to record, reproduce and broadcast, free of charge, all of the candidates' performances on radio, television, video, CD, DVD, or any other medium. The same applies to any interviews and/or photo opportunities granted to the media.

In case of doubt, the French version of these rules shall prevail.

18 ORGANISATION

Tibor Varga International Violin Competition

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