

## Press release

Sion, 22 May 2025

### Tibor Varga Competition: another rise in participation in 2025

The success of the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition continues to grow. After a jump of 20% in 2023, participation has increased again this year, 160 young prodigies from all over the world have registered, representing a 16% rise on the previous edition (149 registrations in 2023). Only 28 candidates have been selected to take part in the public rounds, which will be held in Sion from 22 to 30 August 2025, first at the Pôle Musique and then in the new hall Noda BCVS. The international Jury will be chaired by Pavel Vernikov. Six prizes will be awarded, worth a total of almost CHF 40'000.

The Preselection Jury selected 28 young violinists on video, 14 from Europe, 11 from Asia/Oceania and 3 from America. The youngest candidate is 17, with an average age of 23. *"Due to the high participation and the exceptional level of all these young violinists, six additional candidates have been admitted to the waiting list",* explains Pavel Vernikov.

The chosen few will compete in the **first round** on **23 and 24 August**, which will focus on the solo violin repertoire. The 12 selected candidates will compete in the **second round**, scheduled for **25 and 26 August**, directing their efforts towards the piano sonata. On **28 August** at Noda BCVS, a decisive chamber music **third round** awaits the six remaining candidates, who will be in dialogue with three established musicians: the soprano **Ekaterina Shelehova**, the cellist **Thomas Grossenbacher** and the pianist **Adrian Oetiker**.

The **final** on **30 August** at Noda BCVS promises to be an exceptional evening. The three finalists will each perform one of the greatest violin concertos, accompanied by the **South Czech Philharmonic** and **wind players from prestigious Italian orchestras** conducted by **Valentin Uryupin**. All the rounds will be video-streamed. The final will be recorded by the television Canal 9 and broadcast later.

**Six prizes** are up for grabs, for a total of almost CHF 40'000: a First, Second and Third Prize, an Audience Prize, a Youth Jury Prize and a Prize for the Best Performance of the compulsory work, the Capriccio for solo violin by Shin Kim (Winner of the Geneva Composition Competition 2022) - a piece commissioned for the 2025 edition of the Competition.

The Jury will be chaired by **Pavel Vernikov** and will also include **Monika Baer**, **Ariadne Daskalakis**, **Thomas Grossenbacher**, **Sunny Lee**, **Fumiaki Miura**, **Adrian Oetiker**, **Lucie Robert** and **Anton Sorokow**. A **Youth Jury** made up of students from the Conservatoire Cantonal and coached by a teacher will also give their verdict.

Founded in Sion in 1967 by Tibor Varga, the International Violin Competition bearing his name has become a worldwide benchmark. Open to young violinists aged between 17 and 30, it takes place every two years, alternating with the Tibor Junior International Violin Competition.

[Candidates list, photos and Media release PDF](#)