Sion Violon
Musique

TIBOR VARGA INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION 2027

RULES

Edition 2027

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Member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions

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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, composed of recognized violin specialists (performers and teachers) and other world-renowned musicians, focuses 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, regardless of gender or nationality, to all violinists born after 31 August, 1996.

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 following: the contemporary work for the first round; all pieces mentioned in lists A and B for the second round; the chamber music works for the third round; and the encore performed in the Final, if composed after 1970.

Repeats (Sonatas and J. S. Bach) are at the candidate's discretion, but candidates are encouraged to omit them.

Preselection by Video

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.

A.	J. S. Bach	Two consecutive movements from a Partita or Sonata for solo violin, except the *Chaconne* from Partita for violin N°2
B.	Eugène Ysaÿe	One of the six Sonatas for solo violin, Op. 27
C.	Helena Winkelman	Piece commissioned for the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition 2027

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.

A.	Ludwig van Beethoven	Sonata No. 3, 5, 6 or 8
	Johannes Brahms	Sonata No. 1 in G major, Op. 78
		Sonata No. 2 in A major, Op. 100
		Sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 108
	Wolfgang A. Mozart	Sonata No. 30 in C major, K.403
		Sonata No. 26 in B-flat major, K.378
	Franz Schubert	Sonata in A major, D. 574
	Robert Schumann	Sonata No. 1 in A minor, Op. 105
		Sonata No. 2 in D minor, Op. 121
B.	Claude Debussy	Sonata for violin and piano
	Leoš Janáček	Sonata for violin and piano, JW VII/7
	Sergeï Prokofiev	Sonata for violin and piano No. 1 or No. 2
	George Enesco	Sonata for violin and piano No. 3 in A minor, Op. 25
	Francis Poulenc	Sonata for violin and piano
	Béla Bartók	Sonata for violin and piano No. 1, Sz. 75 or No. 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 (maximum time of 30')

A.	Maurice Ravel	Sonata for violin and cello, M.73, I. Allegro

B. Trio of the candidate's choice from the following list

Johannes Brahms	Trio No. 3 in C minor, Op. 101 (22')
Dmitri Shostakovich	Trio No. 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

A. Concerto of the candidate's choice from the following list, to be played from memory

Ludwig van Beethoven	Concerto in D major, Op. 61
Johannes Brahms	Concerto in D major, Op. 77
Dmitri Shostakovich	Concerto No. 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. Encore: 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 23:59 Swiss time (CEST, UTC+2) on 21 April 2027. Under exceptional circumstances, changes may be made to the programme until 23 June 2027 at 23:59 Swiss time (CEST, UTC+2) 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 encore of the Final) when they register.

6 REGISTRATION

The registration deadline is **21 April 2027 at 23:59 Swiss time (CEST, UTC+2).** Candidates must register online on the MUVAC platform. **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 containing the program required for the pre-selection application. The date and location of the recording must appear in the title of each video.
- Scores for the virtuosity piece of the Second Round and the encore of the Final.

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, subject to Article 4.

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

All official communications between candidates and the Competition organisers will be conducted exclusively through the MUVAC platform. Only communications sent via MUVAC by the Competition's administrative team shall be considered official. Any information received through other channels or from other sources shall not be considered valid.

7 REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee is EUR 150.- (one hundred and fifty euros). 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 may 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 and the cellist.

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 rounds of the competition are open to the public.

The complete competition programme includes a pre-selection based on video recordings and application materials, followed by four public rounds, 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 2027 competition. The recordings are assessed anonymously.

The names of the selected candidates will be published on our website on 19 May 2027. 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. **Candidates must also confirm their participation no later than 23 June 2027 at 11:59 Swiss time (CEST, UTC+2).**

Reserve candidates are called upon in the event of the withdrawal of a selected candidate, no later than 7 July 2027.

10 ORDER OF PLAYERS

The order of players will be determined by a random drawing of names **on 23 August 2027 at 16:00, at the Pôle Musique in Sion.**

If a candidate is unable to attend this meeting **due to unforeseen circumstances**, they must notify the organisers of the competition as soon as possible. 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.

11 PUBLIC ROUNDS

The competition consists of the following rounds:

- First Round (Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 August 2027)
- Second Round (Thursday 26 and Friday 27 August 2027)
- Third Round: Chamber Music (Sunday 29 August 2027)
- Final: Concerto with Orchestra (Tuesday 31 August 2027)

A maximum of 28 (twenty-eight) candidates take part in the First Round. The Jury selects up to 12 (twelve) candidates for the Second Round, up to 5 (five) for the Third Round and 3 (three) for the Final. In exceptional circumstances, the Jury may change these numbers.

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 for the best interpretation of Helena Winkelman's work, commissioned for the 2027 Competition: CHF 3'000.-
- Youth Jury Prize: CHF 500.-
- Public Prize: CHF 500.-

At the end of each 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 – Pierre Amoyal (France)
- Xavier Delette (France)
- Silvia Marcovici (France)
- Valeriy Sokolov (Ukraine)
- Akiko Tatsumi (Japan)
- Pavel Vernikov (Switzerland)
- Xiaoming Wang (China)
- Philippe Cassard, pianist (France) and Ettore Pagano, cellist (Italy), will join the Jury for the Final and will perform with the candidates in the chamber music round (third round).

During the competition, contact between the Jury and candidates is strictly forbidden except for the feedback sessions described in Article 14.

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.

The selection for the Final is based on a combined result: the second-round score counts for 40% and the third-round score for 60%.

At the end of each 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 composed of young musicians is nominated by the Competition organisers. Guided by a prominent figure from the local music scene, this Jury is entirely independent of the International Jury. At the end of the Final, the Young Jury Prize will be awarded to the candidate selected by its members.

16 PUBLIC PRIZE

The Public Prize is awarded by the audience at the Final. Each member of the audience may vote for one finalist using the ballot provided. The ballots are counted by the competition management, and the prize goes to the finalist with the most votes. Only ballots cast in the hall are counted.

17 WELCOME, TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION

The candidates must present themselves in person at the competition office in Sion no later than 15:00 on 23 August 2027. A detailed map showing the location of the competition office (25' walk from Sion railway 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.

18 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 English version of these rules shall prevail.

19 ORGANISATION

Tibor Varga International Violin Competition

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