

Sforzando Competition 2015

Competition Rules



1. Eligibility

- 1.1. Chamber music ensembles composed of two to five members, each of which fulfil the following conditions on 1 November 2015, are eligible to participate in the competition:
 - 1.1.1. Participants who are enrolled in an European university or similar third-level European educational institution, or have been in the preceding twelve months; and
 - 1.1.2. Were born on or after 2 November 1984; and
 - 1.1.3. Are not engaged in the study or professional practice of music and have not completed any vocational or professional music qualification.
 - 1.1.4. The preceding condition does not apply to those studying music or a similar academic discipline.
 - 1.1.5. Nor shall it apply to those studying at a *Musikakademie*, a *conservatoire*, a *conservatorio* or other similar institution which does not result in a professional qualification aimed at a career in music.
 - 1.1.6. Nor shall it apply to a participant who previously undertook vocational or professional training in music but did not receive a qualification.
 - 1.1.7. Nor shall it apply to participants who are completing a dual study programme in the vocational or professional study of music and in another academic discipline. This exception applies only to those undertaking studies in two distinct disciplines; it does not apply to a dual programme consisting of a combination of subjects of the same discipline.
- 1.2. In individual cases, the Organiser may, at the request of a prospective participant, agree to waive the criteria set out in clauses 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 above.

- 1.3. In each round, participants may not compete more than once (including as part of a different ensemble). In individual cases, the Organiser may agree to waive this rule.
- 1.4. The ensemble awarded first prize in the immediately preceding Sforzando competition may not compete. The individual members of this ensemble may, however, compete in differently composed ensembles. A person having won the first prize with two ensembles is not eligible anymore.
- 1.5. Persons actively involved in the organisation of the competition may not compete.

2. The Competition

- 2.1. The competition will take place in two rounds.
- 2.2. In the first round, all registered ensembles will compete against each other. For organisational purposes, the order of performances will be designated by the Organiser, who will endeavour to comply as far as possible with any requests of the participating teams. The panel will choose the three best ensembles in the first round to proceed to the second and final round.
- 2.3. In the second round (the final), the three finalists will compete against each other. The order of performances will be drawn at random. The panel will award a first, second and third prize. The panel may, at its discretion, decide not to award any prizes or to award joint prizes. In this case, the remaining prizes will remain unallocated.
- 2.4. Each ensemble agrees to participate in the final, should it be chosen as a finalist.
- 2.5. The assessed performances are open to the public.

3. Work to be Performed

- 3.1. In the first round, a programme with a total duration of approximately 15 minutes is to be performed. Subject to clauses 3.2 and 3.3, participants are free to choose what pieces they wish to perform. Performance of works of different styles is encouraged.
- 3.2. In the second round, an entire work with a total duration of 30 minutes is to be performed. Parts of this entire work must have formed part of the programme in the first round.
- 3.3. Pieces for performances must be part of a classical repertoire.

- 3.4. In exceptional circumstances and upon request, the Organiser may agree to a waiver of one or more of the above conditions.
- 3.5. The jury may interrupt and stop any performances exceeding the above time limits.
- 3.6. The competition programme submitted at registration may be modified up to and including 1 November 2015.

4. Judging Panel

- 4.1. The composition of the jury will be decided by the Organiser. The likely composition of the panel, and any changes to such composition, will be published online at www.sforzando.eu. Such publication is not binding on the Organiser.
- 4.2. The panel should be composed of judges who are, or have been, professionally active in the area of classical music. At least one of the judges on the panel must fulfil this criterion.
- 4.3. The panel will be composed of at least two members.
- 4.4. One of the judges on the panel will fulfil the function of Chairman.
- 4.5. The judging panel will make its decisions by simple majority. In the case of a split vote, the Chairman's vote will be final.
- 4.6. The panel's decision is final and may not be appealed.
- 4.7. The panel's deliberations are not public. Members of the Sforzando e.V. board may observe the deliberations but may not advise the panel nor cast a vote.

5. Registration

- 5.1. Each ensemble must fill out the PDF registration form, available at www.sforzando.eu, and send it to the Organiser via e-mail or by post. Registration forms must be received by 15 September 2015.
- 5.2. A participation fee of 15 euro per person must accompany the registration form or be otherwise transferred to the Organiser at the time of registration.
- 5.3. A photo of the ensemble must also be sent to the Organiser.

5.4. In the event of oversubscription, the Organiser reserves the right to decide which ensembles will be allowed to compete in the competition. This decision will be based on audio and video recordings of the registered ensembles, which will be requested should the need arise. The shortlisting process will be carried out by the Director of Sforzando e.V., who will form an advisory panel composed of professional musicians and lay people with musical experience for this purpose. The composition of this panel will be published on www.sforzando.eu. The publication of the composition of the panel is not binding on the Organiser. Should an ensemble not be selected for participation, their entry fees will be reimbursed. The selection decision is final and may not be appealed.

5.5. Ensembles may withdraw from the competition up to and including 15 October 2015. Entry fees will be refunded.

6. Costs

Costs arising for participants in connection with their participation in the competition, in particular travel and accommodation costs, are to be borne by participants themselves. The Organiser will assist ensembles in finding suitable accommodation.

7. Facilities

7.1. The Organiser will make appropriate performance venues available and will provide a sufficient number of music stands. A page-turner will also be available.

7.2. Instruments necessary for performance are to be brought by the participants.

7.3. A concert grand piano will be provided by the Organiser for both rounds. Objections to the type and quality of the instruments provided by the Organiser are not permitted.

7.4. The Organiser will endeavour to provide suitable warm-up and practice rooms and to facilitate a sound check. However, participants do not have the right to insist on such facilities.

8. Inability to attend

Subject to clause 5.5, participation fees will not be refunded where an ensemble is unable to participate.

9. Prizes

Participating teams will be awarded prizes by the Organiser in the form of money or other prizes (such as CDs, master classes and concert appearances). An audience prize will be awarded at the final. A list of prizes will be published on the

website www.sforzando.eu and updated accordingly. This publication of this list of prizes is not binding on the Organiser.

10. Legal

The following translation of the Organiser's and participants' legal rights and obligations is provided for guidance only. Should the Organiser or participants seek to enforce any of these rules, the original German version, available at www.sforzando.eu, shall prevail.

- 10.1. Participants agree to the reproduction, distribution and online publication of the submitted photo of the ensemble and profile as well as the submitted performance programme, in complete, modified or abbreviated form.
- 10.2. Participants agree to the audio and visual recording, reproduction, distribution, online publication, broadcast or any other representation or reproduction of all stages of the competition and, in particular, of their performance. Participants, in their capacity as artistic performers, further grant Sforzando e.V. an exclusive right to use their work which encompasses, among others and non-exhaustively, the following uses: the right to make audio or visual recordings, the right to reproduce and distribute their work, or make it available online, to broadcast it or to make it public in any other way, as well as any other use reasonably necessary for the purposes of the competition or its promotion. Participants agree to allow the association Sforzando e.V. to sublicense any work to which they own the copyright and further agree to waive any rights they have pursuant to § 35 of the German Copyright Law (*Urheberrechtsgesetz*).
- 10.3. The Organiser undertakes to exercise the above usage rights for the purposes of the association and not for any commercial purpose. Purposes of the association includes, in particular, use of any work for the purposes of advertising the association and the Sforzando competition and for media and press purposes.
- 10.4. Participants agree not to infringe any copyright, particularly in connection to the reproduction and distribution of scores for performed pieces. They are reminded that it is generally a violation of third parties' rights to perform from copied scores. Responsibility for any copyright infringement lies solely with participating ensembles.
- 10.5. The Organiser will take all necessary measures related to the right of public performance of the performed pieces and will meet all associated costs.
- 10.6. Participants agree to the gathering, manipulation and use of any personal data communicated to the Organiser. Such agreement is limited to internal use association for organisational purposes. Personal data will not be shared with third parties. Participants further agree that general information

relating to them (name, place of study, instrument) may be published on the website www.sforzando.eu and in printed programmes distributed during the competition.

- 10.7. The intention to award prizes does not evidence any intention to create legal relations. There is therefore no legal offer of an award.
- 10.8. The Organiser assumes no responsibility for any personal injury or damage to property arising from the competition. This exclusion of liability does not apply to damage or loss resulting from injury to life, body or health resulting from a deliberate or negligent act or omission on the part of the Organiser, any of its legal representatives or its agents. This exclusion of liability does also not apply to any damage caused by any deliberate or grossly negligent act or omission on the part of the Organiser, any of its legal representatives or its agents.

11. Organiser

- 11.1. The Organiser of the competition is the association Sforzando e.V., c/o Stiftung Maximilianeum, Max-Planck-Straße 1, 81675 Munich.
- 11.2. Should any question arise concerning eligibility, the programme to be performed or the competition itself, the Organiser's decision is final.
- 11.3. The Organiser reserves the right to disqualify participating ensembles in breach of one or more of the above rules. A disqualification is also retrospectively possible. Disqualification decisions may not be appealed.