

INTERNATIONAL OPERA CONDUCTING COMPETITION CIDOO | 4TH EDITION | RULES

Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège

The competition is open to applicants of all nationalities born after **1 January 1992**.

Applicants must fill in the registration pack online available at this web page www.concours-operaliege.com before **15 November 2026**.

It is mandatory for the registration pack to include the following:

- A personal information sheet
- A detailed curriculum vitae
- One or more video recordings not exceeding 15 minutes in total
- A high-resolution photograph in portrait format
- A copy of the applicant's passport

Any falsified information or material will make the application invalid.

The curriculum vitae must mention the applicant's musical background and career: education, names of teachers, milestones in their musical activities, competitions previously entered, prizes obtained, etc.

The video recording must show the applicant conducting (filmed from the orchestra's perspective). Applicants must clearly indicate on the dedicated form the titles of the musical works recorded, together with the date of the recording. The competition organisers guarantee that the videos submitted will be used solely for the purposes of the selection process and for no other use. Applicants are responsible for priorly obtaining any permission required in relation to copyright and/or image rights related to the recording.

Competition address:

Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège
Rue des Dominicains, 1
B - 4000 LIEGE
BELGIQUE

A pre-selection panel will examine all applications and decide whether candidates are admitted to the competition.

Applicants selected to take part in the competition will be notified by e-mail no later than **7 December 2026**. Decisions of the panel are final and reasons for acceptance or rejection will not be communicated. All communication with applicants will be conducted via e-mail.

Candidates admitted to the competition following the application and video selection process will be required to pay a registration fee of € 700 (seven hundred euros).

This registration fee must be paid before **30 December 2026** and is non-refundable.

Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège

IBAN : BE 05240006632275 BIC : GEBABEBB

Reference to be included: Surname + first name(s) + CIDOO 2027

Failure to pay the registration fee by the deadline will result in the cancellation of the candidate's participation.



The competition consists of a preliminary round, quarter-finals, semi-finals and a final :

Preliminary round – 15 and 16 March 2027

Quarter-finals – 17 March 2027

Semi-finals – 18 March 2027

Rehearsals – 19 March 2027

Final – 20 March 2027

All the rounds will take place at the **Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège** and will be open to the public with the exception of the rehearsal on 19 March 2027.

The rounds will be held with the Orchestra and Chorus of the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège, as well as with the soloists selected by the General and Artistic Director of the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège.

All scores will be provided to the participants.

PRELIMINARY ROUND: 15-16 MARCH 2027

11.00 a.m.: Welcome of the 24 participants and draw for the running order and repertoire for the preliminary round.

Each participant will be given a 23-minute slot to conduct the orchestra. One overture from the list below will be assigned to each participant by random draw.

1. N. Rimski-Korsakov – *Tsarskaïa Nevesta* (The Tsar's Bride)
2. V. Bellini – *Norma*
3. J. Massenet – *Le Cid*
4. G. Donizetti – *Don Pasquale*
5. F. Schubert – *Fierrabras*
6. G. Rossini – *Il Turco in Italia* (The Turk in Italy)
7. B. Smetana – *Hubička* (The Kiss)
8. W.A. Mozart – *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic flute)

At the end of the preliminary round, 12 candidates will advance to the quarter-finals.

QUARTER-FINALS: 17 MARCH 2027

Musical rehearsal with soloists on the piano.

A draw will determine the order of appearance of the 12 participants, each of whom will conduct an excerpt selected at random from the operatic works listed below. Each candidate will be allotted 23 minutes.

1. Bellini – *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*
Act I Finale - "Che miro? Il perfido nemico ambasciatore!" until the end of Act I
2. W.A. Mozart – *Die Zauberflöte*
Scene Finale Act I - "Schnelle Füße, rascher Mut..." until the end of Act I
3. G. Donizetti – *Anna Bolena*
Scene Finale Act I - "Giusto Cielo giunge alcuno, io son perduta" until the end of Act I
4. G. Verdi – *Luisa Miller*
Finale Act I - "Del Conte di Walter figlio..." until the end of Act I
5. G. Bizet – *Carmen*
Act II – Scenes II and III - "Vivat le torero" until the end of Quintet
6. G. Verdi – *Ernani*
Scene Finale Act I - "Che vegg'io..." until the end of Act I

At the end of the quarter-finals, 6 candidates will advance to the semi-finals.



SEMI-FINALS: 18 MARCH 2027

Conducting the Orchestra with soloists and Chorus.

A draw will determine the order of appearance of the 6 participants, each of whom will conduct an excerpt selected at random from the operatic works listed below.

Each candidate will be allotted 48 minutes.

At the end of the semi-finals, 3 participants will advance to the final.

FINAL: 20 MARCH 2027

Conducting the Orchestra with soloists and Chorus.

A draw will determine the order of appearance of the 3 participants, each of whom will conduct a piece selected at random from the operatic works listed below.

1. G. Puccini – *La Bohème* – Act II (all)
2. G. Donizetti – *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Act II “Per te d’immenso giubilo” until the end of the scene
3. G. Verdi – *La Traviata* – Act II Chez Flora (the whole scene)

THE SELECTED MUSICAL WORKS MUST BE PERFORMED WITHOUT CUTS.

RUNNING ORDER

For each round, the running order will be determined by draw.

The 24 candidates selected to take part in the Competition must report to the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège on 15 March 2027 at 11 a.m. for the draw determining the running order of the preliminary round.

SCHEDULE AND DURATION OF THE ROUNDS

Mon 15/03		11.00: Welcome of the 24 candidates and draw for the running order.		
Mon 15/03	Prelim.round	14.00 – 17.00 Preliminary round with orch. 19.00 – 22.00 Preliminary round with orch.	12 candidates	23 min/candidate
Tue 16/03	Prelim.round	14.00 – 17.00 Preliminary round with orch. 19.00-22.00 Preliminary round with orch.	12 candidates	23 min/candidate
Wed 17/03	Quarter-finals	14.00 – 17.00 Piano musical with soloists 19.00 – 22.00 Piano musical with soloists	12 candidates	23 min/candidate
Thu 18/03	Semi-finals	14.00 – 17.00 Stage and Orchestra Rehearsal 19.00 – 22.00 Stage and Orchestra Rehearsal	6 candidates	48 min/candidate
Fri 19/03	Rehearsal (WITHOUT JURY)	10.00 – 13.00 Piano musical rehearsal with soloists 14.00 – 17.00 Stage and Orchestra Rehearsal 19.00 – 22.00 Stage and Orchestra Rehearsal (run-through)	3 candidates	50 min/candidate 50 min/candidate
Sat 20/03	Final	20.00 Competition closing concert + Results Announcement		



JURY

Stefano Pace President	General and Artistic Director of the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège
Giampaolo Bisanti	Music Director of the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège
Pierangelo Conte	Artistic Director of the Teatro Comunale di Bologna
Christophe Ghristi	Artistic Director of the Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse
Bettina Giese	Opera Director of the Staatsoper Hamburg
Isla Mundell Perkins	Director of Artistic Administration at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Casting Advisor for Malmö Opera
Christina Scheppelmann	General and Artistic Director of the Théâtre royal de la Monnaie

Participants not selected for the next round may request feedback from the jury on the day following their elimination.

PARTICIPANTS' CHARTER

Participants unreservedly accept the rules of the competition. In the event of any dispute, ONLY the French version of these rules shall be deemed authoritative.

Participants may not claim any prize other than the one actually awarded to them. Any misused of titles will be rejected and may give rise to legal proceedings.

Participants waive any rights to fees or compensation in connection with the recording or broadcasting of any stage of the competition on radio, television, social media platforms or any other media.

The organising committee reserves the right to use any photographs, audio or video recordings taken during the competition for press and promotional purposes, including on radio, television, social media and other media platforms, both in Belgium and abroad.

Dress code: participants are requested to wear evening dress for the elimination rounds and concert attire for the final round. Upon prior request, the organisers reserve the right to provide costumes and to arrange preliminary fittings.

PRIZES

First Prize

8,000 € (eight thousand euros)

+ A contract to conduct an opera production at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège

Second Prize

4,000 € (Four thousand euros)

+ A contract as Assistant Conductor to the Music Director for an opera production at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège

Third Prize

2,000 € (two thousand euros)

SCHEDULE

10 JUNE 2026	REGISTRATION OPENS
15 NOVEMBER 2026	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
7 DECEMBER 2026	ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTED PARTICIPANTS
30 DECEMBER 2026	DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION FEES
15-16 MARCH 2027	PRELIMINARY ROUNDS
17 MARCH 2027	QUARTER - FINALS
18 MARCH 2027	SEMI - FINALS
19 MARCH 2027	REHEARSAL
20 MARCH 2027	FINAL

