

Press release – Tuesday 20/04/2021 – Brussels

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Presentation of the 2021 Piano Competition, from 3 May to 9 June (Flagey and Centre for Fine Arts)

Calendar

First round : 03/05 > 08/05 - Flagey (sessions at 12h, 16h and 20h)

Semi-final : 10 > 15/05 - Flagey (sessions at 16h and 20h)

12 semi-finalists instead of 24, with the Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, dir. Frank Braley

Final : 24 > 29/05 – Centre for Fine Arts (20h)

6 finalists instead of 12, with the Belgian National Orchestra, dir. Hugh Wolff

Laureates' concert : 07/06 - Koningin Elisabethzaal - Antwerp (20h)

laureates 4, 5 & 6, with the Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, dir. Jonathon Heyward

Closing concert : 09/06 - Centre for Fine Arts (20h)

laureates 1, 2 & 3, with Brussels Philharmonic, dir. Stéphane Denève

No audience

While we had initially hoped that audience would be welcome in the Belgian concert halls in the month of May, to our regret we must announce that no tickets will be sold for this session.

Broadcasts : from the first round until the laureates' concerts

However, we have made sure that our audience will not have to miss a note of the performances! RTBF, VRT and our partner Proximus decided to make an extra effort during this difficult period. We are proud to announce that not only the semi-final and final performances, and the laureates' concerts, will be broadcast live. The entire first round will be live video streamed on our website.

[More information on the broadcasts of the 2021 Piano Competition](#)

64 candidates in the first round

Because some candidates had to withdraw, 64 candidates will participate instead of the 74, that were selected for the Competition that initially was to take place in May 2020. **They are 53 men and 11 women, representing 19 different nationalities.** We would like to thank them for their perseverance and for continuing to prepare in these extremely difficult circumstances. A health protocol to ensure the safety of everyone during the Piano Competition was developed with the help of a commission made up of specialists from the medical community.

[List of the candidates by nationality](#)

[The profiles of the candidates in alphabetical order](#)

Adjustments due to the current sanitary restrictions

With these adjustments, we remain true to the Competition's artistic demands, while minimising the impact on the candidates' preparation.

- Depending on the number of participants, **an extra noon session will be added on several days of the first round**, so that the usual sessions at 16h and 20h do not last too long (more information daily on our website). The order of appearance will be announced on www.queenelisabethcompetition.be on Saturday May 1 in the afternoon.
- The number of **semi-finalists is limited to 12** instead of 24.
- Each semi-finalist will play his **recital and concerto during one performance** and not on two different days.
- The number of **finalists is limited to 6** instead of 12.
- In order to allow the orchestras to play while respecting the sanitary rules, a **proscenium** has been added to the stage of Studio 4 in Flagey and in the Salle Henry le Bœuf at the Centre for Fine Arts.
- All candidates will be **reimbursed 50% of their travel costs** and not only the semi-finalists.
- The **semi-finalists** who do not proceed to the final will each receive an amount of **€2,000** instead of €1,000.

[Overview of the laureates' prizes](#)

New webshop : programme book and CD box set of Piano 2021

You can now buy the programme book and discover the special offer of this year's CD box set in our [brand new webshop : shop.queenelisabethcompetition.be](http://shop.queenelisabethcompetition.be).

Live streaming : how to support the candidates and the Competition?

The corona crisis has affected the organisation of the Queen Elisabeth Competition also financially. The lack of ticket sales for the second year in a row means a serious loss for our non-profit organisation. Therefore, we suggest that you **make a free contribution during the live broadcast of the performances on our website www.queenelisabethcompetition.be**, in order to help us support the young talented pianists taking part in this exceptional year. They have been preparing for this Competition for several years and have hardly had any opportunity to perform on stage during the past year. We are delighted to be able to offer them a stage in Brussels, which also grants them visibility at an international level.

The Queen Elisabeth Competition would like to thank its corporate sponsors – BNP Paribas Fortis, Proximus, Total and Rolex – and its partner, the National Lottery, for their precious and loyal support.

Press contact

For any questions about the organisation of the 2021 Piano Competition:

Marie Vander Elst : mvanderelst@queenelisabethcompetition.be / +32 2 213 40 50 / +32 475 20 86 84