



QUEEN ELISABETH COMPETITION

QUEEN ELISABETH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION OF BELGIUM

VOICE 2023: RULES

1. The Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium is holding a competition from 21 May to June 3 May 2023 for singers. This competition is for singers between 18 and 33 years of age (see Article 2) who have completed their training and who are ready to embark upon an international career.

I. ENTRY CONDITIONS

2. The competition is open to singers of all nationalities, who are aged at least 18 and have not yet reached the age of 33 on 31 December 2022 (i.e. they must be born after 31 December 1989 and before 1 January 2005).
3. This competition is not open to laureates of a previous Queen Elisabeth Voice Competition. No candidate may take part more than twice in the public rounds of the Competition in the same discipline.

A. Applications

4. All applications must be made using the form available on the Queen Elisabeth Competition website (www.queenelisabethcompetition.be). No other method of submission will be accepted.
5. Application forms together with their appendices must be submitted and have been formally approved by 12 noon (GMT) on 7 December 2022 at the latest. This deadline cannot be extended under any circumstances.
6. Candidates will be sent an e-mail confirming the formal approval of their application. No incomplete application can be formally approved.
7. It is the candidate's responsibility to take all the necessary steps so that the application can be approved by the deadline and to keep a copy of the application. The Competition cannot be held responsible if an application is not received.
8. If a candidate encounters technical problems during the online application, the candidate must inform the Competition secretariat about the problem as soon as possible by sending an e-mail to application@queenelisabethcompetition.be so that the application can nonetheless be formally accepted on time. In order to avoid, as far as possible, any technical problems, it is strongly recommended that candidates start uploading videos at least 48 hours before the deadline for applications.
9. The application fee of €100, payable via the same online form, will not be reimbursed under any circumstances.

B. Examination of the applications

10. **Applications**
The applications will be examined by the Competition's organisers. The Competition reserves the right to require candidates to provide additional further information. The videos of those candidates whose applications are not in order or who have not met the documentation requirements by 15 January 2023 will not be viewed during the preselection process and those candidates, accordingly, cannot be admitted to the competition.

11. Programme

The programme of the different rounds will be examined by an Artistic Committee specially designated for this purpose. This committee will have the right to impose changes to the programme in order to ensure that it complies with the rules and artistic requirements of the Competition. Once the deadline for applications (7 December 2022 at 12 noon GMT) has passed, no change can be made to the programme, except where required by the Artistic Committee or requested by the Competition's organisers, as provided for in Article 46.

C. Acceptance

12. Once his or her application has been accepted by the organisers of the Competition and his or her programme has been accepted by the Artistic Committee, each candidate who has been selected in the preselection process will receive confirmation of his or her admission to the first round.
13. Candidates may not be rejected on any ideological, linguistic, political, religious, or racial grounds.
14. If a candidate's participation could create a conflict of interest, of any kind, that candidate may be refused access to the Competition.

II. TIMETABLE

15. 7 December 2022 12 noon GMT	deadline for applications
18 May 2023	the candidates arrive
19 May 2023	drawing of lots
21 > 22 May 2023	first round
24 > 25 May 2023	semi-final
29 > 31 May 2023	rehearsals
1 > 3 June 2023	final
6 June 2023	awards ceremony
starting as from 7 June 2023	concerts given by laureates

III. ROUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

A. General provisions concerning the rounds of the competition

16. The public rounds of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition are preceded by a preselection round behind closed doors, based on the viewing of the videos submitted by the candidates. The public rounds are divided into three stages:
 - a. The purpose of the first round is to choose the 24 candidates who will be admitted to the semi-final round.
 - b. The semi-final determines the 12 finalists.
 - c. The purpose of the final round is to rank the top six laureates.
17. In the different public rounds, the candidates will perform in the order established by the drawing of lots.
18. All the rounds, except the preselection process, are open to the public.
19. Each of the candidates selected for the final will be entitled to the same amount of rehearsal time with the orchestra.
20. Each candidate admitted to take part in the public rounds undertakes to participate in those rounds, unless prevented from doing so by illness or accident.
21. All rounds, including the preselection, take place under the supervision of the ministerial official (as defined in Article 136).
22. General remarks concerning programmes:
 - Candidates are expected to treat each performance as a recital and should therefore put together their programme with this in mind. The jury will look at each performance as a whole.
 - For all the rounds, the tuning of the piano and the orchestra is A-442.
 - All the works must be sung from memory – except for the oratorio arias – in the original language and key. Transposition is, however, permitted for lieder and songs with piano accompaniment, but only those transpositions that have been published will be accepted.

- A candidate may ask to sing some contemporary works using a score. The Artistic Committee has the authority to allow this. The request must be sent to the application@queenelisabethcompetition.be address by 1 April 2023 at the latest.
- Repeats are left to the discretion of the candidates, but they must take these into account in working out the timing of their programmes.
- Candidates may not include in their programme works that they themselves have composed.

B. Preselection: viewing of the videos

- The purpose of the viewing of the videos is to eliminate candidates who have not attained the level required to participate in the public rounds of the competition and to reduce the number of candidates taking part in the public rounds.
- When it comes to viewing the videos, only those of candidates whose applications are in order or have met the documentation requirements will be considered. See Article 10.
- Candidates will be informed individually of the results of the selection process by 15 March 2023 at the latest.
- There is no limit on the number of candidates accepted.
- Programme**
 - Candidates must upload, via the application form available on www.queenelisabethcompetition.be, good-quality video recordings (audio and video) of recent performances by themselves of three pieces in at least two different languages, from at least two different periods.
 - All the pieces must be performed with piano accompaniment.
 - Candidates should upload one file per piece.
 - The works performed in the preselection video may be included in the programme for the public rounds of the Competition.
- Technical requirements**
 - In the application form, the candidate must provide information on the place and date of recording for each file.
 - For each file, the candidate must certify its authenticity and that he/she is the soloist and must confirm that it is not subject to copyright restrictions.
 - Each piece must be recorded in a single take.
 - No editing is allowed.
 - The candidate must be clearly visible; the candidate's chest and face should be clearly visible at all times.
 - It is strongly recommended that the sound should be recorded professionally.
 - The videos may be recorded in different places and on different occasions.
 - A video whose quality, visual and/or audio, does not allow the jury to evaluate the candidate's abilities will be rejected (see Article 96 and following).

C. Drawing of lots by the candidates

- Date:** 19 May 2023
Venue: Flagey (Studio 1) - Brussels
- The purpose of the drawing of lots is to establish the order in which candidates will perform. Candidates admitted to the first round will be assigned an individual place in the order of appearance, which will apply to the three public rounds of the Competition.
- The drawing of lots will take place in the presence of the ministerial official, who will ensure that everything is done according to the rules and will record the result. At the request of the Competition's organisers, the ministerial official will, first of all, ensure that a letter of the alphabet is drawn by lot, starting from which individual candidates will draw in turn, by alphabetical order, to establish their order of performance.
- All candidates are required to attend the drawing of lots and will be duly summoned by email. If a candidate cannot attend the draw owing to circumstances beyond his/her control, he or she must justify the absence in time (at least 48 hours before the draw); at the candidate's express and written request, the ministerial official or a person designated by the candidate will draw lots on the candidate's behalf. Candidates are requested to find out immediately after the draw from the Competition secretariat the date and time at which they must present themselves for their performances for the first round.

33. Except for the situation provided for in Article 34, the order of appearance as determined by the draw may only be changed due to exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances, for which the candidate will have to provide justification. The Competition's organisers will consider the reasons given and make a decision, which shall be final. Any alteration decided upon will only be valid for the round in question.
34. If a candidate wishes to obtain an exemption from the order decided on because of a professional engagement, he or she must make this request to the secretariat of the Competition and provide justification at least 48 hours before the drawing of lots. The Competition's organisers will consider the reasons given and make a decision, which shall be final.

D. Registration of the candidates

35. Candidates who are admitted to the first round will receive an individual registration document bearing the number obtained in the drawing of lots.
36. Each candidate must carry this document throughout the competition and present it whenever requested to do so by the Competition's administrative services. Subject to availability, on presenting this document, he or she will be given an entry ticket for the rounds of the competition.

E. First round

37. **Dates:** 21 > 22 May 2023
Venue: Flagey (Studio 4) - Brussels
Number of participants: unlimited
Accompaniment: piano (A-442)
Duration of the performance: maximum 10 minutes
38. In the first round, candidates will perform two pieces of their own choosing (opera arias, oratorio arias, Lieder or art songs) in different languages and of different periods. One of the pieces must be an opera or oratoria aria. The two pieces must both be performed; the total length of the two pieces must not exceed in total 10 minutes. The candidates will choose the order in which they perform them.
39. Number of candidates admitted to the next round: 24

F. Semi-final

40. **Dates:** 24 > 25 May 2023
Venue: Flagey (Studio 4) - Brussels
Number of participants: 24
Accompaniment: piano (A-442)
Duration of the performance: approx. 20 minutes
41. **Programme to be prepared**
Two coherent recital programmes, each lasting about 20 minutes, made up of pieces different from those performed in the first round. No more than 10 minutes of the works proposed may be common to the two programmes. Neither of the two recital programmes may contain more than two pieces by the same composer (cycles and parts of cycles are considered to be a single piece).
42. **Programme to be performed**
Each candidate will perform one of the two recital programmes proposed. The choice of recital programme will be made by the jury and will be communicated to the candidate +/- 29 hours before the performance. Each candidate will choose the order in which he or she will play the different works on his/her programme.
43. Number of candidates admitted to the final: 12

G. Final

44. **Dates:** 1 > 3 June 2023

Venue: Brussels Centre for Fine Arts (Palais des Beaux-Arts)

Number of participants: 12

Accompaniment: La Monnaie/De Munt Symphony Orchestra (A-442), cond. Alain Altinoglu

Duration of the performance: approx. 20 minutes

45. In the final, candidates will sing three to six pieces of their own choice (about 20 minutes of music), including at least one opera aria, and in at least 2 different languages. Each of these pieces must be different from those performed in the semi-final. A candidate may perform no more than two pieces by a particular composer (cycles and parts of cycles are considered to be a single piece). Candidates must enclose with their applications a copy of the first and last page of each of the works to be performed in the final. They should also indicate clearly any cuts they may wish to make.

46. In the event that the orchestral material is not available, the candidate may be asked either to provide the orchestral material or to choose a different aria from his or her repertoire. It is also possible that the candidate may be asked to change his or her programme if the orchestral forces available do not make it possible to perform it in the context of the Competition.

47. Rehearsals

During the period leading up to the final, the candidates selected must take part in the meetings with the conductor and the rehearsals planned by the Competition's organisers. Candidates will be supplied with a detailed schedule once their candidacies are accepted. No exemptions will be granted, except in exceptional cases duly motivated by the candidates. Candidates who do not fulfil their obligations in this respect may be denied access to the final.

H. Prize Ceremony

48. **Date:** 6 June 2023

Venue: Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel (Waterloo)

The presence of the 12 laureates at this ceremony is mandatory.

I. Laureates' concerts

49. The laureates are required to take part in concerts and recitals arranged by the organisation. The fee for these concerts is fixed by the Competition's management. Some of these concerts will be organised in cooperation with the organisers of the Competition; others are agreed in advance with Belgian and foreign organisations. A list of these obligatory concerts will be given to the candidates whose applications are accepted. In the case of non-compliance with these commitments, a laureate may be deprived of all or part of the benefits related to his prize. Other concert proposals will potentially be submitted to the laureates after the proclamation.

50. The laureates must be ready to perform other pieces (solo, duo, trio) than those performed during the competition.

IV. PRIZES, HONOURS, AND AWARDS

51. A number of prizes, honours, and awards will be shared out among the laureates and the semi-finalists.
52. There are six prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: QUEEN ELISABETH INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIZE

Queen Mathilde Prize

€25,000

SECOND PRIZE: Prize of the Belgian Federal Government

€20,000

THIRD PRIZE: Count de Launoit Prize

€17,000

FOURTH PRIZE: Prize of the Governments of the Belgian Communities

€12,500

FIFTH PRIZE: Brussels-Capital Region Prize

€10,000

SIXTH PRIZE: City of Brussels Prize

€8,000

53. The six unranked laureates will each receive the sum of €4,000 (donated by the National Lottery) and a recital. They will also receive the title of laureate of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, Voice 2023.
54. The prizes, awards, and certificates, signed by the Chairperson and the members of the jury, will be presented to the laureates at a formal ceremony, which they are required to attend.
55. A sum of €1,000 will be given to each of the 12 candidates in the semi-final who have not been selected for the final round.
56. If possible, the semi-finalists and finalists will each receive recordings of their performances from the semi-final on. These recordings may not under any circumstances be broadcast in any way whatsoever without the agreement of the Competition. The candidate is responsible in relation to others with rights in the recording in the event of any unapproved use.
57. The Executive Committee of the Competition is empowered to accept gifts, grants, and concert offers on behalf of the candidates and laureates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

I. THE CANDIDATES

58. By applying to take part in the Competition, candidates indicate their acceptance of these rules. This agreement is a condition *sine qua non* to be admitted for participation in the Competition.
59. By applying for the Competition, candidates agree to participate in all the rounds as well as in all ceremonies and concerts for which they will be selected by the jury or the organisers of the Competition. They will receive a detailed calendar when their application is accepted.
60. During the application process, the Competition collects detailed personal data on the candidates: this data is necessary for the various procedures of the Competition. The data is stored in a secure database and the following information is made public: family name, first name, date of birth, place of birth, nationality, biography, photographs, personal website, and social media pages. The unpublished information is not transmitted to third parties. Candidates have the right to view their data. They can, in writing, have their data amended or refuse permission for its use once the competition has ended.
61. Candidates shall not be required, in the framework of the Competition, to make any financial contribution other than the registration fee.
62. If it is established, at any time, that a candidate does not fulfil the conditions for application to the competition, that candidate will be immediately excluded from it by the Competition's organisers. Appeal against this decision could be formed by the candidate before the Legal Committee.
63. The candidate will not engage in any malicious behaviour that could in any way damage the reputation of the Queen Elisabeth Competition and/or of the organisation's sponsors, donors, or partners. If a candidate becomes involved in an event that brings the Queen Elisabeth Competition into disrepute, its Executive Committee will have the right to take, from the preselection round on, any steps it judges to be appropriate; its decision will be final. A candidate may be disqualified from the Competition and/or be deprived of any benefits that may have been conferred on him or her. Should any damage be caused, the candidate agrees to absolve the Queen Elisabeth Competition of all responsibility and undertakes to indemnify the Competition.

Travel expenses

64. The 24 candidates selected for the semi-final round will be reimbursed 50% of their travelling expenses (a return journey to Brussels, subject to a maximum of €500) upon presentation of documentation of their expenses. The Competition cannot reimburse the travel expenses of candidates who are residents in Belgium or who travel by car.

Accommodation

65. The competition will arrange free accommodation for the candidates who request it, subject to availability, with families in and around Brussels. These families cannot also provide accommodation for relatives or friends of the candidate. Subject to these conditions and bearing in mind these restrictions, a maximum number of candidates will be accommodated during the first round. Thereafter, only those candidates who are admitted to the semi-final and to the final will be able to continue to benefit from this assistance.

Pianists to accompany the candidates

66. Pianists designated by the organisers of the competition are at the disposal of the candidates. Candidates may, nonetheless, have a personal accompanist, in which case the Competition will pay him or her €150 for taking part in the first round and €250 for taking part in the semi-final. These sums include payment for all rights to recordings. The pianists may also be accommodated by a host family as long as their candidate is still in the competition or until the end of the semi-final at the latest. The Competition will also pay 50% of the accompanist's travel expenses (a return journey to Brussels, subject to a maximum of €500) if the candidate is admitted to the semi-final. The Competition cannot reimburse the travel expenses of accompanists who live in Belgium or who travel by car.

A candidate's choice between accompaniment by a Competition pianist or by a personal pianist will be valid for all rounds of the competition. Candidates who choose for an official Competition pianist will be put in contact with the pianist in question after the drawing of lots. As far as possible, this pianist will accompany the candidate in all rounds. Nevertheless, for organisational reasons, a candidate may be allocated a different accompanist from one round to another. An official Competition accompanist may not accompany a candidate in a private capacity.

Broadcasting

67. The first round, semi-final, and final, as well as the laureates' concerts, are recorded. Except in exceptional circumstances, they are also broadcast live and/or in pre-recorded broadcasts on radio, television, and the Internet. These recordings may be released in various formats: CD, DVD, etc.

Cession of rights

68. By participating in the Competition, the candidates give the Competition permission to have them filmed (audio and video) and photographed during the rounds of the Competition, the laureates' concerts, and the awards ceremony. They agree that the photographs taken by the Competition's photographers may also be used by third parties. The candidates cede to the Competition the right to record, archive, reproduce, arrange for the reproduction of, and distribute their performances in the Competition and at the concerts, as well as the photographic material, on disc, CD, SACD, sound track, audio cassette, video cassette, video disc, CD-ROM/CDI, DVD, minidisc, or any other existing or future medium, including in digital format, as well as the right to communicate their performances to the public by any televised or radio broadcast means, including broadcasting via the Internet, cable networks, and terrestrial or other broadcasting, live or pre-recorded, linear or on-demand, whether involving free or paid downloading or not, in Belgium or abroad. This cession of rights applies to all performances during the Competition and to the laureates' concerts and the awards ceremony and is granted for the full duration of the protection of the rights in question, subject to the laws in force at the time and in the future.

Scores

69. Candidates are expected to use the original scores of the works they perform. The Queen Elisabeth Competition cannot be held responsible for any fraud committed by a candidate in this regard (public use of illegal copies).

Candidates must be able to supply copies of the scores of the works performed in their programme to the Competition organisers.

Laureates' concerts and recordings

70. For a period of four months, beginning on the day of the announcement of the results, no laureate may give paid public performances or agree to any recordings in Belgium without the authorisation of the Competition.

II. THE JURY

71. The Executive Committee of the Competition has the exclusive authority to appoint the members of the jury. The number of members is not limited. They are chosen for their international renown in the world of music, without regard to any racial, ideological, political, religious, or linguistic considerations. The composition of the jury may vary from one round to another.
72. Unless otherwise explicitly set out in these rules, the jury's sole mission is to rank the candidates according to the procedure established by these rules. The jury has no administrative function.
73. The jury is chaired by a member of the Executive Committee or by such other person as the Executive Committee may designate.
74. Members of the jury may not vote for a candidate with whom they have a close connection. In such cases, Article 120 of these rules applies. Having "a close connection" in this context means that a member of the jury and a candidate share a dwelling or are related (up to the fourth degree of kinship) or are spouses or are cohabiting.
75. Members of the jury may not vote for a candidate who is one of their pupils or has been in the past. In such cases, Article 120 of these rules applies. By 'pupil' is meant any candidate who has taken more than five lessons with the jury member in question. Masterclasses are not taken into consideration. An opera director whose candidate is, or has been, part of a structure linked to his opera house is also considered to be the teacher of the candidate in question. In case of doubt, those concerned will refer the matter to the organisers, whose decision shall be final.
76. Candidates are not entitled to object to a member of the jury, but they have the right to lodge a complaint with the Legal Committee, if they believe that Articles 74 and 75 have not been observed.
77. A list of the names of all candidates will be given to each member of the jury.
78. A list of the names of the members of the jury will be given to each candidate before the first public round.

79. Each member of the jury will furnish the secretariat of the Competition with the following declaration, duly signed:
- I, the undersigned, member of the jury of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium 2023, hereby declare that I have read the rules of this year's Competition and declare that I accept them, including the collection, processing, and transmission of my personal data. I acknowledge that, in the event of a dispute, only the French and Dutch texts of these rules are legally binding. I agree to abide by these rules and declare that is (has been) my pupil (see Article 75) or has a close connection with me (see Article 74 of these rules).
80. Before the public rounds of the Competition, each candidate will furnish the secretariat of the Competition with the following declaration, duly signed:
- I, the undersigned, admitted to the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium 2023, declare that I have read the rules of the Competition and declare that I accept them, including the provisions of Article 60 in relation to the collection, processing, and transmission of my personal data. I acknowledge that, in the event of a dispute, only the French and Dutch texts of these rules are legally binding. I agree to be bound by the rules and declare that is (has been) my teacher (see Article 75) or has a close connection with me (see Article 74 of these rules).
81. If the declarations in articles 79 and 80 are shown to be untrue, the signatory will be excluded from the jury or from the Competition.
82. Throughout the entire Competition, the members of the jury shall refrain from having any contact, direct or indirect, with any candidate.
83. Jury members shall also refrain from making any statements about the candidates, the activities of the jury, or the organisation of the competition.
84. The jury decides the programme to be performed by the candidates, in accordance with the provisions of these rules.
85. The decisions of the jury in each round will be recorded in minutes signed by the ministerial official.
86. The jury will vote by secret ballot. The members of the jury must not, under any circumstances, inform each other of the points they have awarded.
87. The Competition has made it a principle to rely on the personal, individual judgement of each member of the jury. Accordingly, the members shall refrain from any form of consultation.
88. Jury members can only judge those rounds for which they have been expressly appointed. If a member of the jury is unable to attend one or more sessions due to circumstances beyond his or her control, the Competition organisers will be authorised either to cancel the points awarded by that member for the whole of the round in question or to attribute to those candidates whom that member of the jury has been unable to judge the weighted average as defined by Article 120.
89. Only the President of the Executive Committee and/or his or her representative may be present at any of the operations pertaining to the various activities of the jury.

III. CHAIRPERSON OF THE JURY

90. The role of the Chairperson of the jury is to direct the operations of the jury of the competition. He or she is assisted in this task by a Secretary. Neither takes part in the voting.
91. In relation to the choice of works and parts of works to be performed, it is the responsibility of the Chairperson of the jury to ensure that the jury prescribes programmes of equivalent nature and importance for every candidate.
92. The Chairperson's remit includes overseeing the rounds. To this end it is incumbent on him or her to take all necessary steps to ensure that the jury's work is carried out correctly. If, in his or her opinion, a member of the jury has committed a serious breach of the rules, the Chairperson has the power to suspend that member immediately or to submit the matter for the urgent consideration of the Executive Committee, which may, where appropriate, start proceedings before the Legal Committee.
93. In the event of illness or absence due to unforeseen circumstances, the Chairperson of the jury will be replaced, for the entire Competition or for a part of it, preferably by a member of the Executive Committee designated by the President of that Committee or, by default, by an individual appointed by the Executive Committee of the Competition.
94. The Chairperson of the jury announces the results of the rounds, faithfully reflecting the decisions of the jury.

95. If the Legal Committee is called upon to pronounce judgement on a matter implicating a member of the jury, it is obliged to hear that member and the Chairperson of the jury.

IV. POINTS: PROCEDURES AND CALCULATION

A. Preselection: screening of the videos

96. A technician will check all the videos in advance and will be present during the viewing in order to avoid, as far as possible, any technical problems. The technician may, under the supervision of a member of the Executive Committee, give a ruling on the inadmissibility of a video because its poor technical quality makes it impossible to view.
97. In the event of its poor technical quality making it impossible to view a video, it is up to the Chairperson of the jury or, by default, another member of the Executive Committee together with the President of the Executive Committee to judge whether it is appropriate to request the candidate to submit a new copy of the file in question.
98. In the event that a video cannot be viewed because of a temporary technical problem, its viewing may be postponed to a later date.
99. The secretary of the jury, or a person mandated by the Executive Committee, will check beforehand that each video meets the requirements of Articles 27 and 28 of these rules, in order to ensure that the recording is genuine and that it provides the information the jury needs to evaluate the candidate's ability. The secretary has the right, under the supervision of a member of the Executive Committee, to rule on the admissibility of a video.

B. Preselection jury

100. The members of the preselection jury will view all the videos that meet the technical requirements and those of the Artistic Committee.
101. For each video, each member of the jury will indicate to the Chairperson of the jury when he or she has received sufficient information to enable him or her to evaluate it. Once all the members of the jury have done so, they will move on to the next and so on for each candidate.
102. For this round, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper on which appear the names of the candidates. For each candidate, each member of the jury will indicate whether he or she wishes to admit that candidate to the first round ('YES' or 'NO'). If in doubt, the jury member may qualify this judgement by attributing a 'yes, if necessary' or a 'no, if necessary'. The ballot papers, signed by the members of the jury, will be given to the ministerial official or the person mandated by him/her.
103. The ranking of the candidates will be determined by the number of 'YES' votes obtained, with a 'yes, if necessary' counted as a half 'YES' vote and a 'no, if necessary' counted as a quarter 'YES' vote. In the event of a tie, the number of 'YES' votes will be decisive.
104. Depending on the results, and without being aware of the names of the candidates in question, the Executive Committee will decide where to establish the cut-off point between the candidates admitted and those rejected, in such a way that a reasonably acceptable number of candidates is admitted to the first round.

C. First round

105. For the first round, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper on which appear the names of the candidates. They will attribute to each candidate a mark of between 0 and 100 points in line with their evaluation of the performance. This mark expresses the evaluation by the jury member of each candidate's performance as a whole.
In addition to awarding a mark, each jury member will indicate whether or not he or she wishes the candidate to proceed to the semi-final, by indicating 'YES' or 'NO' under the heading 'May proceed to the semi-final'. There is no limit to the number of 'YES' responses by each member of the jury.
The ballot papers, signed by the members of the jury, will be given to the ministerial official (or a person mandated by that official).
106. The candidates will be ranked according to the total number of points awarded to each by the members of the jury.
107. Only the first 24 candidates will be admitted to take part in the semi-final. This number may in some cases be reduced by a decision of the Executive Committee. If the number of candidates in the first

round is less than 24, the organisers may decide that only those candidates who have obtained at least 60% of the maximum number of points will be admitted to the semi-final.

108. If the difference between the points obtained by the candidate or candidates immediately following the candidate ranked 24th and the points obtained by the candidate ranked 24th is less than or equal to 3% of the total number of points obtained by the 24th candidate, all of these candidates will be considered to be tied (ranked equally).
This system of equal ranking can also apply to candidates finishing higher than the candidate ranked 24th, but, in these cases, taking the lowest mark as the basis for the percentage (3%). In these cases of equal ranking, the candidates ranked equally will be separated according to the percentage of 'YES' votes they have obtained in relation to the number of jury members who have taken part in the vote.
If the percentage of 'YES' votes is equal for several candidates who are ranked equally, the candidates in question will be ranked according to the number of points obtained. If the points obtained by the equally ranked candidates in question are equal, the organisers of the competition may decide that all or none of these candidates will, exceptionally, take part in the semi-final.

D. Semi-final

109. For the semi-final, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper on which appear the names of the candidates. They will attribute to each candidate a mark of between 50 and 100 points. Any mark below the minimum (50) will not be taken into consideration. Article 120 will apply in this case.
In addition to awarding a mark, each member of the jury will indicate whether or not he or she wishes the candidate to proceed to the final, by indicating 'YES' or 'NO' under the heading 'May proceed to the final'. There is no limit to the number of 'YES' responses by each member of the jury.
The ballot papers, signed by the members of the jury, will be given to the ministerial official (or a person mandated by that official).
110. The candidates will be ranked according to the total number of points awarded to each by the members of the jury.
111. If the difference between the points obtained by the candidate or candidates immediately following the candidate ranked 12th and the points obtained by the candidate ranked 12th is less than or equal to 3% of the total number of points obtained by the 12th candidate, all of these candidates will be considered to be ranked equally.
This system of equal ranking can also apply to candidates finishing higher than the candidate ranked 12th, but, in these cases, taking the lowest mark as the basis for the percentage (3%). In these cases of equal ranking, the candidates ranked equally will be separated according to the percentage of 'YES' votes they have obtained in relation to the number of jury members who have taken part in the vote.
If the percentage of 'YES' votes is equal for several candidates who are ranked equally, the candidates in question will be ranked according to the number of points obtained in the semi-final round. If these candidates have obtained the same number of points, the candidates in question will be ranked by taking into account the points obtained in the first round.
112. Only the 12 candidates with the highest rankings in this round will be admitted to take part in the final round.

E. Final

113. After they have heard all the finalists, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper, on which will appear the names of the 12 finalists. Each member of the jury will attribute to each name a mark of between 60 and 100 points. Any mark below the minimum (60) will not be taken into consideration. Article 120 will apply in this case.
In addition to awarding a mark, each member of the jury will rank the 12 finalists in order of preference, starting with his or her first choice (no two candidates may be ranked equally). Members of the jury who have or have had one or more pupils (see Article 75 or a candidate with whom they have a close connection (as set out in Article 74) among the finalists will not rank their own pupil(s) or the candidate with whom they have a close connection.
Each member of the jury will sign his or her ballot paper and give it to the ministerial official (or a person mandated by that official).
The ranking will be established on the basis of the totals obtained by adding up the points attributed to each candidate by all the members of the jury (see Article 120 and following articles).
114. If the difference between the points obtained by one of the finalists and the points obtained by the finalist ranked immediately above him or her is less than or equal to 3% of the total number of points obtained by the latter, these finalists will be considered to be ranked equally. This system of equal ranking can also apply to two or more finalists ranked more highly, but in such cases by taking the lowest mark as the basis for the percentage.

115. Candidates ranked equally will be compared and ranked in relation to each other on the basis of the preferential ranking attributed by the members of the jury. The preferential ranking attributed by those members of the jury who have one or more pupils (see Article 75) or a candidate with whom they have a close connection (as set out in Article 74) among the finalists will only be taken into account for the separation of those equally ranked finalists who have not been their pupils and with whom they do not have a close connection.
- If there are several equal rankings, each equal ranking will be dealt with individually, starting with that involving the most highly ranked candidates.
- If, after taking into account the result of the preferential ranking, two or more finalists are still ranked equally, candidates will be ranked according to the number of points obtained in the final round. If these candidates have obtained the same number of points, they will be ranked according to the number of points obtained in the semi-final. If these candidates obtained exactly the same number of points in both the final and the semi-final, they will be ranked according to the number of points obtained in the first round.
116. All finalists will receive the title of laureate. The six most highly ranked finalists will receive the title of laureate, winner of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th prize.

V. COUNTING THE VOTES

117. The members of the jury may not exchange comments about the candidates before the end of the final proclamation of the results. Any discussion concerning the candidates during a sitting of the jury will lead to the suspension of the member who has caused it.
118. The President of the Executive Committee will be responsible for counting the ballot papers, given to the ministerial official by each member of the jury, and for tallying the points. The ministerial official will supervise this process with the assistance of the Secretary of the jury. Neither the Chairperson nor the members of the jury may enter the room where the ballot papers are being tallied.
119. Any correction on a ballot paper must be initialled by the jury member and by the ministerial official. If the reading of a ballot paper presents difficulties that could result in an error, the ministerial official, through the Secretary of the jury, may ask the jury member to complete a new ballot paper.
120. For any candidate for whom a jury member has not submitted points, there will be added to the total number of his or her points the average of the points awarded to the candidate in question by the other members of the jury, multiplied by the average of the points attributed by the jury member in question to all the candidates, divided by the average of the points attributed to all the candidates by all the other members of the jury.
121. If, during either the selection rounds or the final round, a jury member awards to one or more candidates a mark that is more than 20% higher or lower than the average of the marks awarded by the jury as a whole (including the jury member in question) – except when this jury member's mark has been voided for being below the minimum allowed for the round – his or her mark will automatically be replaced by the average mark plus or less 20%, as appropriate.
122. All voting and tallying operations are secret. The only results to be announced are: the designation, without indication of ranking, of the candidates admitted to the first round, the designation, without indication of ranking, of the candidates admitted to the semi-final; the designation, without indication of ranking, of the candidates admitted to the final round; and the ranking of the first six laureates.
123. The ballot papers, signed by the members of the jury and later sealed by the ministerial official, will be kept in the Competition's archives. The seals may only be broken with the permission of the Legal Committee.

VI. THE COMPETITION AUTHORITIES

A. The management of the Competition

124. The Queen Elisabeth Competition is a non-profit association (ASBL/VZW).
125. The Competition is managed by an Executive Committee. This committee is acquainted with all administrative aspects of the Competition and represents the board of directors in relation to third parties in legal and other matters, without prejudice to the exercise of those functions expressly reserved to other authorities by these rules.
126. The Executive Committee is responsible for overseeing the application of the rules. It may take any measures necessary to ensure their application and the smooth running of the competition. If breaches take place, it is authorised to bring these to light and to refer them to the Legal Committee. If circum-

stances so require and in the event of absolute necessity, the Executive Committee may exceptionally make any modification to the rules necessary for the smooth running of the Competition. These modifications will be approved by the Legal Committee, before being immediately communicated to the candidates, the members of the jury and the ministerial official.

127. For all matters pertaining to the administration of the Competition, the Executive Committee is authorised, under its own responsibility, to delegate particular powers or functions to persons not otherwise involved in the Competition.

B. The legal committee

128. For each competition a Legal Committee is established, consisting of at least three members. This committee has the task of fairly resolving any administrative, civil, or disciplinary disputes that may arise between the candidates, the members of the jury, the Competition's organisers, or the Executive Committee. The Committee's judgement is final and is not subject to appeal.
129. The members of this Committee will be nominated by the management of the Competition, which will appoint one of them as its Chairperson.
130. The Chairperson of the Legal Committee will appoint a Secretary to assist the Committee in its work.
131. The jury and the candidates will be informed of the names and responsibilities of the members of the Legal Committee. By participating in the competition, the members of the jury and the candidates accept the exclusive jurisdiction of the Legal Committee and accept that any dispute arising within the framework of the competition will come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Legal Committee. It is this Committee, moreover, that rules on appeals against decisions taken by others.
132. In the event of a dispute being submitted to the Legal Committee, the management of the Competition will designate three arbitrators from among the members of the Legal Committee to form an arbitration board.
133. Should one of the members be unable to serve as an arbitrator for the period for which he or she has been designated, a new arbitrator shall be appointed by the management, or, if this is not possible, by the other arbitrators.
134. Any complaints or requests for arbitration by the Legal Committee must be addressed to its Chairperson. The Competition's organisers must be notified.
135. In order to be considered, complaints must indicate the name of the person or persons against whom they have been lodged.

C. The ministerial official

136. Chosen from among the bailiffs (huissiers de justice/gerechtsdeurwaarders) of the Brussels district, the Competition's ministerial official will be appointed by the management. He or she shall keep records of all operations he or she may be called upon to carry out and of any facts he or she may be asked to establish.
137. In addition to the tasks allocated to the official by these rules, the official will also, in complete independence, supervise any operations he or she believes it necessary to supervise.

VII. SANCTIONS

138. The authorities of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium can impose the following sanctions on members of the jury and on candidates:
- A reprimand
 - An official warning
 - Exclusion from the competition
 - A permanent ban.
139. A reprimand can be issued by the Executive Committee of the Competition. An official warning is issued by the Chairperson of the Legal Committee. The other sanctions can only be imposed by the Legal Committee, with the exception of cases under Articles 62 and 63. The other administrative authorities of the Competition do not have any legal or disciplinary powers.
140. Quite apart from the disciplinary sanctions outlined above, the Legal Committee can also decide on all questions legitimately submitted to it and, in particular, can impose penalties requiring the payment of damages and interest to injured parties.

141. In the event of disputes, only the French and Dutch texts of these rules are legally binding and the Competition's Legal Committee has exclusive authority to make rulings.

These rules are protected by the provisions of Section 5, on copyright and related rights, of Book XI of the Belgian Code of Economic Law. They may not be reproduced in any form, in whole or in part, without the prior and express authorisation of the Competition.

Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, asbl/vzw
20 rue aux Laines - 1000 Brussels (Belgium)
www.queenelisabethcompetition.be - info@queenelisabethcompetition.be - t. +32 2 213 40 50