



QUEEN ELISABETH COMPETITION

QUEEN ELISABETH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION OF BELGIUM ASBL/VZW

CELLO 2017: RULES

1. The Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium is holding a competition for cellists from 8 May to 3 June 2017. This competition is for musicians aged between 18 and 30 (see Article 40) who have completed their training and who are ready to embark upon an international career.

PART ONE:

TIMETABLE, THE ROUNDS OF THE COMPETITION, AND PROGRAMMES

I. TIMETABLE

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| 2. 11 January 2017 12 noon GMT | application deadline |
| 15 March 2017 | announcement of the names of the candidates selected |
| 4 May 2017 | the candidates arrive |
| 5 May 2017 | drawing of lots |
| 8 > 13 May 2017 | first round |
| 15 > 20 May 2017 | semi-final |
| 29 May > 3 June 2017 | final |
| 6 June 2017 | awards ceremony |
| starting in June 2017 | concerts given by laureates |

II. ROUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

A. General provisions concerning the rounds of the competition

3. 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 aim 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 aim of the final round is to rank the top six laureates.
4. In the different public rounds, the candidates will perform in the order established by the drawing of lots.
5. All the rounds, except the preselection process, are open to the public.
6. Each of the candidates selected for the semi-final or the final will be entitled to the same amount of rehearsal time with an orchestra.
7. 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.
8. All rounds, including the preselection, take place under the supervision of the ministerial official.

9. 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.
 - In each round all works must be performed from memory, with the exception of the sonatas and the compulsory unpublished works in the semi-final and the final.
 - A candidate may ask to perform some contemporary works using a score. The Artistic Committee has the authority to allow this. A request of this kind must be sent to application@qeimc.be by 15 March 2017 at the latest.
 - Unless otherwise specified in these rules (see Art. 26a and b), repeats are left to the discretion of the candidates, but candidates must take them into account when working out the timing of their programmes.
 - Candidates may not include in their programme works that they themselves have composed.
 - Once the closing date for the submission of applications (11 January 2017 12 noon GMT) has passed, the programme may not be changed, except at the request of the Artistic Committee, as provided for in Article 58, or at the request of the competition organisers, as provided for and in the situation described in Article 50.

B. Preselection : viewing of the videos

10. 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.
11. An international jury appointed by the organisers of the competition will make this selection, based on the videos submitted by the candidates.
12. When it comes to viewing the videos, only those of candidates whose applications are in order or have met the documentation requirements by 1 February 2017 will be considered. See Article 57.
13. Candidates will be informed individually of the results of the selection process by 15 March 2017 at the latest.
14. There is no limit on the number of candidates accepted.

15. Programme

Candidates must upload, via the application form available on www.qeimc.be, good-quality video recordings (audio and video) of recent performances by themselves of the following works:

- One piece chosen from among the following:
 - A. Pjatti: Caprices, No. 6 in A flat major, No. 8 in A minor, No. 12 in E minor
 - D. Popper: Etudes Nos. 13, 20, 22, and 28
- Three movements from a suite for solo cello by J.S. Bach, including the prelude;
- The seven variations on *Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen*, WoO 46, by L. van Beethoven;
- A work of the candidate's choice, with piano accompaniment. Solo works and works performed with an orchestra are not accepted.

The works performed on the preselection video may be included in the programme for the other rounds of the competition.

16. For each file, the candidate must provide information on the place and date of the recording. The candidate must certify its authenticity and must confirm that it is not subject to copyright restrictions.
17. Each piece must be recorded in one take (no editing). It is strongly recommended that, in the video footage, the candidate's hands and face should be visible at all times and the camera angle should be fixed. It is also strongly recommended that the sound should be recorded professionally. A video whose quality, visual and/or audio, does not allow the jury to evaluate the candidate's abilities will be rejected (see Art. 90).

C. Drawing of lots by the candidates

18. Date: 5 May 2017
Venue: Flagey, Brussels
19. 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.
20. The drawing of lots will take place in the presence of the ministerial official, who will oversee it to ensure that everything is done according to the rules and will record the result. At the request of the Competition organisers, the 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.

21. All candidates are required to attend the drawing of lots and will be duly summoned to attend. 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 from the secretariat, immediately after the drawing of lots, the date and time at which they must make themselves available in order to perform in the first round (and the dates and times, where relevant, of rehearsals).
22. The order of appearance as determined by the draw may not be changed, except in cases of force majeure, for which the candidate will have to provide justification. The organisers will consider the reasons given and make a decision, which shall be final. The unavailability of a candidate's personal pianist accompanist may not be advanced as a reason for changing the order of performance. Any alteration decided on will only apply to the round in question.

D. Registration of the candidates

23. Candidates who are admitted to the first round will receive an individual registration document bearing the number obtained in the drawing of lots.
24. 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

25. Dates: 8 > 13 May 2017 (at 3 pm and 8 pm)
Venue: Flagey (Studio 4), Brussels
Number of participants: unlimited, resulting from the preselection
Accompaniment: piano – cello
Duration of the performance: about 20 minutes
26. Programme to be prepared:
 - a. A sonata by L. Boccherini, chosen by the candidate from the sonatas in C minor, G.2, in B flat major, G.8, in F major, G.9, in G major, G.15, and in C major, G.17.
This sonata will be played without repeats and with cello accompaniment. Candidates should use the Urtext edition published by Wakelkamp (www.editionwakelkamp.com).
 - b. A piece chosen from among the following:
 - F. Schubert: the first movement of the Sonata in A minor, D. 821, 'Arpeggione' (without repeats).
Candidates should use an Urtext edition.
 - R. Schumann: two pieces chosen by the candidate from the *Fünf Stücke im Volkston*, Op. 102
 - A. Dvořák: Rondo, Op. 94
 - F. Mendelssohn: *Variations concertantes*, Op. 17
 - c. The first movement of the solo cello sonata by E. Ysaÿe
27. Programme to be performed:
Each candidate will play all the works or excerpts from works prepared. The candidate will choose the order in which he or she will play the different works in his or her programme. Number of candidates admitted to the next round: 24
28. Number of candidates admitted to the next round: 24

F. Semi-final

29. Dates: 15 > 20 May 2017 (at 3 pm and 8 pm)
Venue: Flagey (Studio 4), Brussels
Number of participants: 24
Accompaniment: piano – Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie
Duration of the performance:
 - A recital lasting about 40 minutes
 - A concerto lasting about 25 minutes

30. Programme to be prepared:

Recital

- An unpublished work (lasting about 5 minutes) written specially for this year's competition. This work will be communicated to the candidates after the definitive acceptance of their applications. This work may not be performed in public in advance of the competition.
- Two coherent recital programmes, each lasting between 35 and 40 minutes, each including at least three movements from a suite for solo cello by J.S. Bach, including the prelude. A maximum of 20 minutes (of the programme) may be common to the two programmes, but all the works must be different from those performed in the first round. Sonatas are allowed.

Concerto

A concerto chosen from among the following:

- L. Boccherini: Concerto in B flat major, G.482 (Edition: Breitkopf No. 8618)
- J. Haydn: Concerto in C major, Hob. VIIb:1
- J. Haydn: Concerto in D major, Hob. VIIb:2

Candidates may play their own cadenzas.

31. Programme to be performed:

Each candidate will perform twice, over two days.

Recital

Each candidate will play the compulsory unpublished work, as well as 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, that is to say, at 10 am the day before for those candidates due to play in the session starting at 3 p.m. and at 3 p.m. the day before for those due to play in the session starting at 8 p.m. Each candidate will choose the order in which he or she will play the different works on his/her programme.

Concerto

Each candidate will perform the concerto chosen, accompanied by the Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie. Each candidate will be entitled to one rehearsal (the day before the performance) and to one balance rehearsal (just before the performance).

32. Candidates will perform their concertos in the order established by the drawing of lots. For the recitals, the Competition organisers will decide the order of performance and their decision will be final. Their decision will take into account: the fact that no candidate can play his or her recital on the same day as his or her concerto, the results of the drawing of lots, the time available to each candidate for preparation between the two performances, and the requirements of radio and television broadcasting.
33. Number of candidates admitted to the final: 12

G. Preparation for the final

34. The 12 finalists move to the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel in the order established by the drawing of lots, at the rate of two a day. The week spent at the Music Chapel is intended to allow the 12 finalists a peaceful environment in which to prepare for the final and, in particular, to make a personal study of the compulsory unpublished work, the score of which will be given to them once they arrive at the Music Chapel.
35. The final round will begin one week after the first finalists have entered the Music Chapel.
36. During this period the finalists must not communicate with anyone not involved in the Competition's administrative services. They must abide by the rules laid down by the organisers. They will attend the orchestral rehearsals on the days and at the times communicated to them, accompanied by a person designated by the organisers.
37. During their stay at the Music Chapel about two hours will be devoted to a visit by the press. A photo session is also planned.

H. The final

38. Date: 29 May > 3 June 2017
Venue: Brussels Centre for Fine Arts (Palais des Beaux-Arts)
Number of participants: 12
Accompaniment: Brussels Philharmonic, cond. Stéphane Denève

39. In the final, the finalists will perform the following works
- an unpublished work for cello and orchestra (lasting between 10 and 15 minutes), written specially for this competition
 - a concerto chosen by the candidate, different from that performed in the semi-final.

PART TWO: THE CANDIDATES

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

40. The competition is open to cellists of all nationalities, who are aged at least 18 and have not yet reached the age of 30 on 31 December 2016 (i.e. they must be born after 31 December 1986).
41. If it is established that a candidate has, at any time, failed to comply with the conditions for admission to the competition, that candidate will be immediately excluded from it.
42. By registering for the competition, candidates indicate their acceptance of these rules.
43. By entering the competition, candidates agree to participate in all the rounds and concerts for which they will be selected by the jury or the organisers of the Competition.
Candidates shall not be required, in the framework of the competition, to make any financial contribution other than the registration fee.
44. **Travel expenses**
The 24 candidates selected for the semi-final round will be reimbursed 50% of their travelling expenses (a return journey to Brussels, up to a maximum of EUR 500) upon presentation of documentation of their expenses. The Competition cannot reimburse the travel expenses of candidates who live in Belgium or who travel by car.
45. **Accommodation**
A Welcoming Committee will arrange free accommodation for those who request it, subject to availability, with families in and around Brussels. These families cannot 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.
46. **Pianists to accompany the candidates**
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 EUR 150 for taking part in the first round and EUR 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 in contention, 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 EUR 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 opt 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.
47. **Cellists to accompany the candidates**
For the first round, cellists designated by the organisers of the competition are at the disposal of the candidates. Candidates will be put in contact with the cellist in question after the drawing of lots.
48. **Broadcasting**
The first round, semi-final and final sessions, as well as the laureates' concerts will be recorded. Except in exceptional circumstances, it will be broadcast live and/or in pre-recorded broadcasts on radio, television, and/or the Internet.
These recordings may be released in various formats: CD, DVD, etc.
49. **Cession of rights**
By participating in the competition, candidates cede to the Competition the right to record, reproduce, arrange for the reproduction of, and distribute their performances in the competition and at the concerts on record, CD, SACD, soundtrack, 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, 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 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.

50. Scores

Candidates are expected to use the original scores of the works they perform. The 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 and to their official accompanist(s), if any. Candidates must make available to the Competition the orchestral material and score of any concerto they choose that is not part of the current standard repertoire. In this regard they must follow the instructions of the Competition administrators. If it turns out that the orchestral material is not available in the time required for the smooth running of the competition, the Competition authorities may ask the candidate to perform another work from his or her repertoire.

51. Laureates' concerts and recordings

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 organisers. 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 concerts will be given to the candidates after they have registered.

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

II. ENTRY CONDITIONS

A. Applications

52. All applications must be made using the form available on the Queen Elisabeth Competition website (www.qeimc.be). No other method of submission will be accepted.
53. Application forms must be submitted and have been formally approved by 12 noon GMT on 11 January 2017 at the latest. This deadline cannot be extended under any circumstances.
54. Candidates will be sent an e-mail confirming the formal approval of their application. No incomplete application can be formally approved.
55. 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.
56. The application fee of EUR 100, payable via the same on-line form, will not be reimbursed under any circumstances.

B. Examination of the applications

57. Applications

The applications will be examined by the Competition's organisers. The Competition reserves the right to require candidates to provide additional information. The videos of those candidates whose applications are not in order or who have not met the documentation requirements by 1 February 2017 will not be viewed during the preselection process and those candidates, accordingly, cannot be admitted to the competition.

58. Programme

The programme 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 with artistic requirements of the Competition. Once the deadline for applications (11 January 2017 at 12 noon GMT) has passed, no change may be made to the programme, except where required by the Artistic Committee or requested by the competition organisers, as provided for in Article 50.

C. Acceptance

59. 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 definitive confirmation of the acceptance of his or her application, as well as the score of the unpublished compulsory work for the semi-final.
60. Candidates may not be rejected on any ideological, linguistic, political, or racial grounds.

PART THREE: THE JURY

I. JURY

61. 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, or linguistic considerations. The composition of the jury may vary from one round to another.
62. 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.
63. The immediate family and other relatives of a candidate (up to the fourth degree of kinship) may not serve on the jury.
64. Members of the jury may not vote for a candidate who is, or has been, one of their pupils. See Article 111 of these rules. ⁽¹⁾
65. 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 63 and 64 have not been observed.
66. A list of the names of all candidates will be given to each member of the jury.
67. A list of the names of the members of the jury will be given to each candidate at the start of the competition.
68. 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 2017, hereby declare that I have read the rules of this year's competition. I acknowledge that, in the event of a dispute, only the French and Dutch texts are legally binding. I agree to abide by these rules and declare that none of the candidates whose names appear on the list given to me are related to me up to the fourth degree of kinship.

M..... is (has been) my pupil.

69. 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 2017, declare that I have read the rules of this year's competition. I acknowledge that, in the event of a dispute, only the French and Dutch texts are legally binding. I agree to abide by these rules and declare that none of the persons named on the list of jury members is related to me up to the fourth degree of kinship.
M..... is (has been) my teacher.
70. If the declarations in Articles 68 and 69 are shown to be untrue, the signatory will be excluded from the jury or from the competition.
71. Throughout the entire competition, the members of the jury shall refrain from having any contact, direct or indirect, with any candidate and, of course, from living under the same roof as any candidate. Jury members shall also refrain from making any statements about the candidates, the activities of the jury, or the organisation of the Competition.
72. The jury decides the programme to be performed by the candidates, in accordance with the provisions of these rules.
73. The decisions of the jury in each round will be recorded in minutes.
74. The jury will vote by secret ballot.
75. The members of the jury must not, under any circumstances, inform each other of the points they have awarded.
76. 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.
77. 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

¹ By "pupil" is meant a candidate who has followed more than five lessons with the jury member in question. In case of doubt, those concerned will refer the matter to the organisers, whose decision shall be final.

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 111.

78. The complete list of members of the jury shall remain confidential until the beginning of the competition. The names of the members of the preselection jury will be announced at the same time as the preselection results.
79. 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.

II. CHAIRPERSON OF THE JURY

80. The jury is chaired by a member of the Executive Committee or by such other person as the Executive Committee may designate.
81. 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.
82. 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.
83. 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.
84. 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, either by a member of the Executive Committee designated by the President of the Executive Committee or by an individual appointed by the Executive Committee of the Competition.
85. The Chairperson of the jury announces the results of the rounds, faithfully reflecting the decisions of the jury.
86. 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.

III. POINTS: PROCEDURES AND CALCULATION

A. Screening of the videos

87. 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, where its poor technical quality makes it impossible to view it.
88. In the event of its poor technical quality making it impossible to view a video, it is up to the Secretary of the jury or a member of the Executive Committee to judge whether it is appropriate to request the candidate to submit a new copy of the video.
89. In the event that a video cannot be viewed because of a temporary technical problem, its viewing may be postponed to a later date.
90. The secretary of the jury, or a person mandated by the Executive Committee, will check beforehand that each video meets the requirements of Articles 15, 16, and 17 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 another member of the Executive Committee, to rule on the admissibility of a video.
91. 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.
92. 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.
93. Those candidates who have obtained the most 'YES' votes will be admitted to the first round.

94. 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.

B. First round

95. For the first round, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper with 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 the mark, jury members will indicate whether or not they wish the candidate to be admitted 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.

96. The candidates will be ranked according to the total number of points awarded to each by the members of the jury.
97. 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 competition organisers. If the number of candidates registered 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.
98. If the difference between the points obtained by the candidate ranked 24th and the points obtained by the candidate or candidates immediately following the candidate ranked 24th is less than or equal to 3% of the total number of points obtained by the 24th candidate, all of those candidates will be considered to be 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 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, exceptionally, all or none of these candidates will take part in the semi-final.

C. Semi-final

99. For the semi-final, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper with 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 111 will apply in this case.

In addition to awarding the mark, jury members will indicate whether or not they wish the candidate to be admitted 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.

100. The candidates will be ranked according to the total number of points awarded to each by the members of the jury.
101. If the difference between the points obtained by the candidate ranked 12th and the points obtained by the candidate or candidates immediately following the candidate ranked 12th is less than or equal to 3% of the total number of points obtained by the 12th candidate, those 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 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 equal numbers of points, the candidates in question will be ranked by taking into account the points obtained in the first round.
102. Only the 12 candidates with the highest rankings in this round will be admitted to take part in the final round.

D. Final

103. After they have heard all the finalists, the members of the jury will receive ballot paper with 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 111 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 one or more pupils among the finalists will not rank their own pupil(s).

Each member of the jury will sign his or her ballot paper and give it to the ministerial official.

104. 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 111 and following articles).
105. If the difference between the points obtained by one of the finalists and the points obtained by the person ranked immediately above him or her is less than or equal to 3% of the total number of points obtained by the latter, those candidates will be considered to be ranked equally. This equal ranking can be extended to include two or more higher-ranked finalists, but in such cases the lowest mark obtained by any of those in question will be taken as the basis for the percentage.
106. On the basis of the preferential ranking attributed by the members of the jury, candidates ranked equally will be compared and ranked in relation to each other. The preferential ranking attributed by those members of the jury who have one or more pupils among the finalists will only be taken into account for the separation of those equally ranked finalists who are not their pupils.

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.

107. All 12 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 and 6th prize.

E. Counting the votes

108. The members of the jury may not exchange comments about the candidates before they have proceeded to the votes relating to the different rankings. Any discussion concerning the candidates during a sitting of the jury will lead to the suspension of the member who has caused it.
109. The President of the Executive Committee will be responsible for counting the ballot papers, given to the ministerial official by the jury, and for tallying the points. The ministerial official will supervise this process. Neither the Chairperson nor the members of the jury may enter the room where the ballot papers are being tallied.
110. 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 or the Secretary of the jury may ask the jury member to complete a new ballot paper.
111. 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.
112. 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.
113. 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 semi-final; the designation, without indication of ranking, of the candidates admitted to the final round; and the ranking of the first six laureates.
114. 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.

PART FOUR: PRIZES, HONOURS, AND AWARDS

115. A number of prizes, honours, and awards will be shared out among the laureates and the semi-finalists.

116. There are six prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: QUEEN ELISABETH INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIZE

Queen Mathilde Prize

EUR 25,000

SECOND PRIZE: Prize of the Belgian Federal Government

EUR 20,000

THIRD PRIZE: Comte de Launoit Prize

EUR 17,000

FOURTH PRIZE: Prize of the Governments of the Belgian Communities

EUR 12,500

FIFTH PRIZE: Brussels-Capital Region Prize

EUR 10,000

SIXTH PRIZE: City of Brussels Prize

EUR 8,000

117. The six unranked laureates will each receive the sum of EUR 4,000. They will also receive the title of laureate of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, Cello 2017.

118. The prizes, awards, and certificates, signed by the Chairperson and members of the jury, will be presented to the laureates at a formal ceremony, which they are required to attend.

119. A sum of EUR 1,000 will be given to each of the 12 candidates in the semi-final who have not been selected for the final round.

120. The semi-finalists and finalists will each receive an audio recording of their performances from the semi-final on. This recording 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.

121. The Executive Committee of the Competition is empowered to accept gifts, grants, and concert offers on behalf of the candidates and laureates.

PART FIVE: THE COMPETITION AUTHORITIES

I. THE MANAGEMENT OF THE COMPETITION

122. The Queen Elisabeth Competition is a non-profit association (ASBL/VZW).

123. 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.

124. The Executive Committee is also 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.

125. 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 outside the Competition.

II. THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

126. 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 authorities, or the Executive Committee. The Committee's judgement is final and is not subject to appeal.
127. The members of this Committee will be nominated by the Executive Committee of the Competition, which will appoint one of them as its Chairperson.
128. In the event of a dispute being submitted to the Legal Committee, the Executive Committee of the Competition will designate three arbitrators from among the members of the Legal Committee to form an arbitration board.
129. 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 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.
130. The Chairperson of the Legal Committee will appoint a Secretary to assist the Committee in its work.
131. 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 Executive Committee, as set out in Article 126 or, if this is not possible, by the other arbitrators.
132. Any complaints or requests for arbitration by the Legal Committee must be addressed to its Chairperson. The Competition organisers must be notified.
133. In order to be considered, complaints must indicate the name of the person or persons against whom they have been lodged.

III. THE MINISTERIAL OFFICIAL

134. Chosen from among the bailiffs (*huissiers de justice/gerechtsdeurwaarders*) of the Brussels district, the Competition's ministerial official will be appointed by the Executive Committee. 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.
135. 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.

IV. SANCTIONS

136. The authorities of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium can impose the following sanctions on members of the jury and on candidates:
 - 1) A reprimand
 - 2) An official warning
 - 3) Exclusion from the competition
 - 4) A permanent ban
137. A reprimand can be issued by the Competition management (the Executive Committee). An official warning is issued by the Chairperson of the Legal Committee. The other sanctions can only be imposed by the Legal Committee.

The other administrative authorities of the Competition do not have any legal or disciplinary powers.
138. 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.
139. In the event of disputes, only the French and Dutch texts of these rules are legally binding.

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.

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