

1 Aim of the Florence Concours Mini

The aim of the Florence Concours is to bring young and older people together and to perform classical music in the Florence residential care centres. This provides an opportunity for young people to showcase their talents for the Florence residents.

2 Participation

2.1 Participation in the Florence Concours is open to amateur musicians. Amateurs are defined as pupils at schools of music or those receiving private tuition.

2.2 Students at conservatoires (including the 'jong talent', 'pi', 'pi-plus', and 'basis' sections) are excluded from participation.

2.3 The winners of the 1st prize of previous editions of the Florence Concours Mini are excluded from participation. Winners may register for the Florence Concours Junior upon reaching the age of 12.

2.4 Participants should be aged between 6 and 11 on the day of the final.

2.5 No participant may perform more than once during the Concours, or on more than one instrument.

2.6 Each of the participants will be announced or introduced by the host designated by the venue. Participants are therefore not allowed to introduce themselves.

2.7 Participants may register as soloists, soloists accompanied by the piano, or as an ensemble – a duet, a trio, a quartet, a quintet, a sextet, a septet, an octet or a nonet.

2.8 Each of the participants in an ensemble referred to under point 2.7 should meet the conditions for participation stipulated under points 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6.

2.9 Soloists who are accompanied by a pianist are free to choose who they will bring as their accompanist. Accompanists do not compete for the prizes and therefore do not have to fulfil the conditions that apply to participating in the Concours.

2.10 If a pianist accompanying a soloist does meet all the conditions under point 2.7, then they have the option of registering as a duet. The soloist and the accompanist would then compete together for the prizes. This should be mentioned on the application form. Please note: In such cases, the pianist may not register with another performer (such as another soloist). However, piano accompanists who have registered as such for one performer, may also accompany other soloists.

2.11 The preliminary rounds and final take place on Sundays and at various Florence locations.

2.12 Participants should be available for the preliminary rounds and the final. During the final, all finalists should be present up to and including the award ceremony.

2.13 If it is discovered during the preliminary round that a participant does not meet the conditions, he or she will play anyway, but without actually taking part in the competition.

3 Repertoire, duration of the performance and warming up on site

3.1 The repertoire must consist solely of classical music. The chairman of the jury will have the final say in cases of doubt.

3.2 Participants decide on their own repertoire.

3.3 The repertoires submitted must be played throughout the Concours. No alterations during the preliminary rounds, semi-final or final are permitted.

3.4 Repertoires that have been submitted may be altered up to two weeks before the start of the Concours.

3.5 Performances should be between 3 and 5 minutes in duration.

3.6 Participants may play compositions of their own, providing they have been composed in the style of classical music. The chairman of the jury will have the final say in cases of doubt. Participants will not be judged on the basis of their compositions, but solely on their performance of the piece.

3.7 Participants will be given the opportunity to warm up briefly before the start of the programme in the room where the Concours will be taking place. In principle, participants will warm up in the order in which they are performing. The available time will be allocated equally to all the participants.

4 Piano accompaniment, instruments and sheet music

4.1 If a piece of music is intended for a solo instrument with piano accompaniment, then the participant must perform the piece with a piano accompaniment.

4.2 If piano accompaniment is needed for a performance, the participant must provide an accompanist himself or herself (only 'live' accompanists are permitted).

4.3 During the preliminary rounds and semi-finals, no more than two performances are permitted by pupils of the same teacher with the same piano accompanists.

4.4 There is one piano at each Concours location. Participants should bring all other instruments and other items (such as music stands) that they need themselves.

4.5 Performing using copies is illegal unless the original printed music can be shown. Participants should therefore have printed music with them during each round.

4.6 When registering, participants should send a copy of the sheet music with their applications.

4.7 For the preliminary round, the semi-final and final, participants should bring two copies of the sheet music with them for the jury.

5 Registering

5.1 When registering, participants agree to the rules of the Florence Concours Mini.

5.2 Registrations start in August or September, depending on the school holidays. The closing date is three weeks before the start of the Concours or whenever the maximum number of registrations has been reached.

5.3 Registration is free of charge.

5.4 Registering is done using the relevant Florence Concours Mini form, which is published on the Florence website, www.florence.nl.

5.5 Registrations are only definitive when they are complete – in other words, when all the requested information on the registration form, including an original and clear passport photograph and copies of the sheet music, have been received.

5.6 Registrations are entered in the order in which they are received, providing they are complete.

5.7 Any applicant who has not provided all the requested information by the closing date will be excluded from participating.

5.8 Participants who have met all the registration criteria will receive written confirmation stating that they have been definitively registered as participants.

5.9 Participants will receive a timetable of the performances at their home address no later than one week before the Concours.

5.10 Participants will be allocated a location.

6 Jury and judging

6.1 The jury consists of experts with a conservatoire background, and a resident of the care home.

6.2 It is hoped that juries will comprise the following:
Preliminary round : 2 experts and 1 resident
Final : 4 experts and 1 resident

6.3 The expert members will focus on the musical skills of the participants during the performance. Whether a participant plays with or without sheet music is not relevant for the purposes of the jury's assessment.

6.4 The resident will pay attention to the participants' performance.

6.5 Participants will not be allocated a location at which their teacher or one of their parents is on the jury.

7 Prizes

The prize money is as follows:

1st prize: €300

2nd prize: €200

3rd prize: €100

4th prize: €100

8 Other

In any situation for which the rules make no provision, the Florence Concours working group will have the final decision.