



**CONCOURS MUSICAL
INTERNATIONAL
DE MONTRÉAL**

VIOLIN

MAY 27 TO JUNE 4, 2026

concoursmontreal.ca

INFORMATION,
RULES and CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

VIOLIN 2026

INFORMATION, RULES, AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The Violin 2026 edition of the Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM) will take place from May 27 through June 4, 2026.

ELIGIBILITY

The CMIM is an elite-level international competition open to classical violinists of all nationalities, born between 1995 and 2009, in the early stages of a professional performing career.

Laureates from previous violin editions of the CMIM are not eligible to apply for Violin 2026.

All selected competitors are required to be free of all engagements and available to be in Montreal between May 26 and June 4, 2026, inclusive.

INTERNATIONAL JURY

The jury for the Violin 2026 edition of the Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM) will be chaired by Canadian violinist Lucie Robert. The members of the jury will be announced in September 2025.

OFFICIAL ORCHESTRA

The Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM) is the official orchestra of the CMIM. The OSM accompanies the competitors at Maison symphonique de Montréal for the two evenings of the Final, on June 3 and 4, 2026.

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 31, 2025: Application deadline
- December 22, 2025: Confirmation of participation by the invited competitors
- January 16, 2026: Confirmation of final programs for all rounds
- February 4, 2026: Announcement of the Violin 2026 competitors
- May 25: Violin 2026 competitors arrive in Montreal
- May 27-29: First Round
- May 30-31: Semifinal
- June 3: Mozart Final
- June 4: Grand Final and Closing Award Ceremony

PRIZES, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

More than \$150,000 CAD in prizes, awards, and grants* will be awarded to the laureates and winners of the Violin 2026 edition, including.

- **First prize: \$70,000**
 - Grand cash prize: \$30,000
 - Joseph-Rouleau Career Development Grant: \$40,000
- **Second prize: \$25,000**
 - Cash prize: \$15,000
 - Joseph-Rouleau Career Development Grant: \$10,000
- **Third prize: \$20,000**
 - Cash prize: \$10,000
 - Joseph-Rouleau Career Development Grant: \$10,000

Special Prizes

- Audience Choice Award: \$5,000
- André-Bourbeau Award for the Best Canadian Artist: \$5,000
- Best performance of a Canadian work: \$2,500
- CMIM Grants for unranked finalists: \$3,000 each
- OSM Prize: An engagement with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal for a concert or recital in a subsequent season: Value to be determined

** All amounts are in Canadian dollars.*

Additional prizes may be announced at a future date.

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATION OFFERED BY THE CMIM

The CMIM provides an economy-class return flight to Montreal for all Violin 2026 competitors, in accordance with the conditions established by the competition. The fee for one checked bag is assumed by the CMIM.

Additional charges for multi-city flights, an extended stay, or other special requests are solely the responsibility of the competitor.

The CMIM will arrange free accommodation with a volunteer host family in the Montreal area for all competitors. Competitors who wish to make other arrangements for travel and/or accommodation may do so at their own expense.

Travel expenses and accommodation for any person accompanying a competitor will not be assumed by the CMIM.

COLLABORATIVE PIANISTS

A CMIM official pianist will be assigned to each competitor for all rounds with piano.

Competitors may choose to perform with their own collaborative pianist for the First Round and Semifinal.

Pianists will be provided with accommodation free of charge with host families in the Montreal area. Travel expenses for these pianists are the sole responsibility of the competitors and/or the pianist.

VISAS FOR ENTRY TO CANADA

Obtaining a visitor's or tourist visa for Canada, and related fees, are the responsibility of the candidate.

Find out if you need a visa to travel to Canada at: <https://ircc.canada.ca/english/visit/visas.asp>

Please note that there may be significant delays in visa processing. Any competitor requiring a visa is expected to start the application process immediately after confirming their participation in Violin 2026. A competitor who cannot demonstrate that they have initiated the visa application process by January 22, 2026, by indicating their file number, may be required to forfeit their place in the competition.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted online via the site **Muvac.com** before midnight on October 31, 2025 (Montréal/New York time).

An application is comprised of the following:

- A completed online application form
- A non-refundable application fee of \$200 Canadian Dollars
- Two high-resolution colour photos (including one headshot) suitable for publication and CMIM promotional use
- Contact information for two musical references willing to provide *upon request by the CMIM only* a recommendation in support of the applicant
- A list of proposed repertoire for all rounds of the competition. (Final programs will be confirmed in January, including the respective timing of each works and the definitive order of performance.)
- Three audition videos (one video per work):
 1. One Caprice for solo violin by Paganini
 2. Any Fugue by J.S. Bach
 3. A slow movement of any Beethoven Violin Sonata, except for No. 9-Kreutzer

Notes on audition videos:

- Videos must be of high-quality with excellent audio, shot from one angle with a single fixed camera (no zooming, tilting, or panning). The violinist's face must remain fully visible at all times.
- Videos must not be edited, enhanced, or modified in any way.
- Videos that have been recorded from multiple angles at other competitions may be accepted, at the discretion of the CMIM.

All recordings must have been made after July 1, 2024.

SELECTION PROCESS

CMIM officials will review all applications to ensure they are eligible, complete, and meet the required technical standards. The CMIM reserves the right to disqualify any candidates who have failed to fulfill all the application requirements.

A preliminary jury, appointed by the CMIM, will review and evaluate the audition videos.

A maximum of 24 candidates will be selected to compete in the Violin 2026 edition.

Selected candidates and all applicants will be notified of the results of the preliminary selection by December 12, 2025.

COMPETITION ROUNDS

Repertoire selected for performance at the competition may include works recorded for the audition videos. No other duplication of repertoire is permitted during the competition rounds.

The jury will consider the difficulty and artistic merit of the programs for each round.

Final results will be considered on the basis of the cumulative results obtained in each of the competition rounds.

First Round

The twenty-four (24) competitors selected must each present a program of 25 to 30 minutes of music with piano accompaniment.

The repertoire for the First Round must comprise a minimum of three works representing at least three musical periods:

- A work by J.S. Bach, Telemann, or another Baroque composer
- A virtuosic work by Bazzini, Ernst, Paganini, Saint-Saens, Sarasate, Waxman, Wieniawski, or other composer
- A work of choice from a third style period

The inclusion of a single movement of a work is permitted.

Ten violinists will be selected by the international jury to advance to the Semifinal Round.

CMIM On the Road

At the conclusion of the First Round, competitors who have not advanced in the competition will be invited to perform as part of "CMIM On the Road," at a concert venue in the Greater Montreal area.

Semifinal

The ten semifinalists must each perform a program of 50 to 55 minutes of music with piano accompaniment.

The repertoire for the Semifinal round must comprise a minimum of three works, including the following elements:

- A complete sonata by composers such as but not limited to: Bartók, Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Enescu, Fauré, Franck, Janáček, Prokofiev, Ravel, Schnittke, Schumann, Schubert, or R. Strauss
- A work of the candidate's choice by any composer
- A work of the candidate's choice by a Canadian composer. The CMIM will provide a reference list of suggested works.

Five violinists will be selected by the international jury to advance to the Final.

Final

The Final comprises two stages:

I - Mozart Final

Five violinists will present a concerto by W.A. Mozart for violin and orchestra with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, from the following list:

Violin Concerto No. 1 in B flat Major, K. 207
Violin Concerto No. 2 in D Major, K. 211
Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major, K. 216
Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major, K. 218

Three violinists will be selected by the international jury to advance to the Grand Final.

II - Grand Final

Three violinists will present a major concerto for violin and orchestra with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. The choice of concerto must be selected from the works listed in Appendix 2 of this document. Any other choice of concerto is subject to prior approval from the CMIM.

SANITARY MEASURES AND FORCES MAJEURES

All participants (competitors, pianists, members of the jury, guests, partners, and CMIM personnel) must agree to comply with public health measures in effect in Montreal and at the competition performance venues at the time of scheduled Violin 2026 events.

The Competition reserves the right to postpone or cancel an edition that could be compromised due to events of a *force majeure*.

CONCOURS MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL DE MONTRÉAL

Website: www.concoursmontreal.ca

Address: 305, avenue du Mont-Royal Est, Montréal (Québec) Canada H2T 1P8

Email: info@concoursmontreal.ca

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For any questions regarding submitting an application, please contact:

candidates@concoursmontreal.ca

APPENDIX - I

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION - VIOLIN 2026

GENERALITIES

1. By completing the Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM) official application form, candidates agree to comply with the CMIM's rules and conditions of participation, and with the jury's decisions for the duration of the agreement.
2. The CMIM will disqualify any candidate who has not responded to the official invitation of participation by the prescribed deadline.
3. Competitors must be free of all other professional activities for the entire duration of the competition.
4. Failure to comply with the rules and conditions in the document *"Violin 2026 - Information, Rules, and Conditions of Participation"* may result in a candidate's disqualification, without right of appeal.
5. Should a candidate withdraw from the competition after the CMIM has issued his or her plane ticket, or should they choose to modify or cancel travel arrangements, the candidate agrees to cover the costs and to reimburse the CMIM for costs incurred.

ORDER OF APPEARANCE

6. The order of appearance of selected candidates will be determined by a random draw undertaken by the CMIM. Competition officials reserve the right to modify the order of appearance to satisfy programming and orchestral requirements, or for other reasons deemed to be of priority by the CMIM.
7. Competitors who are unable to perform at the designated time will be disqualified, unless their absence can be justified in advance to CMIM officials, who may choose at their discretion to modify the order of appearance.

MUSICAL PROGRAMS AND REHEARSALS

8. Competitors must provide the CMIM with the order of the works on their programs for all rounds in a timely manner when requested. This order will be final and cannot be changed.
9. Competitors must perform works from memory, with the exception of contemporary works, and sonatas or other long form works for violin and piano.
10. The competitor may exit the stage one time during the Semifinal recital only.
11. Competitors must respect the specified program durations for each round of the competition.
12. Each finalist will be entitled to a 45-minute rehearsal with conductor and piano, and a 30-minute rehearsal with the conductor and the official orchestra of the CMIM for each stage of the Final (Mozart Final and Grand Final).

RIGHTS CLEARANCES AND ENGAGEMENTS

13. Competitors forfeit all recording, broadcasting, and distribution rights of any kind to the CMIM, as well as all artists' resale rights, for an indefinite period. By completing the CMIM application form, candidates agree to release all rights regarding the future use of recordings of their performance(s).
14. Competitors are required to make themselves available for all interviews, videos, and/or promotional meetings relating to the CMIM, in the weeks leading up to and during the competition.

LAUREATES AND WINNERS

15. Only winners of the three main prizes may describe themselves as CMIM laureates.
16. Laureates and winners of special prizes are required to make themselves available for all interviews, videos, and/or promotional meetings relating to the CMIM.
17. Violin 2026 laureates will mention any prizes won at the CMIM on their websites and in their artist biographies.

USAGE

18. This document was originally drafted in French. In the event of a dispute, the only text of legal value is the original French text.
19. Competition officials reserve the right to amend the text of this document at any time.

APPENDIX - 2

LIST OF CONCERTI AUTHORIZED FOR THE GRAND FINAL WITH ORCHESTRA*

B. BARTÓK	Concerto No. 2, Sz. 112
L. van BEETHOVEN	Concerto in D major, Op. 61
A. BERG	Concerto "To the Memory of an Angel"
J. BRAHMS	Concerto in D major, Op. 77
A. DVORÁK	Concerto in A minor, Op. 53
A. GLAZOUNOV	Concerto in A minor, Op. 82
E. KORNGOLD	Concerto in D major, Op. 35
F. MENDELSSOHN	Concerto in E minor, Op. 64
N. PAGANINI	Concerto No. 1 in D major, Op. 6
N. PAGANINI	Concerto No. 2 in B minor, Op. 7
S. PROKOFIEV	Concerto No. 1 in D major, Op. 19
S. PROKOFIEV	Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 63
J. SIBELIUS	Concerto in D minor, Op. 47
D. SHOSTAKOVITCH	Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 99
D. SHOSTAKOVITCH	Concerto No. 2 in C sharp minor, Op. 129
P. I. TCHAIKOVSKY	Concerto in D major, Op. 35
W. WALTON	Concerto for Violin
H. WIENIAWSKI	Concerto No. 1 in F sharp minor, Op. 14
H. WIENIAWSKI	Concerto No. 2 D minor, Op. 22

** Any other choice of concerto is subject to prior approval from the Concours.*