

AUDITION REGULATIONS

DUTCH CLASSICAL TALENT 2027 | 2028

May 2026

Dutch Classical Talent is a development program of 18 months for talented young classical musicians. Through auditions, a professional jury selects four finalists who will participate in a coaching program and develop a recital program of 60 minutes. With this program, the finalists will do a tour of fifteen concerts in renowned concert halls in The Netherlands. The program comes to an end with an exciting final in which the four finalists compete for the DCT Award of €10,000 and the audience prize in Hertz, TivoliVredenburg.

Note: don't forget to sign this document on the last page!

Registration

1. Registration for Dutch Classical Talent is possible via the online application form on the website: <https://www.dutchclassicaltalent.nl/aanmelden/>
The registration deadline is **Wednesday the 30th of September 2026, at 18:00h.**
2. A maximum of 35 candidates will be admitted to the first round. A maximum of 8 candidates will be admitted to the second round. A duo or ensemble counts as one candidate.
3. Registration is processed in order of full completed application file received.
4. A complete application consists of the completed online form, plus a photo, a letter of recommendation with signature, a signed declaration, and the signed regulations document submitted by email. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
5. In the application form, candidates submit a proposed program for a recital of approximately 60 minutes of music without intermission. This is to provide insight into program ideas for the tour and is an important part of the selection procedure.
6. The program proposal must include a short motivation of approximately 100–300 words.
7. After completing the online application form, you will immediately receive a confirmation. Also, it is possible to save your application. It is possible to edit your application at any time (at the latest until the application deadline). This can be done by logging into a Microsoft account. You can also save the form as a pdf by clicking the three dots in the top right corner (print -> save as pdf).

Candidates

8. Dutch Classical Talent is focussed on young musicians (instrumentalists and vocalists) who can create and perform a professional, engaging, and appealing chamber music program, both musically and technically.
9. Candidates may apply as a soloist, duo, or ensemble.

10. A soloist is defined as an instrumentalist or vocalist performing individually, with or without accompaniment. The accompanist(s) must not be older than 40 years.
11. A duo is defined as two musicians performing together. A vocal program consisting primarily of song/lied repertoire is considered as a duo.
12. An ensemble is defined as a permanent group of two to a maximum of six musicians. At the time of the auditions, the ensemble must have been established for at least one year.
13. Instrumentalists must not be older than 28 years at the time of the second audition round on November 2, 2026 (reference date). Vocalists must not be older than 30 years. The average age of a duo or ensemble must not exceed 28 years.
14. Candidates with Dutch nationality must be enrolled in or have completed a performance master's program at a Dutch or international conservatory.
15. Candidates with a foreign nationality must have studied for at least two years at a Dutch conservatory in a performance master's program. In duos or ensembles, at least half of the members must meet this requirement.
16. Candidates must submit a signed letter of recommendation and program approval of the 60-minutes recital program from their teacher or from a recognized professional musician.
17. Candidates who auditioned but were not selected as finalists may audition once more. Participation in the Dutch Classical Talent Tour and coaching program is possible only once.
18. It is not possible for candidates to be assessed as both a soloist and a duo or ensemble member during one single audition
19. It is possible for candidates to apply in multiple formations. In that case, only one formation can be selected as a finalist. The jury will determine which formation this is.

Auditions

20. The auditions consist of two rounds; both are closed to the public. The first round takes place on **Monday the 19th of October** and **Tuesday the 20th of October 2026**. The second round takes place on **Monday the 2nd of November 2026**.
21. In case of doubt, the Dutch Classical Talent organization decides on admission to the auditions, based on advice from the artistic leadership.
22. Candidates will receive their audition time no later than two weeks before the first round. This time cannot be changed. The organization will take into account known factors such as special instruments, multiple participations of the same person, and pianists accompanying multiple candidates.
23. All candidates receive a maximum of 20 minutes of warm-up time, setup not included.
24. The first-round audition has a duration of 15 minutes maximum and the second round of 20 minutes maximum. This time is net music only. The jury reserves the right to shorten a candidate's program.

25. After playing the second round, the jury will ask a few questions about the submitted tour program or any aspects that ask for further explanation.
26. Candidates must indicate the correct order and duration of all compositions or movements.
27. The programs for the first and second rounds must differ from each other but may overlap with the proposed 60-minute recital program. The program will be reviewed by the jury and adjusted if necessary.
28. Any changes or reductions to the audition programs will be communicated no later than one week before the auditions of the first and second round.
29. Results of both rounds will be sent by email. Candidates who are not selected for the next round may request feedback from a jury member by email.

Jury Competency

30. The audition jury consists of renowned classical musicians, music journalists, and programmers from various venues and festivals. Efforts are made to ensure representation from different musical disciplines. The composition of the jury may change at short notice.
31. The number of jury members ranges from a minimum of five to a maximum of nine.
32. The jury assesses all applications and candidates for suitability for the tour and coaching program. The jury may change or shorten the proposed audition programs.
33. The jury's decisions are final and not subject to discussion.
34. At the end of the first round, the jury selects up to eight candidates for the second round.
35. At the end of the second round, the jury selects up to four finalists and allocates available study grants.
36. After both rounds, jury members are available for feedback sessions. Candidates who are not selected may request feedback from a jury member by email.
37. In making the selection, the jury bases its decisions on the objectives of Dutch Classical Talent as described in point 8. No correspondence will be entered into regarding these decisions.

General Provisions

38. A grand piano is available during the auditions and finale. Candidates must bring any other required instruments themselves, including page-turners and transportation. No expense reimbursement is provided.
39. By participating in the second audition round, candidates commit to the possibility of being selected for the Dutch Classical Talent program of 18 months, including coaching and a tour of fifteen concerts in renowned concert halls in The Netherlands.

40. Candidates are encouraged to include a new composition commission from a (young) composer in their tour program.
41. By signing this audition regulations document, candidates agree to the provisions of these regulations.
42. In all cases not covered by these regulations, the Dutch Classical Talent organization will make the final decision.

Declaration

Undersigned wishes to participate in **Dutch Classical Talent 2027 | 2028** and agrees with the audition regulations found on the website.

Date
Name
Signature