



**Press release 3.5.2024**

## **The contestants are chosen to the 9th International Jorma Panula Conducting Competition in the city of Vaasa.**

By the deadline (29 February), 147 eligible applications from 21 European countries had been received for the ninth international competition, which will take place from 3 to 7 of September 2024. The largest number of applications came from France (22), Germany (17), Spain (15), Italy (14), the United Kingdom (12), Poland (9), Switzerland and Finland (7), Latvia and Greece (6), Norway (5), the Netherlands (4), Estonia, Romania, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Austria (3), Ireland (2) and Hungary, Lithuania and Portugal (1).

### **Competitors**

A video jury chaired by **Jorma Panula**, an academic, has selected 20 + 4 contestants for the final competition in Vaasa on 20.3.2024. The selected competitors are: **Bénati Félix** (France), **Cagnasso Francesco** (Italy/Switzerland), **Castro Grinstein Anna** (Spain), **Combémorrel Yoann** (France), **Dickopf Katharina** (Germany), **Gwizdalla Mateusz** (Poland), **Haugli Guro** (Norway), **Malek Anna** (Germany), **Müller-Monod Louise** (Switzerland), **Måseidvåg Nils Erik** (Norway), **Pasquina Serra Noemi** (Spain), **Petrenko Konstantins** (Latvia), **Przybycien Jakub** (Poland), **Sieber Joseph** (Switzerland), **Siret Vincent** (France), **Sorokine Nikita** (France), **Steiger Eric** (Germany), **Toikka Erno** (Finland), **Uusitupa Kasmir** (Finland), **Zinca Sebastian** (Romania).

**Benedikt Sauer** (Germany), **Federico Tibone**, (Italy), **Pierre Mosnier** (France), **Carl Anders Nilsen** (Norway).

### **The prizes of the competition**

The Jorma Panula Conducting Competition, one of the most prestigious conducting competitions in Europe, will be held for the ninth time in Vaasa. The prizes are € 11 000, € 8 000, and € 6 000 respectively and the competition is organised by the Viljo and Maire Vuorio Foundation in cooperation with the City of Vaasa.

### **Jury of the competition**

Maestro, professor, conductor, composer **Jorma Panula**, has been the artistic director and chairman of the competition since its inception. In addition to Jorma Panula, this year's jury includes conductor **Ed Spanjaard** (Netherlands), conductor **Maria Badstue** (Denmark), conductor **Vytautas Lukočius** (Lithuania), conductor **Mikko Franck** (Finland) and musicians from the Vaasa City Orchestra and the Jyväskylä Sinfonia. **Michael Claussen** will be the secretary of the jury.

## Performers

The **Vaasa City Orchestra** and the **Jyväskylä Sinfonia** will continue to be the orchestras of the competition. The competition has commissioned a piece for orchestra from the Finnish composer **Jukka Tiensuu**. The piece will be worked with by the contestants on Thursday 5 September. On the same day, arias from *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's* opera "The Marriage of Figaro" will be performed with soprano **Iris Candelaria** and baritone **Luke Terrence Scott** as soloists. The semi-final on 6th of September and the final on 7th of September will feature violinist **Tami Pohjola** in *Jean Sibelius' Violin Concerto in D minor, Op. 47*.



## First Jorma Panula MINIKAPU competition

Seven applications were received by the deadline for the first MINIKAPU competition, which will take place from 4th to 7th of September 2024. All applicants were accepted. The MINIKAPU contestants are from Finland: **Fagerlund Maximilian, Hukkanen Touko, Kujala Helena, Vauhkonen Leo, Väyrynen Elviira, Šereckis Arijus** and **Leicher Maximilian** from Germany (studying in Finland). The MINIKAPU competition will take place at the same time as the international competition. The competition orchestra is **Wasa Sinfonietta**.

The MINIKAPU jury members are professor, conductor **Atso Almila**, chairman of the jury, conductors **Jukka Iisakkila** and **Ville Mankkinen**. Festival director **Milla Virta** will act as secretary of the jury during the competition.

The prizes are € 1 000, € 750, and € 500. As a special prize, Maestro Jorma Panula will also for the winners donate Master class courses in conducting within the Panula Academy. The competition is organised by the Viljo and Maire Vuorio Foundation.

The audience is welcome to follow both competitions each day in the Vaasa City Hall. The four-day International Conducting Competition and the three-day MINIKAPU Competition will culminate in a Grand Finale conducted by the three finalists at Vaasa Town Hall on 7th of September. The final of the MINIKAPU competition will start at 17.00 and the final of the international competition at 19.00. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of May 2024.

Tickets [www.netticket.fi](http://www.netticket.fi) and Studio Ticket Vaasa, [www.studioticket.fi](http://www.studioticket.fi)

More information at [www.panulacompetition.fi](http://www.panulacompetition.fi).

Monica Johnson

Producer

+358 50 911 33 49

Jorma Panula Conducting Competitions – Viljo and Maire Vuorio Foundation  
Competition office: Vaasa City Hall, Senaatinkatu 1, 65100 VAASA  
Postal address: PO Box 3, FI-65101 VAASA  
[info@panulacompetition.fi](mailto:info@panulacompetition.fi) – [www.panulacompetition.fi](http://www.panulacompetition.fi)

