



Press release 3.9.2024

JORMA PANULA Conducting Competition Week starts now!

20 contestants aim for top places in the IX Jorma Panula International Conductors' Competition - first round starts on 4 September at 10.00.

20 competitors from 11 different countries will arrive in Vaasa on Tuesday 3 September to give it their all in the ninth edition of the **Jorma Panula International Conducting Competition** at Vaasa City Hall during the week. The first round of the competition will take place on Wednesday 4 September at 10.00.

The Contestants

There have been a few changes to the contestants over the summer, and 20 contestants from 11 different countries will now arrive in Vaasa on Tuesday: **Bénati Félix** (France), **Cagnasso Francesco** (Italy/Switzerland), **Castro Grinstein Anna** (Spain), **Gwizdalla Mateusz** (Poland), **Haugli Guro** (Norway), **Malek Anna** (Germany), **Mosnier Pierre** (France), **Müller-Monod Louise** (Switzerland), **Måseidvåg Nils Erik** (Norway), **Nilsen Carl Anders** (Norway), **Petrenko Konstantins** (Latvia), **Sauer Benedikt** (Germany), **Sieber Joseph** (Switzerland), **Siret Vincent** (France), **Sorokine Nikita** (France), **Steiger Eric** (Germany), **Tibone Federico** (Italy), **Toikka Erno** (Finland), **Uusitupa Kasmir** (Finland), **Zinca Sebastian** (Romania).

Maestro Jorma Panula has been artistic director and chairman of the jury since the first competition. The jury includes conductors **Ed Spanjaard** (Netherlands), **Maria Badstue** (Denmark), **Vytautas Lukočius** (Lithuania), **Mikko Franck** (Finland), concertmaster **Maano Männi** from the **Vaasa City Orchestra** and **Inoko Isobe**, alternate oboe principal from the **Jyväskylä Symphony Orchestra**. **Michael Claussen** is secretary of the jury.

FUNFARONE by **Jukka Tiensuu** is a commissioned work for the competition, from which the audience should be able to identify the different emotional states of the work. It will be performed on 5 September, when we will also hear arias from *Mozart's opera The Marriage of Figaro*. Soprano **Iris Candelaria** will sing *Susanna's aria Deh vieni, non tardar* and baritone **Luke Terrence Scott** will sing Figaro's aria *Se vuoll ballare*. Iris Candelaria won the Timo Mustakallio singing competition in 2019 and is now a fixture at the Helsinki National Opera in 2024. Luke Scott graduated from Sibelius Academy and will make his debut in 2023 at the Savonlinna Opera Festival. Both have had roles in various opera productions.

In the semi-final on 6 September and the final on 7 September, violinist **Tami Pohjola** will play *Jean Sibelius' Violin Concerto in D minor, op. 47*. She has performed internationally despite her young age and has been praised for her humble approach to classical music and its interpretation. She performed the Violin Concerto in Manchester, where she made his debut in 2022 with the Hallé Orchestra. He has performed with most Finnish orchestras and is an active chamber musician.

Competition prizes

The Jorma Panula Conducting Competition, one of the most prestigious in Europe, is being held in Vaasa for the ninth time. The first prize of €11 000, the second prize of €8 000 and the third prize of €6 000 is organised by the Viljo and Maire Vuorio Foundation in cooperation with the City of Vaasa.

Jorma Panula Conducting Competitions – Viljo and Maire Vuorio Foundation

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An exciting new MINIKAPU competition!

On Wednesday, seven young conductors will arrive in Vaasa to compete for the first time on Thursday 5 September in the new **Jorma Panula MINIKAPU competition**. The participants are **Fagerlund Maximilian, Hukkanen Touko, Kujala Helena, Šereckis Arijus, Vauhkonen Leo, Väyrynen Elviira**, and **Leicher Maximilian** from Germany (studying in Finland). The MINIKAPU competition will be held in parallel with the international competition. The competition orchestra is **Wasa Sinfonietta**. Director **Tarja Huntus** says that the orchestra is well prepared and that the Sinfonietta has engaged reinforcements in order to be able to play the repertoire under the direction of the competitors.

The jury of MINIKAPU consists of conductors **Atso Almila**, chairman of the jury, **Jukka Iisakkila** and **Ville Mankkinen**, and together they will judge the contestants. Festival Director **Milla Virta** acts as secretary to the jury.

On Thursday 5 September at 13.00, **Jorma Panula and Mayor Tomas Häyry** will open the competition. Members of the press are welcome to attend and meet the jury and the competitors. The prizes for the three winners are €1 000, €750 and €500. Maestro Jorma Panula will also donate a place on a master course in orchestral conducting at the Panula Academy. The competition is organised by the Viljo and Maire Vuorio Foundation.

The competitions are open to the audience

The audience is welcome to watch both competitions at Vaasa City Hall on each day of the competition. Day tickets can be purchased in advance online at netticket.fi or at Studio Ticket in the Rewell shopping centre. The ticket is valid for the whole day, and you can arrive at any time you like.

Tickets will also be sold at the door during the competition days:

Wed 4.9. before 10.00 and 16.00. Price: 10 / 8 / 3 €
Thurs 5.9. before 10.00, 15.00 and 18.30. Price: 10 / 8 / 3 €
Fri 6.9. before 10.00, 15.00 and 18.30. Price: 20 / 15 / 5 €
Sat 7.9. final day, before 17.00 and 19.00. Price: 30 / 25 / 5 €

The weekly ticket pass costs €50 / €40 and entitles you to all races and finals of the week. More information at www.panulacompetition.fi.

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