



Free for publication

**Final results, Saturday 7.9.**

**IX JORMA PANULA INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING COMPETITION**

In the final, three competitors were able to show off their skills in front of great masterpieces. The Vaasa City Orchestra and the Jyväskylä Symphony Orchestra joined forces in a magnificent performance. The programme included *Claude Debussy's* orchestral work *La Mer* and *Jean Sibelius' Violin Concerto in D minor, op. 47*. The violin concerto featured Finnish violinist Tami Pohjola as soloist. The finalists were **Félix Bénati** (France), **Eric Staiger** (Germany), **Kasmir Uusitupa** (Finland). They each conducted one movement of both works.

The jury's decision was made at 21.00. The third prize, a shared prize, was won by **Eric Staiger** (Germany) and **Kasmir Uusitupa** (Finland), who each received €7,500. The second prize, €10,000, was won by **Félix Bénati** (France). The jury decided not to award the first prize.

Félix Bénati was the favourite of the competing orchestras. The Special Prize of the Korsholm Music Festival was awarded to Kasmir Uusitupa. He was invited to conduct the opening concert of the festival in 2026.

### **Results from the first MINIKAPU competition 7.9.**

The final of the MINIKAPU competition took place on Saturday 7 September at 17.00. Four competitors conducted the **Wasa Sinfonietta**, with *Jean Sibelius' Pélleas et Mélisande, op. 46 III A spring in the park*. The finalists were **Maximilian Fagerlund**, **Helena Kujala**, **Maximilian Leicher** and **Arijus Šereckis**. After the decision, the jury announced the winners at 20.45. The winner was **Maximilian Fagerlund** of the MINIKAPU conducting competition. The prize is 1000 euros. Second place went to **Maximilian Leicher** with a prize of 750 euros and third place to **Helena Kujala** with 500 euros. The fourth prize of 200 eur went to **Arijus Šereckis**.

In addition to the cash prize, maestro **Jorma Panula** is donating a master class in orchestral conducting at the Panula Academy to the winner. The other winners will have passive studentseats in the master class.

For more information about the contestants and soloists, please visit the website:

<https://panulacompetition.fi/fi/osallistujat>

More information about the jury: <https://panulacompetition.fi/fi/kilpailu>

For more information on the MINIKAPU competition: <https://panulacompetition.fi/fi/minikapu>

Press photos: <https://panulacompetition.fi/press/>

*For more information, please also visit:*

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