

# Regulations National Cello Competition 2026

- Participants must possess the Dutch Nationality

or

- Participants that do not have Dutch nationality may participate, provided that:

- when the First Round takes place, they are living in the Netherlands, **and** they then have been enrolled at a Dutch conservatory for a minimum of 1 year.

**or**

- at least one of both parents possesses the Dutch Nationality.

- Participants must be born after October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

In addition, the following rules apply:

- Participants are required to fill in the application form (to be found on the website of the Cello Biennale Amsterdam) completely and truthfully, before the application deadline (**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**). They must provide the following documents additionally:
  - An extract from the population register, no more than 6 months old.
  - A short biography (**max. 115 words**), and an elaborate biography.
  - A good quality photo that shows the face clearly, minimal 300 dpi, copyright free.
  - A copy of a Bachelor's or Master's degree, or a recommendation letter from a renowned cellist.
  - If the participant does not possess Dutch nationality, a copy of proof of enrollment at a Dutch conservatory is required.  
*Important: the candidate must be enrolled at aforementioned conservatory for a minimum of 1 year | Important: when graduated from a Dutch conservatory, the participant needs to be registered at a Dutch address*
- The application fee amounts of € 75,- and must be transferred by June 1, 2026 to Stichting Cello Biënnale Amsterdam, Amsterdam by completing the application form. In case a candidate decides not to participate (during any phase of the competition), or is forced to withdraw due to unforeseen circumstances, there is no reimbursement for the application fee. This rule applies without exception.
- The competition consists of a preliminary round, two regular rounds and a final round. The Preliminary Round will take place in the BIMHUIS. The First Round, Second Round, and the Final Round take place in the Grote Zaal of the Muziekgebouw, and they are open to the public.
- The Preliminary Round will take place on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> 2026, in the BIMHUIS. Participants will play the following pieces during the Preliminary Round:

## **Preliminary Round**

*Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026, BIMHUIS*

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>1) Johann Sebastian Bach</b> | Suite no. 4 in E-flat major: Allemande and Courante (only the first repeat)* |
| <b>2) Franz Schubert</b>        | Am Tage Aller Seelen*  |
| <b>3) Gaspar Cassadó</b>        | Danse du diable vert*  |

*Accompanist*

Noriko Yabe, piano

- The repertoire of the First Round, Second Round and Final consists of the following pieces:

## **First Round**

*Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> 2026*

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>1) Giovanni Battista Cirri</b> | Sonate opus 15 nr.5 (with second cello)* |
| <b>2) Karmit Fadael</b>           | New work for cello solo                  |
| <b>3) David Popper</b>            | Mazurka op.11 nr.3*                      |

*Accompanists*

t.b.d., cello

Daniël Kramer, piano

## **Second round**

*Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026*

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>1) Ludwig van Beethoven</b> | Horn sonata in F major, opus 17 (no repeat in first movement) |
| <b>2) Bohuslav Martinu</b>     | Duo for violin and cello no.1, H.157, 2nd movement            |
| <b>3) Robert Schumann</b>      | Märchenbilder opus 113, 2nd & 3rd movement*                   |
| <b>4) Choice from:</b>         |   |
| - György Ligeti                | Sonata for cello solo (1948-1953)*                            |
| - Paul Hindemith               | Sonata for cello solo opus 25 no.3*                           |
| - George Crumb                 | Sonata for cello solo (1955)*                                 |

*Accompanists:*

Stella Zake, violin

Daniël Kramer, piano

## **Final**

*Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2026*

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Dmitri Shostakovich</b> | Cello Concerto nr.1 in E-flat major, op.107* |
|----------------------------|--|

*In collaboration with CvA Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Leonard Elschenbroich*

\*required to be performed without sheet music.

- All participants selected to perform in the Preliminary, First, Second, and Final Round respectively, are expected to participate in these rounds.
- A delegation of the Cello Biënnale Amsterdam determines the order or the candidates' performances in the First Round by lot. The drawing will take place on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 11.30, in the Muziekgebouw. The drawing is open to the public. The drawing for the Second and Final Round is done by the jury of the competition and are not open to the public.
- After admission to the First Round of the competition, all selected participants are required to submit a plan for the Start in Splendor Prize. On the website of the Cello Biënnale Amsterdam, you will find more information about the Start in Splendor Prize. The deadline for submitting the plan for the Start in Splendor Prize is September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- The order of the works in the Preliminary, First and Second Round is determined by the candidates themselves.
- The decisions of the jury are final and not subject to discussion.
- The winner of the First Prize cannot participate in future editions of the National Cello Competition.
- The Cello Biënnale Amsterdam holds exclusive rights to broadcast all rounds of the competition on the radio, television, and internet. Furthermore, the Biënnale holds exclusive rights to all video and audio material of the competition.
- If necessary, participants may make use of an accompanist provided by the Cello Biënnale Amsterdam for free for the Preliminary, First and Second Round.
- The laureates of the National Cello Competition are offered a series of concerts. Before the First Round the participants will receive a list with scheduled concerts, In the weeks after the National Cello Competition, the concerts will be divided between the prize winners.
- Any cases that are not covered by these regulations, a decision will be made by the organization of the National Cello Competition.

*Amsterdam, September 15th, 2025*