

Start in Splendor Prize

After winning the **Start in Splendor Prize** you will be given the chance to put cultural entrepreneurship into practice on the professional stage.

The challenge

Invent and work out an interesting programme and organize your own public. It is you and only you who puts the programme together, acts as the managing director and organizes all publicity. The number of people in the audience determines the height of your honorarium.

The bigger audience you generate, the more you will earn.

You will be guided by people that have been around the block. They will help you with important questions such as: What does a programme need to make it successful? What is the story I want to tell with my programme? Who are the people I want to reach, who is my audience, how do I get number of followers that is prepared to come to my concerts? And also, how do I organize and finance my ambitions and plans?

To this end, you will be coached by Splendor composer David Damm (project coördinator), a musician for artistic input (t.b.a. later), the team of the Cello Biënnale (production and marketing and managing director of the Cello Biennale Michaël Neuburger (production and budget).

The *Start in Splendor Prize* comes with a budget of €1.500,- Your own honorarium and the fee for your colleagues on stage will be paid from the income of your concert. When you manage to fill each and every seat in the concert hall you will receive an additional bonus of €1.000,-

The concert you will be organizing will take place in the spring of 2027 in Splendor.

What do you have to do to win the **Start in Splendor Prize**?

- Write down a description in 500 words max. of what you would like to do if you were to win the *Start in Splendor Prize*. What is your idea for a programme that triggers the curiosity of an audience and makes them sufficiently enthusiastic to buy a ticket to come and listen to your concert or performance?

Hint: Ask yourself the following two questions when you sit down to write your plan:

(i) What is it, that I want to tell with my programme? and (ii), who is my audience and what do I need to lure them into coming to my concert?

- Send your plan to michael.neuburger@cellobiennale.nl by September 11th 2026, at the latest.
- Come to the Final of the National Cello Competition, Friday November 6th 2026, at the Muziekgebouw. During this event the winner of the *Start in Splendor Prize* will be announced.

The most interesting plan wins the Start in Splendor Prize

The members of the jury of the Start in Splendor Prize are Splendor musicians and the staff of the Cello Biënnale Amsterdam.

Splendor Amsterdam is one of the most beautiful working examples of cultural entrepreneurship.

Splendor is a collective of 50 musicians, composers and stage artists, all of them with experience in presenting exceptional programmes and in attracting an audience. In 2013, they worked together to convert an old bath house in the centre of Amsterdam into a cultural sanctuary. The Splendor musicians manage their own performance hall, do their own programming and take care of the publicity for their own concerts. Splendor is a breeding ground for unrestricted experimentation and try-outs. It's a place where stage artists inspire each. *Splendor Amsterdam/ Nieuwe Uilenburgerstraat 116 / 1011 LX Amsterdam*