Internationale
Händel Festspiele
Göttingen

GÖTTINGEN **HÄNDEL**
COMPETITION
MAY 10 – 13, 2027

COMPETITION FOR YOUNG
EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLES

göttingen händel competition 2027
Competition Terms and Conditions

1. The competition, known as the *göttingen händel competition*, is scheduled to take place in Göttingen from 10. – 11.5.2027.

2. **Jury** (subject to change)
   Jochen Schäfsmeier, Head of the Jury/Int. Händel-Festspiele Göttingen
   Maurice Steger, Conductor and recorder player, Professor at the Nuremberg University of Music
   Theresa De Luca, Concert Planner at the Cologne Philharmonie
   Christiane Irrgang, Music Editor NDR Kultur
   Dr. Marie Luise Maintz, Bärenreiter publishing house
   Michael Schäfer, Göttinger Tageblatt newspaper
   Alexander Weimann, Artistic director of Pacific Baroque Orchestra, Vancouver

3. The *göttingen händel competition* is open to ensembles that specialize in baroque music with a repertoire focusing on historical performance practice.

4. **Course of events**
   a) The competition takes place over two days in Göttingen. It comprises two rounds.
   b) The order of the performances will be determined by drawing lots and will be the same in both rounds of the competition.
   c) The performances of the first round will take place on 10.5.2027, 10:00 – 17:30.
   d) The performances of the second round will take place on 11.5.2027, 10:00 – 12:45.
   e) The Lunch Concert "Audience Award" takes place on 12.05.2027, 12:30.
   f) The Prizewinners' Concert "Music and Space" takes place on 13.5.2027, 19:00.
   g) The Prizewinners' Concert takes place on 12.5.2027, 17:00. The winning ensemble will also give a lunch concert at 12:15 (tbc) at Sartorius on May 13, 2027.
   h) Eight ensembles will perform during the first round of the competition. The jury will choose three out of these eight ensembles to compete in the second round. The prizewinners will be announced after the second round has concluded.

5. **Prizes**
   The competition will grant the following prizes:
   a) Prize of the Göttinger Händel-Gesellschaft e.V.
   which is endowed with € 5,000 **and includes** participation in the Prizewinners' Concert
   b) Special Prize "Music and Space"
   which is endowed with € 2,000 **and includes** participation in the Prizewinners' Concert "Music and Space". This award includes an invitation to perform at the Cologne Philharmonie.
   c) Bärenreiter Urtext Prize
   d) Audience Award
   no cash prize
   e) Special Prize: Guest Performance at Early Music Vancouver in 2028

with friendly support of

6. **Attendance requirements**
   Participation in the competition requires attendance at the following events:
   a) Registration
      9.5.2027, 15:00 – 18:00
      Office of the Int. Händel-Festspiele Göttingen GmbH
      Hainholzweg 3
      D - 37085 Göttingen
      Registration must take place in person by at least one member of the ensemble.
   b) 10.5.2027: First competition round, 10:00–17:30; rehearsals from 8:00
   c) 11.5.2027: Second competition round, 10:00–12:45; rehearsals from 8:00. Attendance is mandatory only for ensembles that have qualified for the second round.
   d) 11.5.2027, 14:30: Announcement of the prizewinners. Attendance is mandatory only for ensembles participating in the second round.
   e) The winning ensemble of the Göttinger Händel-Gesellschaft e.V. Award is obliged to perform at the Prizewinners' Concert on 12.5.2027, 17:00 in St. Albani Church, Göttingen, without payment and according to the submitted program proposal. Furthermore, the ensemble agrees that the concert may be recorded for radio and television broadcast without additional payment.
   f) The winning ensemble of the Prize of the Göttinger Händel-Gesellschaft e. V. is obliged to play the Lunch Concert on 13.5.2027, 12:15 (tbc) at Sartorius, Göttingen, without payment.
   g) The winning ensemble of the "Music and Space" prize is obliged to perform at the Prizewinners' Concert on 13.5.2027, 19:00 in St. Vitus Church, Erbsen, without payment and in accordance with the submitted spatial design.
   h) The winning ensemble of the "Music and Space" prize is obliged to perform at the Cologne Philharmonie. Details will be agreed between the ensemble and the Cologne Philharmonie.
   i) The winning ensemble of the audience award is obliged to perform a "Lunch Concert" in Göttingen on 12.5.2027, 12:30 in St Johannis Church, without payment.
   j) The winning ensemble of the "Guest Performance at Early Music Vancouver" prize is obliged to perform at Early Music Vancouver in 2028. Details will be agreed between the ensemble and Early Music Vancouver.

7. Entrants agree to take part in the Organizer's competition-related promotional and publicity activities for the duration of the competition. There will be no payment for taking part in such activities.

8. The competition is open to ensembles of any nationality as long as they accept and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the competition.

9. An ensemble shall consist of no more than seven members.

10. Each ensemble member must be no older than 35 at the time of the competition; the ensemble's average age must not exceed 32.

11. For ensembles to be eligible, the Int. Händel-Festspiele Göttingen GmbH must have received their entry application for the competition by email no later than midnight at the end of 31 January 2027.
12. Entry applications must be sent to bewerbung@haendel-festspiele.de.

13. The following documents must be provided for entry applications to be considered (please take note of clause 14!):

    a) One program proposal each for the first and second round of the competition and for the Prizewinners' Concert
    b) Explanations on each of the three program proposals
    c) Explanation of the spatial design for St. Vitus-Kirche in Erbsen
    d) A letter of motivation regarding the participation in the competition
    e) Ensemble biography
    f) A completed entry form
    g) Copy or scanned copy of documents confirming the age of the ensemble members (student ID card or similar)
    h) Stage plan
    i) Application video of the ensemble (not an audio-only file!)
    j) At least one printable photo of the ensemble in landscape format, as well as one photo in portrait format for use on social media. The same technical specifications apply to both formats. Still images taken from video recordings are not permitted!

14. Transmission of documents
    Please submit **a single** PDF (max. 8 MB) as an email attachment, containing the following documents in the order listed below.

Re a) Please submit a total of 3 program proposals
Round 1: 15 minutes of music
Round 2: 30 minutes of music
Prizewinners' Concert: 75 minutes of music in two parts

- The programs must include the following information: Composer (with life dates), Work title, Catalogue number (if available), List of movements, Duration.
- There must be no overlap between the programs for rounds one and two.
- The Prizewinners' Concert program may feature pieces from the first and second round.
- At least 30 % of the program time (duration) of all three rounds must be devoted to the works of George Frideric Handel.
- The program must include at least 30 % of original scores if available (no arrangements).
- The program of the second round must feature a contemporary work/arrangement that is by a living composer or not older than 50 years, regardless of the compositional style.
- Any changes of the program will not be considered after the deadline.
- The programs must be based on the current motto of the Göttingen International Handel Festival. In 2027, the motto will be Dynasties.

Re b) Explanatory remarks
- Submit an outline of your idea behind all three programs.
- Text, max. 3,000 characters (including spaces).

Re c) Spatial design
- You can find more information about the St. Vitus Kirche in Erbsen at https://kulturimkreis.info/flecken-adelebsen/erbsen-st-vitus-kirche/.
- The program for the church can be the same as the program for the Prizewinners' Concert; In any case, it must take into account the above criteria and engage with the space in a unique way. If another program is to be included in the spatial design, please submit it as a fourth program proposal!
- The concert in the St. Vitus-Kirche will take place without an intermission. Please take this into account when planning your program.
- Format spatial design: text, max. 3,000 characters (including spaces)

Re d) Motivational letter
- Please explain your motivation for entering the competition.
- Text, max. 1,500 characters (including spaces).

Re e) Biography
- Biography of the ensemble – no individual biographies
- Language: German and English or only English
- Text, max. 800 characters (including spaces).

Re g) Personal identification documents
- Scanned copy of a document confirming the name and age of each ensemble member.

Re h) Stage plan
- The stage plan must clearly indicate the location of all instruments/singers, music stands and chairs/piano stools on the stage.
- Stage plans may be drawn by hand.

File link by email

Re i) Link to a Video
- The video should convey an impression of the ensemble's artistic quality and charisma.
- Audio-only files are not permitted.
- Duration: 5-7 minutes max.
- Format: YouTube or Vimeo link

Re j) Link to WeTransfer, Dropbox or a similar file hosting service with photos
- At least two printable photos
- One in landscape format, one in portrait format, colored, at least 1 MB/300 dpi per photo
- File name: *Ensemblename*_c_*credits*_(1), *Ensemblename*_c_*credits*_(2) etc.

15. The entry form can be downloaded from https://www.haendel-festspiele.de/en/projects/ghc/.

16. Entries that do not conform to the above requirements will not be accepted.

17. By submission of the application, the ensembles agree to the terms and conditions.

18. The Göttingen International Handel Festival GmbH will inform entrants about the acceptance or rejection of their application by 15.2.2027.

19. The entry fee is € 150 per ensemble.
    Payment deadline: 23.2.2027. The entry fee is payable after receipt of confirmation of acceptance to:
    Int. Händel-Festspiele Göttingen GmbH
    Bank: Sparkasse Göttingen, Groner-Tor-Straße 32a, 37073 Göttingen
    IBAN: DE55 2605 0001 0000 1561 33
    BIC: NOLADE21GOE
    Reference: händel-competition 2027 + *Name of ensemble*

    Entrants who withdraw from the competition will receive no refund of the entry fee. Failure to pay the entry fee by 23.2.2027 will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.

20. The applicant ensemble will be entitled to take part in the competition after they have received a positive answer and have paid the entry fee.

21. The Göttingen International Handel-Festival reserves the right to host the 2027 Festival under specific hygiene rules.

22. Entrants must make their own travel arrangements to get to/from the venue, and pay their own travel expenses.

23. The Organizer will book and pay accommodation for all ensemble members from 9.5.2027 (day of arrival) through 12.5.2027 (day of departure), a total of three nights. In addition, the prizewinning ensembles will be paid for additional overnight stays until 13. or 14.5.2027 (departure dates following prizewinners' concerts).
    The Organizer will select the hotel. Entrants wishing to organize their own accommodation are requested to inform the Organizer (via email) by 23.2.2027. Entrants failing to inform the Organizer are liable to pay the hotel accommodation costs incurred.

24. Accommodation will be in shared rooms, separated by gender.

25. The Organizer will provide meals for all participating ensemble members on both days of the competition. Breakfast will be provided at the hotel; per diems for lunch and dinner will be paid as an allowance. Water will be provided free of charge at the rehearsal and event locations.

26. Participants who live or study in Göttingen and the surrounding area (50 km) are excluded from clause 23.

27. Copyrights and Intellectual Property Rights
    a) Entrants grant the Organizer the exclusive, transferable, and unlimited right of use – unrestricted in terms of territory, duration, and content – to all copyrighted works and all related rights of use, reproduction, and exploitation, without requiring the express consent of the authors. This also includes the worldwide, exclusive right to record, reproduce, and exploit the entrants' works without limitation through visual, audio, or audiovisual recordings, as well as their use on the Internet and on social media platforms. Where entrants commission third parties to perform work, they must obtain from such third parties the corresponding rights and transfer them to the Organizer. Competition entrants are not entitled to any remuneration arising from these rights.

    b) The use of video and/or audio recordings and audio-visual recordings for reports on the radio will expressly not be remunerated in any form. A radio broadcast shall be deemed a report if a piece of music is transmitted by radio for a maximum of six minutes' duration, with no more than a quarter of that piece of music being played, regardless of the time elapsed between the recording and/or the live rendition and the transmission of the report.

    c) No extra remuneration will be paid for the exclusive use of video and/or audio recordings and audio-visual recordings for Festival purposes, expressly including all promotional and publicity activities of the Organizer during the Festival.

28. The entrants shall provide the performance material required for their agreed program to all relevant parties. The Organizer expressly confirms compliance with all aspects of copyright and the German Copyrights Act.

29. The entrants shall bring all required instruments for the agreed program to the competition with the exception of a harpsichord. A double manual harpsichord may be provided for rehearsals and for concert purposes.
    Requirements must be submitted by 23.2.2027.
    Temperament is 415 Hz Young, to be tuned exclusively by the Organizer.

30. The award-winning ensembles are obliged to mention the competition in their biographies for a period of at least two years as follows:
    - Award winner (competition winner): Award winner of the *göttingen händel competition* 2027
    - Special prize "Music and Space": Winner of the special prize "Music and Space" at the *göttingen händel competition* 2027
    - Bärenreiter Urtext Prize: Winner of the Bärenreiter Urtext Prize at the *göttingen händel competition* 2027
    - Audience award: Winner of the audience award at the *göttingen händel competition* 2027

- Special Prize Guest Performance Vancouver in 2028: Winner of the "Special Prize Vancouver" at the *göttingen händel competition* 2027

31. A jury will select the winners of the competition. The jury's decision is irrevocable. All decisions are final. Jury members will not judge their own students' performance. The deliberations of the jury are confidential. Jury members will be available for discussion with ensembles that have been eliminated after the first round. Contact between jury members and a candidate is not permitted until that candidate has been eliminated from the competition.

32. The German version shall be legally binding.