

göttingen händel competition 2025 **Competition Terms and Conditions**

1. The competition is named *göttingen händel competition* and takes place in Göttingen from May 19 – 20, 2025.
2. Jury (subject to change)
Jochen Schäfsmeier, Head of the Jury/Int. Händel-Festspiele Göttingen
Hille Perl, Gambist and Professor
Theresa De Luca, concert planner at the Kölner Philharmonie (FELIX)
Dr. Marie Luise Maintz, Bärenreiter publishing house
Christiane Irrgang, music editor NDR Kultur
Michael Schäfer, Göttinger Tageblatt newspaper
3. The *göttingen händel competition* is open to ensembles that specialize in baroque music with a repertoire focusing on historical performance practice. The Göttingen International Handel-Festival reserves the right to host the 2025 Festival under specific hygiene rules.
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 May 19, 2025, 10:00 – 17:30. Rehearsals start from 8:30.
 - d) The performances of the second round will take place on May 20, 2025, 10:00 – 12:45. Rehearsals start from 8:00.
 - e) The Lunch concert “Audience Award” takes place on May 21, 2025, at 12:30.
 - f) The Prizewinners’ Concert “Music and Space” takes place on May 21, 19:00
The Prizewinners’ Concert takes place on May 22, 2025, at 17:00. The winning ensemble will also play a lunch concert (11:30 tbc.) at Sartorius on May 22.
 - g) 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 been completed.
5. Prizes
The competition will grant the following prizes:
 - a) Prize of the Göttinger Händel-Gesellschaft e.V.
which is endowed € 5,000 **plus** participation in the Prizewinners’ Concert

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- b) Special Prize “Music and Space”
which is endowed with 2,000 € **plus** participation in the Prizewinners’ Concert
“Music and Space”. This award includes an invitation to perform at FELIX! – Original.
Klang. Köln.
 - c) Bärenreiter Urtext Prize
 - d) Audience award
no cash prize
6. Compulsory attendance
The compulsory attendance of all competition entrants is required for/on:
- a) Registration
May 18, 2025, 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) May 19, 2025: First competition round, 10:00–17:30
 - c) May 20, 2025: Second competition round, 10:00–12:45
 - d) May 20, 2025, 14:30: Announcement of the prizewinners
 - e) The winning ensemble of the Göttinger Händel-Gesellschaft e.V. Award is obliged
to perform at the Prizewinners’ Concert on May 22, 2025, at 17:00 in St. Albani
Church, Göttingen, without payment and according to the submitted program
proposal.
 - f) The winning ensemble of the Prize of the Göttinger Händel-Gesellschaft e. V. is
obliged to play the lunch concert on May 22, 2025, 11:30 (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 May 21, 2025, at 19:00 in St. Markus church, Scheden,
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
FELIX! Festival (August 30, 2025) in Cologne.
 - i) The winning ensemble of the audience award is obliged to perform a “Lunch
concert” in Göttingen on May 21, 2025, without payment. Venue is yet to be
announced.
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 whichever nationality as long as they accept
and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the competition.

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9. An ensemble shall consist of no more than seven members.
10. The maximum age of each individual ensemble member is 35 at the time of the competition; the maximum average age of the ensemble is 32 years.
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 12 midnight on February 2, 2025.
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. Markus church in Scheden
 - 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
14. Transmission of documents
Please submit **one** document (PDF) as an attachment to an e-mail (8 MB max.) in which the following documents are listed in sequence.
 - Re a) Please submit a total of 3 program proposals
 - Round 1: 15 minutes of music
 - Round 2: 30 minutes of music
 - Prizewinners' Concert: 60 minutes of music in two parts
 - The programs must include the following information: Composer, Work title, Catalogue number (if available), List of movements, Duration.
 - There shall be no overlaps of the programs of 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 2025, the motto will be **Laurels**.
- Re b) Explanatory remarks
- Submit an outline of your idea behind all three programs.
 - Text, max. 3,000 characters including spacing.
- Re c) Spatial design
- You can find more information about St. Markus church in Scheden at <https://kulturimkreis.info/dransfeld-samtgemeinde/st-markus-kirche/>. You can find additional pictures here: <https://www.haendel-festspiele.de/de/projekte/ghc/bilder-st-markus-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.
 - Format spatial design: text, max. 3,000 characters
- Re d) Motivational letter
- Outline why you wish to enter 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. 800-850 characters including spaces.
- Re f) Personal identification documents
- Scanned copy of a document confirming the name and age of each ensemble member.
- Re g) 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 h) 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 i) Link to WeTransfer, Dropbox or a similar file hosting service with photos
- At least one printable photo
 - Landscape format, coloured, 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 Int. Händel-Festspiele Göttingen GmbH will inform entrants about the acceptance/non-acceptance of their entry application by February 17, 2025.

19. The entry fee is € 150 per ensemble.

Payment deadline: February 25, 2025. The entry fee is payable 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: handel-competition 2025 + *Name of ensemble*

Entrants who withdraw their entries from the competition will receive no refund of the entry fee. Failure to pay the entry fee by February 25, 2025 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. Entrants must make their own travel arrangements to get to/from the venue, and pay their own travel expenses.

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22. The Organizer will book and pay accommodation for all ensemble members from May 18, 2025 (day of arrival) through May 21, 2025 (day of departure), a total of three nights. In addition, the prizewinning ensembles will be paid for additional overnight stays until May 22 or 23, 2025 (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 February 25, 2025. Entrants failing to inform the Organizer are liable to pay the hotel accommodation costs incurred.
23. Accommodation will be in dormitories, separated by gender.
24. The Organizer will provide meals for all participating ensemble members on both days of the competition. Breakfast 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.
25. Participants who live or study in Göttingen and the surrounding area (50 km) are excluded from clause 22.
26. Copyrights and Intellectual Property Rights
- Entrants grant to the Organizer the exclusive transferable right of use, without limitation in terms of space, time and content, of all copyrighted work with all ensuing rights to use, copy or commercially exploit such work without the express consent of the author. This includes the worldwide, exclusive right to commercially exploit, record and reproduce without limitation the entrant's work through video and/or audio recordings and audio-visual recordings as well as the right to commercially exploit such work on the World Wide Web and the social media. To the extent to which the entrants entrust works to third parties, such third parties shall grant to the entrants the above-mentioned rights, which the entrants shall transfer to the Organizer. Competition entrants have no right to remuneration.
 - 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.
 - 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.

27. The entrants shall make available the performance material to all participants of the agreed program. The Organizer expressly confirms compliance with all aspects of copyright and the German Copyrights Act.
28. 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 February 25, 2025.
Temperament is 415 Hz Young, to be tuned exclusively by the Organizer.
29. The award winning ensemble is 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 2025*
Special prize "Music and Space": Winner of the special prize "Music and Space" at the *göttingen händel competition 2025*
Bärenreiter Urtext Prize: Winner of the Bärenreiter Urtext Prize at the *göttingen händel competition 2025*
Audience award: Winner of the audience award at the *göttingen händel competition 2025*
30. 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.
31. The German version shall be legally binding.

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