

Claussen-Simon-Kompositionspreis

Call for Applications 2025

For the third time, the Claussen-Simon Foundation, in cooperation with the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, is awarding a composition prize to a young composer. The prize will be awarded in the form of a commission for an orchestral work. The world premiere is planned as part of the *Elbphilharmonie Visions* festival in February 2027. The NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, conducted by Alan Gilbert, will perform the piece in the Grand Hall of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.

The aim of the composition prize is to offer a young composer the opportunity to have a large-scale work performed in a prominent setting while providing content-related and organizational support throughout the composition process. Through the collaboration of these three renowned institutions, the recipient will receive extensive mentoring, valuable experience, and active assistance toward establishing a professional career. A central component is direct interaction with key figures from the orchestra, concert hall, and foundation.

The composition prize is endowed with €15,000.

Conditions

- Maximum age: 35 years (born 1989)
- By March 20, 2025, applicants must submit an outline of an orchestral score (minimum 3 minutes) as well as a written description of the work to be composed as part of the prize.
- Submissions must not include compositions that have already been published or (partially) performed.
- To ensure impartiality in the selection of finalists, all applications will be anonymized before being presented to the jury.
- From the submissions, candidates will be selected for a reading session with the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and Alan Gilbert in autumn 2025. Upon request, applicants must be able to provide all individual parts of the submitted sketch before the reading session.
- Attendance at the reading session in autumn 2025 is mandatory for selected candidates.
- Following the reading session, the jury will announce the winner.
- The winner will be commissioned to compose a 15-minute orchestral work. This commissioned work must be written for orchestra only, without soloists, vocal parts, or electronics.
- The deadline for submitting the score and parts of the commissioned work is autumn 2026.
- The world premiere of the work is scheduled for February 2027 as part of the *Elbphilharmonie Visions* festival in the Grand Hall of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg.
- The NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra will hold the premiere rights to the newly composed work; all other rights will remain with the composer.

Maximum Instrumentation

- 4 Flutes (including Piccolo and Alto)
- 4 Oboes (including English Horn and Oboe d'amore)
- 4 Clarinets (including E-flat and Bass – PLEASE NO Contrabass Clarinet)
- 4 Bassoons (including Contrabassoon)
- 4 Horns (including Tubas)
- 4 Trumpets (including Cornet)
- 4 Trombones
- 1 Tuba

- 1 Timpani
- 3 Percussionists (must be playable by 3 players)
- 1 Harp
- Possible additional instruments: Piano, Celesta, Keyboard
- Strings: 14-12-10-8-6

Prize Money and Benefits

- The prize money amounts to €15,000.
- The winner will have the opportunity to attend orchestra rehearsals during the composition process and regularly discuss the progress of the work with the Principal Conductor of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, Alan Gilbert. Members of the orchestra, the Elbphilharmonie, and the foundation will be available for consultations and advice.
- Travel, accommodation, and other expenses (such as those related to score and parts preparation) incurred during the composition process will be reimbursed by prior arrangement.
- The winner agrees to be available for interviews as part of panel discussions and press work.

Required Application Materials

- An outline of an orchestral score (minimum 3 minutes) and a written description of the work to be composed for the prize. The outline must not contain any personal information about the composer. The work must not have been published or (partially) performed.
- A document or file with the applicant's artistic CV, including name, date of birth, address, contact details, and nationality.

The legal process is excluded.

For further inquiries, please contact:

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