

2025

Eleventh edition

Rules



FESTIVAL

VIBRE !

**International String Quartet
Competition of Bordeaux**

Direction Artistique Quatuor Modigliani

vibrefestival.com

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1. The Competition

From 19th to 25th May 2025 Quatuors à Bordeaux will be organising the eleventh edition of the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition Vibre !

Founded in 1999 by the cellist Alain Meunier and Bernard Lummeaux, the Competition has established an international reputation for itself in the world of chamber music.

Since 2020, the Modigliani Quartet has been its artistic director, under the overall leadership of Julien Kieffer.

2. General Entry Requirements

The Competition is open to string quartets of every nationality. Each member of the string quartet applying to compete must be no more than 35 years old, and the sum of the ages of all four members of the quartet must not total more than 128 years on 24th May 2025 (included).

3. Application procedure and deadlines

3.1. Presentation of competing quartets: information and documents required

Applications for the Competition may only be made online, and for the application to be considered complete, you must:

a) Fill in the application form online by following this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dx3njLth-cALOAIkMvzkBuK_Zzzi9NI6DN6AW21GVY/prefill

If you do not have access to google form in your country, please contact us by email at the following address:
concours@quatuorsabordeaux.com

b) Submit the following documents and material in the application form for the quartet :

- A copy of each member's ID (identity card or passport).
- A current biography of the quartet, including its past and future projects and a biography of its members.

- Three recent photographs (HD 300 dpi) of the quartet in portrait and landscape format.
- Two letters of recommendation written for the quartet since 19th May 2024, specifically for the Competition, by two figures of high repute in the musical world.
- If the quartet is registered with one or more agents, works under an exclusive performance contract (in France or abroad) or under similar arrangements, or if it has an exclusive recording contract: a letter from the latter confirming that they agree to the quartet complying with all of the obligations imposed by its participation in the Competition, in particular those specified in Article 7.

c) Pay the registration fee of €150 by bank transfer to the attention of the organising association.

See article 3.3 of the Rules.

3.2. Preselection of the competing quartets: documents required, and technical notes

- Two video files recorded in professional quality, made after 15th May 2021, with a fixed camera and in one complete take only (no new takes between movements), without any editing or alterations of any kind (such alterations being grounds for exclusion from the Competition), of the following repertoire :
 - Schubert, Quartet in C minor, D703 Quartettsatz, omitting the first repeat.
 - A work of their choice, performed in its entirety, lasting between 20 and 30 minutes.
- 2 audio files from the same recordings as the video files in the highest quality possible (at least WAV or 320 MP3 audio file)

Notes for the video and audio preselection files

- you may only use one, fixed camera.
- there are no restrictions as to the number of microphones used or their position for this recording.
- both video and audio files must be of professional quality and must not have been cut or edited in any way.
- both video and audio files must be of a single take of the same performance of both works.
- no audio files in any format other than WAV or 320MP3 will be accepted.
- the video/audio recording must not be made with an audience present, in concert, or in any setting which might generate ambient noise and reduce the quality of the recording.

The application form and the additional material listed above must be completed and delivered to the Google form by midnight on Friday 10th January 2025 at the latest.

Any application which is incomplete or is submitted after the deadline will be automatically disqualified. The material submitted will be not be returned to the applicants.

3.3. Application fees

The quartets enquiring the competition must wire their application fees of 150€00 (one hundred and fifty euros), marked for the attention of Quatuors à Bordeaux by 10th January 2025, to the bank account below:

Association Quatuors à Bordeaux
Domiciliation : SG Bordeaux Entreprises (00425) – 28 CRS de
l'Intendance –
33000 BORDEAUX
IBAN : FR76 3000 3003 7000 0372 7831 081
BIC : SOGEFRPP

The wire transfer may be made only on euros, and its title must include the name of the quartet in question.

Proof of the wire transfer must be sent by email to this address:
concours@quatuorsabordeaux.com

4. Selection and admissions procedure

At the end of the preselection period, the Competition's preselection committee will announce the names of the quartets (a maximum of ten) whose applications have been admitted.

The preselection committee will evaluate the candidates at its entire discretion, using the material provided in their applications. Its choice of candidates selected to compete will be final.

Candidates will be informed of the preselection committee's decision by email before the 7th February 2025.

(Composition of the 2025 Pre-selection Committee: see ANNEX 2)

5. Competition stages

5.1. Registration of candidates at the Competition venue

All members of each quartet must register at the offices of the Quatuors à Bordeaux association on Sunday 18 May 2025 between 10:00 and 18:00, with current ID.

5.2. Venues

Each round of the Competition will be held at the Auditorium de l'Opéra National de Bordeaux – Salle Henri Dutilleux 9-13 cours Georges Clémenceau, 33000 Bordeaux.

Each round will be open to the public, for free. Tickets will be sold for the Winners' Concert.

Candidates will perform in each round in alphabetical order of their quartets' names. The results of the draw to establish the starting letter of this order will be announced on the Competition's website. A new draw for the reference letter will take place for the Final.

A full calendar of each round will be established by the team at Quatuors de Bordeaux in consultation with the jury, sent by email to the selected quartets and published on the website www.vibrefestival.com

5.3. Program of each round

See Annex 1

5.4. Announcement of the results

After the semi-final – on Tuesday 20th May 2025 – the names of the three quartets selected to compete in the final will be announced by the jury once it has deliberated.

After the semi-final - on Friday 23 May 2025 - the 3 quartets admitted to compete in the final will be announced by the jury, following its deliberations.

The results of the final – programmed for Saturday 24th May 2025 – will be officially announced that evening after the jury has come to its decision.

The three quartets competing in the final will perform on Sunday 25th May 2025 at the Finalists' Gala which concludes the Competition.

6. Repertoire

6.1. Repertoire for each round

Preselection

- Schubert, Quartet in C minor, D703 « *Quartettsatz* » without the first repeat
- A work of your choice, performed in its entirety, lasting between 20 and 30 minutes

1st round (19th and 20th May 2025):

- Schubert, Quartet in C minor, D703 « *Quartettsatz* » (10 min) without the first repeat
- The first movement of a Haydn quartet chosen from the list in (Annex 3)
- A quartet chosen from List A or List B in Annex 3 (for the first round, switching lists for the semi-final)

Semi-final (22th and 23th May 2025):

- Mendelssohn: The first movement of the String quintet No. 1 in A major, Op. 18 with altist Lise Berthaud (12 min.)
- A piece of your choice lasting 10 to 15 minutes
- A quartet chosen from List A or List B, depending on the choice made in the first round

Final (24th May 2025) :

- Contemporary work by Kryštof Mařatka (world premiere)
- A Mozart quartet from the list (Annex 3)
- A Beethoven or Schubert quartet from the list (Annex 3)

6.2. Editions and performance times

It is recommended that you use editions which conform to the original version. The performance time of each work chosen must be indicated on the application form.

The order in which works are to be performed is left to the discretion of each quartet and must be indicated on the application form. Unless otherwise stated in the rules, the observance of repeats is left to the discretion of each quartet, whose choice must be indicated on the application form.

7. Prizes, prizegiving ceremony and prizewinners' obligations

7.1. Prizes

First Grand Prize

- €20,000
- A set of bows by Edwin Clement, Meilleur Ouvrier de France (valued at €40,000)
- A recording project for an album produced by Mirare and distributed by Pias/Harmonia Mundi
- A concert tour (currently being planned - details to be announced shortly)

Second Prize

- €10,000
- Four top-quality instrument cases donated by BAM Cases (valued at €3,500)
- ProQuartet Prize : an invitation to a series of masterclasses to be chosen by the prizewinner (including teaching, accommodation and transport costs), and a concert in the ProQuartet season

Third Prize

- €5,000
- An invitation for the quartet to the Saint-Jean de Lux/Ciboure Ravel Academy (including teaching and accommodation costs)

Contemporary Work Prize

- €2,000

Young Listeners' Prize (not awarded by the jury)

- €1,000

Audience Prize (awarded by the audience at the final)

Prizes will be awarded gross of tax-related charges.

7.2. Non-attribution and ties

The jury is at liberty to leave one or more prizes unawarded.

The First Grand Prize is indivisible and may not be awarded jointly. If the First Grand Prize is not attributed, then the Second Prize may be awarded jointly to a maximum of two finalists.

The Third Prize may be awarded jointly to a maximum of two finalists.

The other prizes are indivisible and may not be awarded jointly.

7.3. Forfeit of audiovisual rights

All rights related to audio and video recordings, radio, television or internet broadcasts (including broadcasting and photographic or other reproduction in any present or future form) of all three rounds of the Competition are the property of the Competition's organiser, Quatuors de Bordeaux, and no payment therefore shall be made to contestants.

7.4. Priority of the winners' tour over other engagements

The winner of the First Prize undertakes to comply with the agreements entered into with the Competition's partner agent in charge of the tour's organisation barring different agreements reached by the organizing agency and the representative of the winning Quartet.

These agreements shall have priority over any other engagements entered into previously either by the quartet itself or by its agent if it has one.

This agreement shall run for two years starting from the season following this edition of the Competition (eg, September 2025 to September 2027 for the 2025 edition).

This agreement shall cover the following countries: France, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Japan and Canada.

7.5. Announcement of the winners

The announcement of the winners and the prize-giving will take place at the beginning of the Finalists' Gala.

When communicating the Competition results, by whatever medium, the winners must comply with the jury's official decision by specifying the prize in question.

7.6. Invitations for the semi-finalist quartets to the masterclass programme

The jury may, at its own discretion, offer a maximum of two quartets who did not reach the Final the opportunity to take part in the programme of Masterclasses for young string quartet players during the May 2026 Vibre ! Festival.

7.7. Performance engagements for quartets which do not reach the Final

As part of the concert programme presented alongside the Competition rounds, any of the quartets which do not reach the Final may be invited to perform in a concert in Bordeaux or the surrounding region (such engagements to be remunerated).

7.8. Henle offer

Each participant in the competition will receive a voucher for the Henle Library App for each participant worth 50.00 Euros each (free credits).

8. Jury

8.1. Jury members

The jury, invited by the artistic directors, consists of six members, one serving as President.

The jury may not include persons with family or other close links to any competitor.

Each member of the jury will be required to submit a declaration concerning any personal or professional acquaintance or family ties with the competitors, the form in question to be supplied by Quatuors à Bordeaux.

Quatuors à Bordeaux reserves the right to replace any member of the jury who for any urgent reason may be unable to exercise their function. (Composition 2025 : see Annex 2)

8.2. Jury's deliberation method and voting procedure

Quatuors À Bordeaux is responsible for the rules which apply to the deliberation and voting methods of the jury.

The jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

8.3. Duration of the jury's function

The jury will be constituted on 19th May 2025. It is considered dissolved once the results of each edition of the Competition have been announced.

8.4. Presence to assist jury

The director of Quatuors à Bordeaux may be present without voting rights while the jury is in session.

The operational coordination of the jury, and its archives, are the responsibility of Quatuors à Bordeaux.

9. Professional Committee

In addition to the jury, the Concours International de Bordeaux invites a Professional Committee to attend its Final.

This high-level committee is made up of directors or programmers of concert halls or major international concert series. The members of the committee will attend the final of the competition and then meet and advise the three finalist quartets on the morning of Sunday 25 May 2025. This formal meeting will enable the finalists to benefit from advice that complements that of the jury.

(Composition 2025: see Appendix 2)

10. Preselection of participants

The Quatuors à Bordeaux team will receive and examine preselection applications and ensure that they meet all the necessary conditions – complete information and material, compliance with deadlines, respect of technical and repertoire requirements.

The Competition's artistic director shall appoint a preselection committee of three, of whom none shall be members of the jury.

The preselection committee is responsible for evaluating the material presented by candidates seeking to compete.

(Composition 2025 : see Annex 2)

11. Candidates' transport and accommodation costs

Quatuors à Bordeaux, as organiser of the Competition, will be responsible for the qualifying quartets' accommodation costs from 18th to 26h May 2022 inclusive.

The association will contribute towards the travel expenses of candidate quartets travelling from a country not on the list of countries on the European continent.

- € 500 maximum (including an extra seat for the cello) for a quartet travelling from a country not included in the list of European countries in Annex 4.

12. Jurisdiction

- a) The Competition rules are available in two languages (English and French), on the understanding that only the French text can be referred to for legal purposes.
- b) Quatuors à Bordeaux reserves the right, at its own discretion and whatever the circumstances, to decide to cancel the Competition and to take any decisions relating to organisation and participation in the Competition.
- c) A preselected quartet which fails to compete at any stage in its original form at inscription (ie, if a player is replaced) will be disqualified.
- d) Any legal proceedings will fall under the jurisdiction of the courts of Bordeaux.

13. Organisation

The Competition is organised by Quatuors à Bordeaux:

Association Quatuors à Bordeaux

Association loi de 1901

N° de SIRET : 422 438 275 00014

Siège social : 71 rue de Saint-Genès, 33000 Bordeaux (France)

Bureau : 71 rue de Saint-Genès - 33000 Bordeaux

Director - Julien KIEFFER

Artistic Director - Quatuor Modigliani

Amaury COEYTAUX, Loïc RIO, Laurent MARFAING, François KIEFFER

Executive Manager - Chantal MARTIN-PARDIGON

Production Manager - Zélie GEOFFROID

Quatuors à Bordeaux Board of Directors:

Co – President : Élisabeth VIGNÉ

Co – President : François HENROT

Vice-President : Jean François MOUEIX and Antoine TCHEKHOFF

Secretary : Bernard LUMMEAUX

Treasure : Charles CHEVALLIER

Members : Pierre-Marie CHAUVIN, Pascale BERNHEIM, Thierry FOUQUET, Alain Meunier, Alain PICHON et Daniel PICOTIN

ANNEX 1 - Overall timetable for the 2025 edition

Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th May 2025

- 1st Round

Wednesday 21th May 2025

- Semi-final rehearsals
- Jury' concert

Thursday 22th and Friday 23th May 2025

- Semi-final
- Artistic director's Concert

Saturday 24th May 2025

- Final

Sunday 25th May 2025

- Finalists' Gala

ANNEX 2 - Jury and Preselection Committee members for the 2025 edition

Chairman :

- Martin Beaver, violonist (ex Tokyo Quartet)

Members :

- Corina Belcea, violonist (Belcea Quartet)
- Hélène Clement, violist (Doric Quartet)
- Valentin Erben, cellist (ex Alban Berg Quartett)
- Miguel da Silva, violist (ex Quatuor Ysaÿe)
- Anne Queffélec, pianiste

Preselection Committee :

- Marie Chilemme, violist (Quatuor Ébène)
- François Kieffer, cellist (Quatuor Modigliani)
- Vineta Sareika, violonist (ex Artemis Quartett)

Professional Committee (non-exhaustive list, based on feedback received by 7 October 2024) :

- Charlotte Bartissol (Proquartet - France)
- Cabantous Paul (Académie Ravel de Saint-Jean de Luz - France)
- Kirsten Dawes (Pierre Boulez Saal - Germany)
- Jakub Fiebig (Julian Cochran Foundation - Poland)
- Édouard Fouré Caul-Futy (Philharmonie de Paris - France)

- Simone Gramaglia (Cremona Quartet & Dimore del Quartetto - Italy)
- Chloë Herteleer (Kronberg Academy - Germany)
- Yasmin Hilberdink (String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam - Holland)
- Emmanuel Hondré (Opéra National de Bordeaux - France)
- Taku Kawai (Osaka International Chamber Music Competition - Japan)
- Antoine Manceau (La Belle Saison - France)
- Federico Rinaldi (European Concert Hall Organisation - ECHO - Belgium)
- Andre Roy (McGill International String Quartet Academy - Canada)
- Alasdair Tait (Young Classical Artists Trust - UK)
- Linda Uschinski (Simmenauer Agency - Germany)
- Cathy Wilkinson (Elbphilharmonie Hamburg - Germany)
- Michiel Wittink (Concertgebouw - Holland)

ANNEX 3 - 2025 edition repertoire

Detailed list of set works cited in Article 6 of these rules :

1st Round (19th and 20th May 2025)

- 1st movement of a Haydn quartet from the following list (omitting the first repeat) :
 - Quartet opus 71 n°1 : 1st mouvement Allegro
 - Quartet opus 71 n°2 : 1st mouvement Adagio - Allegro
 - Quartet opus 71 n°3 : 1st mouvementa Vivace
 - Quartet opus 74 n°1 : 1st mouvement Allegro moderato
 - Quartet opus 74 n°2 : 1st mouvement Allegro spiritoso
 - Quartet opus 74 n°3 : 1st mouvement Allegro
 - Quartet opus 76, n°1, 1st movement Allegro con spirito
 - Quartet opus 76, n°2, 1st movement Allegro
 - Quartet opus 76, n°3, 1st movement Allegro
 - Quartet opus 76, n°4, 1st movement Allegro con spirito
 - Quartet opus 76, n°5, 1st movement Allegretto
 - Quartet opus 76, n°6, 1st movement Allegretto
 - Quartet opus 77, n°1, 1st movement Allegro moderato
 - Quartet opus 77, n°2, 1st movement Allegro moderato

Final (24th May 2025)

- A quartet by Mozart to be chosen from the following list:
 - Quartet n°14 KV.387 n G major opus 10 n°1 « The Spring »
 - Quartet n°15 KV.421(417b) in D minor opus 10 n°2
 - Quartet n°16 KV.428 in E flat major opus 10 n°3
 - Quartet n°17 KV.458 in B flat major op. 10 n°4 « The Hunt »
 - Quartet n°18 KV.464 in A major op.10 n°5

- Quartet n°19 KV.465 in C major op. 10 n°6 « Dissonance »
 - Quartet n°20 in D major K.499 « Hoffmeister »
 - Quartet n°21 in D major K.575
 - Quartet n°22 in B flat major K.589
 - Quartet n°23 in F major K.590
- **A quartet by Beethoven or Schubert to be chosen from the following list:**
 - Beethoven : Quartet n°7 opus 59, n°1 « Razumovsky »
 - Beethoven : Quartet n°8 opus 59, n°2 « Razumovsky »
 - Beethoven : Quartet n°9 opus 59, n°3 « Razumovsky »
 - Beethoven : Quartet n°10 opus 74
 - Beethoven : Quartet n°12 opus 127
 - Beethoven : Quartet n°14 opus 131
 - Beethoven : Quartet n°16 opus 135
 - Schubert : Quartet D804 Rosamunde
 - Schubert : Quartet D810 Death and the Maiden
- **The work by Kryštof Mařatka, entitled *AMEDEA - visage de jeune fille*, created for the Final on a commission from the Bordeaux International Competition and the Opéra National de Bordeaux, will last approximately 10 minutes. The score will be available on 1 March 2025 (in digital and paper versions).**

List A quartets :

- Beethoven : Quartet opus 95
- Brahms : Quartet opus 51, n°1
- Brahms : Quartet opus 51, n°2
- Brahms : Quartet opus 67
- Dvořák : Quartet in A flat major opus 105
- Dvořák : Quartet in G major opus 106
- Grieg : Quartet opus 27
- Schumann : Quartet opus 41, n°1
- Schumann : Quartet opus 41, n°2
- Schumann : Quartet opus 41 , n°3
- Sibelius : Quartet opus 56 Voces intimae
- Smetana : Quartet n°1 From my life
- Smetana : Quartet n°2 in D minor
- Tchaikovsky: Quartet opus 11
- Tchaikovsky: Quartet opus 22
- Tchaikovsky: Quartet opus 30
- Verdi : Quartet in E minor

List B quartets :

- Bartók : Quartet n°2 Sz.67
- Bartók : Quartet n°3 Sz.85
- Bartók : Quartet n°4 Sz.91
- Bartók : Quartet n°5 Sz.102
- Bartók : Quartet n°6 Sz.114
- Berg : Quartet opus 3
- Berg : Lyric Suite
- Britten : Quartet n° 1, opus 25
- Britten : Quartet n°2, opus 36
- Britten : Quartet n°3, opus 94
- Debussy : Quartet in G minor, opus 10
- Dutilleux : Ainsi la nuit
- Janáček : Quartet n°1
- Janáček : Quartet n°2
- Ligeti : Quartet n°1
- Ligeti : Quartet n°2
- Lutoslawski : Quartet n°1
- Ravel : Quartet in F Major
- Schönberg : Quartet opus 7
- Schönberg : Quartet opus 30
- Schönberg : Quartet opus 37

ANNEX 4 - List of countries on the European continent

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.