



Announcement of Polstjärnepriset - Nordic Edition 2023

Please note that the information below only applies to the current edition of the competition.

"Polstjärnepriset – more than a competition"

Polstjärnepriset has been held in Vänersborg every year since 2007. For the 2023 edition, young musicians from all Nordic countries are eligible for the competition.

Polstjärnepriset is organized by the Swedish National centre for music talents (NCM).

Members and partners of NCM include Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, Norrlandsoperan Symphony Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, The Swedish Wind Ensemble, Vänersborg municipality, Västerås Sinfonietta, all music colleges in Sweden, and Regional Music in Sweden with its 23 member organizations.

Purpose

The purpose of the competition is to give talented young classical musicians an opportunity to be heard and seen. The purpose is also to give young musicians advice and guidance for their performances, in the competition and in public, as well as for their further artistic development. Additional activities include lessons, seminars, orchestral and ensemble playing, where all participants have the opportunity to play and perform together.

Eligibility

Eligible for the competition are musicians born 2004-2008, playing one of the standard classical orchestral instruments, including piano. Organ, guitar, accordion and percussion are excluded from the competition.

The applicant should fulfil one of the following requirements:

- being a citizen of a Nordic country (confirmed with copy of passport or national ID card)
- or having been a registered resident of a Nordic country for at least two years before the first day of the competition (confirmed with certificate of residency)
- or having studied in one or more Nordic countries for at least two years before the first day of the competition (confirmed with certificate from school/schools)

The necessary certificates described above shall be submitted in connection with the application according to the instructions below.

Competition rules

The competitor may only compete on one instrument.

Participation in the competition requires full attendance during Polstjärnedagarna in November and the Competition days in January. A medical certificate is needed for any exemptions.

Recordings for application and pre-selection:

The applicant shall submit two recordings of different character, either from different works or different movements from one work, with a total duration of approximately 10 minutes. The recordings may contain works offered for the competition repertoire. They may be solo or with piano accompaniment.

The recordings should be in MP3 or MP4 format, marked with the applicant's name and consist of continuous, unedited performances. It is also possible to send links to recordings.

Pre-selection:

The places in the competition are allocated according to the population of the countries: Sweden 8 competitors; Denmark, Finland and Norway 4 each; Iceland, Greenland, the Faeroe Islands and the Åland Islands 1 each. The jury will select the participants in the competition based on the recordings submitted, and the organizing committee notifies the accepted participants. Applicants not accepted to the competition may be offered a place in the course Polstjärnekursen. A separate application to the course is not necessary in this case.

Competition plan:

The competition consists of three rounds in January. After the First Round, eight competitors advance to the Semifinal Round. Four competitors from the Semifinal Round advance to the Final Round.

The Semifinal and Final Rounds are open to the public.

Please note that only competitors and staff are allowed access to the stage and backstage areas during the competition.

The competitors will be accompanied by a pianist provided by the organizers during the First and Semifinal Rounds.

The pianos used in the First and Semifinal Rounds, as well as the orchestra in the Final Round are tuned at $a_1 = 442$ Hz. It is recommended to tune the instrument before entering the stage for the competition performance, and only make a quick check on stage.

Competition repertoire

The competition repertoire should consist of three works/movements. The total duration of the works performed in the competition is limited to 26 minutes (see below):

- a work for solo instrument and orchestra, maximum duration 12 min, for the Final Round with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra
- a work of the competitor's choice, maximum duration 8 min, for the Semifinal Round
- a work of the competitor's choice for the First Round, recommended duration approximately 6 min (the jury has the right to stop a performance that exceeds the allotted time)

Competition round	Repertoire	Maximum duration
First Round	Excerpt from the work for solo and orchestra; the chosen work for the First Round	Time with the jury: 10 minutes
Semifinal Round	Chosen work for the Semifinal Round	8 minutes
Final Round	Work for solo och orchestra	12 minutes

Exceeding the maximum duration in the Semifinal and Final Rounds may influence the assessment of the competitor's performance negatively. This decision will be taken by the jury in consultation with the organizing committee.

If the competitor wishes to change the repertoire submitted at application, this must be done by the date specified below (see "Important dates", last page of this document). Changes can only be made by email to polstjarnepriset@vanersborg.se. Please note that the work with orchestra for the Final Round has an earlier deadline for changes.

First Round:

In the First Round, the competitor will play excerpts from two works, one of them being the work for solo and orchestra chosen for the Final Round. Each competitor has 10 minutes with the jury and the jury has the right to choose excerpts from both works, make cuts and stop the performance at its discretion.

Semifinal Round:

The Semifinal Round is a public concert in Vänersborg and the competitor will play one or more movements from the same work, alternatively one whole work, for a total maximum duration of 8 minutes.

Final Round:

The Final Round is a public concert in the Gothenburg Concert Hall and the competitor will play one or more movements from the same work, alternatively one whole work, for a total maximum duration of 12 minutes. Longer works/movements must be shortened, with the cuts clearly indicated in the application.

Repertoire for the Final Round:

The Polstjärnepriset finalists are accompanied by the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra (GSO). The chosen work for the Final Round must be a work for solo instrument with orchestra, with a maximum instrumentation of 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, 1 tuba, 1 harp, 1 pianist for all keyboard instruments, 2 percussionists and strings.

A list of recommended works with orchestra for all competition instruments can be found at www.yomacenter.se. This list contains works available through the GSO's music library. If the competitor wishes to perform a work not on this list, a score must be submitted together with the application. The work has to be approved by the competition director, in consultation with the GSO.

If the chosen work is not available through the GSO library, it is the competitor's responsibility to provide the orchestral material by week 44. We recommend the use of national music libraries, or the rental departments of various music publishers.

The GSO library (kristian.karlstedt@gso.se) can assist with these contacts.

It is of course possible to have more than one work for solo and orchestra; these will be accompanied by the competition's pianist during the first two rounds.

Pianists may only have one work with orchestra; this work cannot be played in the Semifinal Round.

The costs, such as rental costs and postage, of orchestral materials used in the Final Round will be paid by Polstjärnepriset. Polstjärnepriset does not cover costs for orchestral materials for competitors who do not reach the Final Round*. These costs are high when music publishers are involved. It can cost several thousand SEK, even if the material is not used.

*Exceptions can be made for some instruments, such as tuba and saxophone, where there are only a few freely available solo works with orchestra. A decision will be made in each case in connection with confirmation of participation.

Organizing committee

The organizing committee consists of competition director Ulrich Kaatz, assistant competition director Jonas Olsson, senior advisor Håkan Alfredsson and operating manager Gunilla Wretemark.

The organizing committee is responsible for the competition rules and appointing the jury.

Violations

Violations of the competition rules and deadlines may result in disqualification. This decision will be taken by the competition director in consultation with the chairperson of the jury.

Jury

The jury consists of outstanding musicians, pedagogues and representatives of the music business. Polstjärnepriset aims at having each Nordic country represented among the jury members.

Students of jury members may participate in the competition. Polstjärnepriset doesn't want to exclude these jury members or their students from the competition. Therefore, a strict procedure ensures that jury members will not take part in the assessment or discussion of their own students, or competitors in any other way closely related to the jury member.

The assessment of the jury

Polstjärnepriset is a soloist competition. Musical expression and stage presence are important evaluation criteria, especially in the Semifinal and Final Rounds. Technical mastery of the instrument and difficulty of the chosen repertoire are thus not the only criteria.

Sensitivity to the accompaniment will be taken into consideration. Playing by memory is no obligation, but reading the score should not be allowed to interfere with the musical performance, especially in the public rounds.

The decision of the jury is final.

Prizes, awards and engagements

1st prize: 50 000 SEK

2nd prize: 10 000 SEK

3rd prize: 5 000 SEK

4th prize: 5 000 SEK

Taxes will be paid by the winners.

The 1st prize winner will be offered a soloist engagement with one or more of the member orchestras of the National Centre for Music Talents, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, Norrköpings Symphony Orchestra, Norrlandsoperans Symphony Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Västerås Sinfonietta at some time during the year following the competition.

Instructors

Our instructors are internationally active artists and pedagogues who give individual lessons and guidance for performances. They also coach chamber ensembles, lead orchestral rehearsals and give inspiration through master classes etc.

More than a competition – about the musical activities of Polstjärnepriset

In addition to the competition, Polstjärnepriset contributes in many other ways to the development of young talents in the Nordic countries. The instructors give lessons, master classes and lead chamber music, sectional and orchestral rehearsals. All these elements combine to the musical development of the participants and prepare them for performances at various public events. All participants will be given the opportunity to present themselves to an audience. Additional activities include lectures, workshops and attending concerts.

Media

The competitors will be photographed and should be prepared for audio and video recordings as well as interviews, both during Polstjärnedagarna in November and the Competition days in January.

All finalists are expected to stay after the Final Round for photographs and meeting the media. The winner should also be available for media for a couple of days after the Final Round.

Photos

Portrait photos of the competitors (in concert dress, with instruments) will be taken during Polstjärnedagarna in November. These pictures will be used by Polstjärnepriset for its web site, Facebook, programme book etc.

Personal presentation

All applicants to the competition will write a personal presentation as part of their application. This presentation will be published on www.yomacenter.se and in the programme book.

Consent of publication

The partners of NCM and Polstjärnepriset want to present Polstjärnepriset and its competitors on web sites, in printed media and by publishing photos, audio and video recordings of the participants.

To fulfil the requirements of the data protection regulation GDPR, in connection with the application (and later admission to the competition), the applicant/parent gives the organizer (and its listed partners) permission to use personal data, photos, audio and video recordings from Polstjärnepriset for purposes of marketing and documentation.

Fees and costs

Participation in the competition Polstjärnepriset and the course Polstjärnekursen is free of charge. Costs for travels, meals and accommodation are paid by the participants. Polstjärnepriset will book accommodation in family rooms for 360 SEK per night, including breakfast, at Arena Hotel in Vänersborg. Meals (lunch and dinner) will also be booked at a cost of 85 SEK per meal. Payment is due at arrival.

Application

Applications to the competition are submitted through www.yomacenter.se.

Recordings:

The applicant shall submit two recordings with a total duration of approximately 10 minutes. The recordings should be in MP3 or MP4 format, marked with the applicant's name and consist of continuous, unedited performances. It is also possible to send links to recordings.

Scores:

Scores of the competition repertoire, including piano accompaniments, shall be submitted as an attached PDF file to polstjarnepriset@vanersborg.se.

Original scores of the piano accompaniments must be brought to Polstjärnedagarna in November.

If the competitor chooses a work for the Final Round not on the list of recommended works, a full orchestral score must be also submitted together with the application. Regarding orchestral materials: see *Competition rules*.

Scores shall be marked with the competitor's name.

Recordings, scores and a copy of passport/national ID or certificate of residency or school enrolment shall also be submitted to polstjarnepriset@vanersborg.se no later than June 15, 2022.

Important dates

April 15, 2022	The application opens at www.yomacenter.se
June 15, 2022	Application submission deadline Please note that recordings, scores and copies of passport or necessary certificates must also be submitted by this date!
August 19, 2022	Notification of participation is sent by email to applicants selected for the competition! A template for confirmation will be attached. Applicants not selected for the competition may be offered participation in the course.
August 26, 2022	Deadline for confirmation of participation in the competition
October 15, 2022	Last day for making changes to the chosen solo work with orchestra, to polstjarnepriset@vanersborg.se
November 3-6, 2022	Polstjärnedagarna
November 3, 2022	Arrival, check-in at 3pm, start at 5pm
November 6, 2022	Departure, no earlier than 5pm. Mandatory attendance all days!
November 12, 2022	Last day for making changes to the competition repertoire for the First and Semifinal Rounds, to polstjarnepriset@vanersborg.se
January 1-6, 2023	Competition days
January 1, 2023	Arrival, check-in at 3pm
January 2, 2023	First Round
January 3, 2023	Semifinal Round in Vänersborg, 6.00 pm
January 4, 2023	Concert in Vänersborg, 6.00 pm
January 5, 2023	Final Round, Gothenburg Concert Hall, 3.00 pm

January 6, 2023 We will perform a concert in Stockholm or another Nordic capital city (information about the venue will be sent before summer), followed by individual departure.

Mandatory attendance all days!

Contact

Competition director

Ulrich Kaatz

Director, artistic and pedagogic leader

Swedish National centre for music talents

ulrich.kaatz@vanersborg.se

0702-731 713

Competition office

Gunilla Wretemark

polstjarnepriset@vanersborg.se

0521-72 14 96

Vänersborg, April 15, 2022

The organizing committee, Polstjärnepriset