

1. ESKİŞEHİR INTERNATIONAL GÜRER AYKAL ORCHESTRA CONDUCTING COMPETITION – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

An international orchestra conducting competition will be held in Eskişehir between 8 and 15 June 2026 in honor of Prof. Gürer Aykal, a distinguished State Artist of Turkey and a native of Eskişehir. Intended to held biennially, the competition aims to gain a respected position in the international arena, contribute to the promotion of our country and city, and serve as an important milestone in the career journeys of young orchestra conductors.

ARTICLE 1: COMPETITION SCHEDULE AND VENUE

The competition is scheduled to take place in Eskişehir from 8 to 15 June 2026. The First and Second Rounds of the competition are to be conducted at the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality Opera House. The Final Round and the Award Ceremony, which will take place on Sunday, 14 June 2026, are set to be held at the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality Atatürk Culture, Arts and Congress Center.

ARTICLE 2: THE JURY

2.1. The competition jury consists of five members.

2.2. The competition jury shall be selected and appointed from among the individuals proposed to the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality Department of Culture and Social Affairs by the Board of Directors of the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality Symphony Orchestra.

2.3. The Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality shall have full authority to postpone or cancel the competition following the preliminary selection. In such a case, competition participation fees shall be refunded to the candidates in Turkish Lira at the exchange rate on the date of payment, within 30 days, provided that a refund request is submitted within 15 days from the announcement of the competition's cancellation. Participation fees not requested within the specified period shall be credited as revenue in the Municipality's budget.

However, no refund shall be made if a candidate withdraws from the competition at any stage at their own request, if their application is deemed invalid, or if they fail to pass the preliminary round; in such cases, the fees shall be credited as revenue in the Municipality's budget.

ARTICLE 3: PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1. The competition is open to all conductors born on or after 1 January 1991 who have not reached the age of 35 as of the start date of the competition (8 June 2026).

3.2. The participation fee for the competition is 100 euros. Payment shall be made in Turkish Lira, regardless of the applicant's nationality, based on the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey's euro selling rate in effect on the date of the transaction.

3.3. The participation fee for candidates invited to the competition after passing the preliminary round is 750 euros in Turkish Lira. For the payment of this fee, the exchange rate applied shall be the euro selling rate of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey in effect on the date of the transaction, regardless of the applicant's nationality.

ARTICLE 4: APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIREMENT

4.1. Candidates are required to submit the documents listed below in full to the specified email address by 17:00 (Turkey Time) on 16 March 2026, counting from the announcement date. The requested documents are as follows:

- a) Application form for participation in the competition, available on our website.
- b) Valid and current passport or Turkish ID card.
- c) Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) detailing the candidate's educational background and experience in orchestral conducting.
- d) Video recording of at least 15 minutes in length, uninterrupted, showing the candidate conducting an orchestra, choir, chamber ensemble, or piano-accompanied performance.
- e) Bank receipt evidencing payment of the preliminary application fee, paid in Turkish Lira in an amount equivalent to EUR 100.

ARTICLE 5: EVALUATION AND COMPETITION PROCESS

5.1. Applications shall be evaluated by the Jury to determine the candidates eligible to participate in the competition stages. The participation fee for candidates invited to the competition following the preliminary selection is 750 euros. Payment shall be made based on the euro selling rate of the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey in effect on the date of the application.

5.2. In addition to the list of main candidates, the Jury shall prepare a "Reserve Candidate List" consisting of other candidates deemed sufficient based on the evaluation results, numbered in order of merit and equal in number to at least the main candidates, and shall submit it to the Department of Culture and Social Affairs.

5.3. The results of the preliminary evaluation will be communicated to all applicants via email no later than April 1, 2026. The identities of applicants not admitted to the competition will remain confidential, while the names of invited candidates will be publicly announced.

5.4. Travel and accommodation expenses of candidates invited to the competition shall be covered by the budget of the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality.

5.5. The order of performances at all stages of the competition shall be determined by a draw conducted in the presence of the Jury.

ARTICLE 6: FINANCIAL EVALUATION OF THE COMPETITION AND ADMINISTRATION AUTHORITY

6.1. In assessing the financial sustainability of the competition, the total number of applications received by the end of the application period, the revenue generated from these applications, and the sponsorship income provided under Article 10 shall be taken as the basis.

6.2. Based on the financial evaluation (e.g., if the number of applications is below expectations or sponsorship revenues do not meet the target), in the event that financial sustainability cannot be ensured, the exclusive authority to postpone or cancel the competition shall belong to the Department of Culture and Social Affairs of the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality. However, regardless of the number of applications or the revenue obtained, the Administration shall also have the authority to conduct the competition under any circumstances if it deems it necessary for the public interest and the promotion of the city.

6.3. In the event that the competition is cancelled by the Administration under the provisions of Article 6.2 or due to force majeure, all candidates who have paid the application or participation fees shall be refunded in Turkish Lira at the exchange rate on the date of payment within 30 days.

ARTICLE 7: REGISTRATION AND OTHER PROVISIONS

7.1. Candidates invited to the competition are required to complete their final registration and submit the works they will conduct no later than 1 May 2026.

7.2. If candidates eligible to participate in the competition fail to complete their preliminary registration by the specified date, candidates from the Reserve Candidate List determined under Article 5.2 shall be invited in order of ranking on 2 May 2026. Invited candidates are required to complete their final registration by 9 May 2026. Candidates who fail to complete the registration within this period shall forfeit their right, and the next candidate on the Reserve List shall be invited.

7.3. Candidates invited to the competition are required to be present in Eskişehir no later than one day before the announced competition date (by 7 June 2026 at the latest).

7.4. The rights to record and broadcast the competition belongs to the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality. By participating, contestants acknowledge and agree to transfer all their rights arising from Law No. 5846 on Intellectual and Artistic Works exclusively to the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality.

7.5. The courts and enforcement offices of Eskişehir shall have jurisdiction over any disputes arising from the implementation of this Terms and Conditions.

ARTICLE 8: COMPETITION REPERTOIRE AND PROGRAM

ROUND I (8–9 June 2026):

Each candidate shall be allotted 30 minutes for rehearsal and performance. Candidates shall conduct one work from Group A, as determined by the Jury, and one work of their choice from Group B.

Group A: L. van Beethoven, Symphony No. 7 (1st Movement); W. A. Mozart, Symphony No. 41 (1st Movement); J. Haydn, Symphony No. 104 “London” (1st Movement).

Group B: W. A. Mozart, Don Giovanni Overture; L. van Beethoven, Egmont Overture; G. Rossini, The Barber of Seville Overture; F. Mendelssohn, The Hebrides (Fingal’s Cave) Overture; C. M. von Weber, Der Freischütz Overture; G. Verdi, Nabucco Overture.

ROUND II (10–11 June 2026):

Each candidate shall be allotted 40 minutes for rehearsal and performance. Candidates shall conduct one work of their choice from the list below:

L. van Beethoven, Leonore Overture No. 3; P. I. Tchaikovsky, Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture; J. Brahms, Variations on a Theme by Haydn; F. Liszt, Preludes; B. Smetana, The Moldau; M. Ravel, Ma mère l’Oye Suite; A. A. Saygun, Ayin Raksı.

ROUND III – FINAL (13–14 June 2026):

Finalists shall be granted 1 hour and 15 minutes of rehearsal on the day prior to the final concert. Candidates shall conduct two works of their choice from among those not performed in the previous rounds, with a total duration not exceeding 30 minutes. In case of a conflict in work selection, a draw shall be conducted.

ARTICLE 9: PRIZES

9.1. Distribution of Prizes

First Prize: €7,500 (Seven thousand five hundred Euros). In addition:

A concert with the Presidential Symphony Orchestra (Ankara)

A concert with the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra (Istanbul)

Two concerts with the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality Symphony Orchestra (Eskişehir)

Second Prize: €5,000 (Five thousand Euros). In addition:

A concert with the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality Symphony Orchestra (Eskişehir)

Third Prize: €2,500 (Two thousand five hundred Euros). In addition:

A concert with the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality Symphony Orchestra (Eskişehir)

9.2. All cash prizes shall be paid to the winners in Turkish Lira, calculated based on the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey's Euro exchange rate on the date of the award ceremony.

ARTICLE 10: EXPENSES COVERED BY SPONSORS

10.1. The following expenses shall be covered by the sponsor(s):

Accommodation expenses of the Jury members, excluding travel costs

Competition prizes

Costs related to ceremonies organized within the scope of the competition

ARTICLE 11: PROTECTION AND PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

11.1. Data Controller:

Personal data collected within the scope of this Terms and Conditions shall be processed by the Eskişehir Metropolitan Municipality as the "Data Controller" in accordance with the Law on the Protection of Personal Data No. 6698 (KVKK).

11.2. Personal Data to be Processed:

During the competition application process, the following personal data shall be collected from candidates: identification information (first and last name, ID/passport number), contact information (email address, phone number), professional experience and educational background (CV), and audiovisual records (video performance recordings).

11.3. Purposes of Processing Personal Data:

Personal data collected shall be processed solely for the following purposes:

- a) Evaluation of the application and conducting the preliminary selection process;
- b) Communication with applicants regarding the competition process;
- c) Announcement of the candidates eligible to participate and the competition results to the public;
- d) Organization of logistical arrangements for invited candidates, such as travel and accommodation;

- e) Planning of concert arrangements with the relevant symphony orchestras for prize-winning candidates;
- f) Fulfillment of the institution's legal obligations and administrative activities.

11.4. Personal Data Transfer:

Personal data may be transferred pursuant to the above-mentioned purposes to the Competition Jury for evaluation purposes, to the relevant Department for administrative procedures, to the public for the announcement of results (limited to name-surname and awarded rank information), to the relevant symphony orchestras for concert organization purposes, and to legally authorized public institutions and organizations.

11.5. Data Subject Rights and Explicit Consent Acknowledgment:

Each candidate applying for the competition holds the rights set forth in Article 11 of the Law on the Protection of Personal Data (KVKK), including but not limited to the right to be informed whether their data is being processed, to request information, to demand rectification, and to request erasure.

By applying to the competition, each applicant is deemed to have read and understood this specification, and notably this article, and explicitly, freely, and voluntarily consents to the processing, recording, and transfer of their personal data for the purposes and within the scope set forth herein.

