COMPETITION 2025

The ANTWERPEN GITAARFESTIVAL organises the 14th AGF **MASTERS Competition** on FRIDAY 7, SATURDAY 8 and SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2025 for guitarists up to and including **30** years of age.

RULES & REGULATIONS

I. ENROLMENT

I.1 There is one age category:

The **Antwerpen Gitaarfestival MASTERS Competition** is for all guitarists up to & including **30** years of age. The age limit is determined on the competition's starting day.

I.2 Enrolment of candidates ONLY ONLINE via the competition enrolment form on our website **www.antwerpengitaarfestival.be** before 25/10/2025**.**

Please include the following documents with your mail in attachment:

a) One photocopy of your ID or passport
b) The enrolment form, completely filled out (on our website)

I.3 Application fee

- There are TWO POSSIBILITIES:
  (a) With Early-Bird Reduction (25%) – who enrolls & pays before 1 August, pays only **120** euro
  (b) Without Early-Bird Reduction – who enrolls & pays on 1 August or later, pays **160** euro

This application fee includes one Full Festival Pass for all concerts & events, PLUS one Masterclass during the festival, where we take into account your preference for the teacher according to availability.

The application fee must be wired to the IBAN account number **BE64 9730 9956 2652** (BIC ARSPBE22) of the **VZW RODE PRODUCTIONS**. Mention full name of candidate and "Masters Competition" Enrolment only under your own proper name as mentioned on your official ID document. The enrolment fee is a non-refundable administrative expenditure and will not be refunded in case of forfeiture or annulment by the candidate **unless the competition is cancelled by force majeure due to Covid-19 safety restrictions.**

I.4 Enrolment starts per 1 May 2025 and closes per 25 October 2025 (24:00 CET).

I.5 Enrolments are valid only after enrolment e-mail with the completed enrolment form and all the required documents (see section I.2) together with the candidate's competition program and the full enrolment fee have reached the organisation.

I.6 First Prize winners of previous editions of our competition may not apply to compete in the same age category again. One can only obtain a First Prize once per age category.

II. STAGES

The MASTERS Competition will be in **TWO** stages. The order of first stage performances is determined by draw. The use of electronic devices on stage such as smart phones, tablets and tuning devices on stage is strictly forbidden. All works must be performed from memory. Please respect the time limits carefully. Whomever disrespects the set time limits will be sanctioned according to the internal procedure. All rounds of the competitions are open to the public and the admission is free. Candidates need to present themselves in suitable concert attire.

II.1 – Locations and Dates :

The Antwerpen Gitaarfestival MASTERS Competition
FIRST ROUND (Selection) : Friday 07/11 – DE KLAP, Frans Messingstraat 36, 2100 Deurne (Antwerp)
SECOND ROUND (Finals) : Sunday 09/11 – DE KLAP

All candidates will be informed by e-mail of their exact time & place of performance.

II.2 – Program

II.2.2 The Antwerpen Gitaarfestival MASTERS Competition

FIRST ROUND – FRIDAY 15/11

- Free choice (Minimum 10 – maximum **15** minutes on stage)

SECOND ROUND – SUNDAY 17/11

- Imposed piece **one or more** pieces by Armand COECK
- PLUS one or more free choice pieces (different styles preferred)

Finalists may not perform shorter than 24 nor longer than 30 minutes on stage, tuning included.

Proclamation of the 4 finalists on Saturday 08/11 during the EXPO Guitar & Luthier Speed Dating Event (starting at 13:00pm), Concert hall.

II.2.3 All programs must be delivered complete and on time mentioning title, movements, duration, composer to **wedstrijd@antwerpengitaarfestival.be** at the latest **before 25/10/2025**. Programs may not be altered after this date.

Attention! No free choice piece from a previous round may be repeated.

No copies of any pieces from your programs need to be sent in, unless specifically requested by the organisation beforehand.

II.3 - PROCLAMATION

MASTERS: on Sunday 09/11/2025 DE KLAP Deurne, during the closing concert (starting at 17:00pm)

All Prize Winners must retrieve their Prizes in person on the main stage, where they are required to remain (for press photos etc) until dismissed by the President of the Jury. Failure to comply results in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all Prizes. Prize-winners are required to make themselves available if called upon by the organization to perform at the next edition of the ANTWERPEN GITAARFESTIVAL.

III. THE JURY

III.1 The Jury will be selected by common accord by representatives of the organization in the competition committee, and will consist of a President, a Secretary and a quorum of minimal 2 and maximum 7 registered jury members, all of whom respected members of the musical community.

III.2 The President has a mandate as moderator and casts the decisive vote in case of **ex aequo.**

III.3 The Secretary is responsible for collecting the jury score sheets and counting the points.

III.4 Both President and Secretary have the authority to stop the performance of a candidate who does not respect the time limit. Serious breach of the overtime article III.4 may result in disqualification.

III.5 The Jury will consider musical interpretation, technical perfection, tone, expression, creativity, stage presence, difficulty level and originality of each candidate's performed program and whether all works have been performed adequately from memory.

III.6 No jury member is allowed to grade any candidate whomsoever is a former or current student.

III.7 Attempts of influencing jury members is strictly forbidden. Contact between jury members and candidates during the competition is not allowed. Any action that may be interpreted as an attempt to influence a jury member, will irrevocably result in to the disqualification of the involved candidate.

III.8 The Jury reserves the right not to award one or more of the prizes if certain requirements as stipulated in these rules or if the competition quality standards were not met. The Jury decides autonomously. Their judgement is infallible and without appeal.

IV. PRIZES

IV.1 There are 4 Prizes in total. Each category has a separate Prize awarded to the best respective performances in each category of the imposed pieces.

IV.2 From the first round of the competition a maximum of 4 Finalists in total will be selected.

IV.3 Apart from sponsor prizes the following cash prizes are set (in Euro):

1st Prize : € 3.000,00 euros

2nd Prize : € 2.000,00 euros

3rd Prize : € 1.000,00 euros

Armand Coeck Special Prize for best performance of the imposed piece: € 200,00 euros

V. FINAL DISPOSITIONS

V.1 The competition organisation will invite professionals from the concert world to the concert finals (agents, representatives of record companies, music critics etc…) as well as the media who may –at the discretion of the organisation – record and/or broadcast these concert finals in parts or in its entirety.

V.2 The competition organisation holds all audio/visual copyrights on all interpretations and performances executed during the course of the competition and of all possible recordings and public broadcasts from all participants.

V.3 The competition organisation cannot be held liable or accountable for any accidents, damages and/or theft suffered by any candidate during this competition.

V.4 Any inaccuracy or falsehood of information procured by a candidate will immediately result in his/her definitive exclusion from the competition.

V.5 The filled-out enrolment form implies unconditional acceptance of these Rules.

V.6 Any disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Antwerp courts.

V.7 In case of disputes only the Dutch version of the Rules is legally binding.