

CONTEST RULES OF THE RENÉ ARONS AWARD

1. Description of Contest

The René Arons Award is established by the Practical Harmony and Improvisation lecturers of the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp (member of the AP University College) in honour of their late colleague René Arons (1950-2011).

The Award aims to stimulate improvisation – in the broadest sense of the word – among young musicians.

2. Organisers

This initiative is supported by the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp and organised by the Practical Harmony and Improvisation lecturers. The ultimate responsibility for this contest lies with Yves Senden.

3. Date and Location

The René Arons Award Contest - Edition 2019 will take place on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd February at the White Hall (Witte Zaal) at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp.

4. Eligibility

The contest is open to any musician (amateur, student or professional) who has not reached the age of 30 by 1 February 2019. Musicians of all nationalities worldwide are welcome.

Participants may enter as soloist or in an ensemble.

The choice of instrument is free, on condition that the instrument(s) is/are acoustic.

The following exceptions are allowed:

- The additional use of supporting live electronics
- Amplification of rather quiet acoustic instruments (e.g. guitars) in an ensemble. Candidates have to provide their own equipment.
- Instruments that cannot produce sound without the help of electronic apparatus, e.g. ondes Martenot.

5. Preselection

Interested candidates have to forward following information to the organisers (in case of duos or ensembles: one for every participating musician):

- name
- date of birth
- email address
- telephone number (please include your country calling code for non-Belgian telephone numbers)
- curriculum vitae
- a unedited video of a group improvisation (maximum duration: 10 minutes; file size must not exceed 2GB)

The personal details and cv must be forwarded to yves.senden@ap.be. Videos must be submitted via wetransfer.com. Deadline for submission is 15 October 2018.

The jury will make a selection from among all entries.

Candidates will be informed about the jury's decision before 1 November 2018.

Selected candidates will be invited to make a final registration for the contest.

6. Final registration

Every candidate selected in the preselection will be asked to make a final registration before 15 November 2018.

Entry fees are:

- 25.00 euros for solists;
- 50.00 euros for duets;
- 75.00 euros for trios or bigger ensembles.

The entry fee must be transferred to account number BE53 9733 4998 7653. The candidate's name as well as the phrase 'Arons 2019' should be mentioned in the comment field.

The fee payment deadline is 15 November 2018.

7. Competition Procedure

Selection rounds take place on Friday 1 February (afternoon and evening) and on Saturday 2 February (morning and afternoon) 2019.

Each participant (solo or ensemble) has to play two improvisations.

7.1. Round 1: Improvisation Based on an Approach Chosen by the Competitor

Competitors are entirely free to adopt any style or approach of their choice: free, atonal, modal, tonal (in the strict or the broad sense: from baroque to bebop, from Romantic to reggae) etc.

Maximum duration: 7 minutes

The jury reserves the right to stop the performance if the competitor exceeds the allotted time.

7.2. Round 2: Improvisation based on an Imposed Theme

Competitors are allowed to prepare their improvisation during a limited period of time (15 minutes for a solist, 30 minutes for an ensemble). Preparation takes place in a separate room.

Maximum duration: 7 minutes

The jury reserves the right to stop the performance if the competitor exceeds the allotted time.

8. Final Round – Final Concert – Award Ceremony

The finalists perform the final concert on Saturday 2 February 2019 at 7pm (local time).

Programme:

- Announcement of the finalists
- Final improvisation by the finalists
- Tribute to René Arons, with participation of Eliane Rodrigues
- Award of the prizes and prize money
- Award of the 'René Arons Trophy'

9. Jury

The members of the jury are:

Yves Senden (Chair – Koninklijk Conservatorium Antwerpen)

Christoph Baumann (Hochschule Luzern)

Paul Dinneweth (Koninklijk Conservatorium Antwerpen)

Frank Liebscher (Musikhochschule Leipzig)

Bert Mooiman (Koninklijk Conservatorium Den Haag)

Anne-Liis Poll (Eesti Muusika-ja Teatriakadeemia).

10. Awards

10.1. The 'René Arons Trophy'

This symbolic prize is awarded to the competitor (solo or ensemble) who delivered the most authentic, creative and all-round overall performance throughout the competition.

The award consists of a small sculpture in the shape of an arum lily and is given by Mrs Karin Arons, widow of René Arons.

This prize is a challenge cup: at every edition of the René Arons Award Contest, it passes from the latest winner to the next.

10.2. Awards

Apart from the René Arons Trophy, prizes (between 300 and 500 euro) can be awarded in the following categories:

- award for the best strictly tonal improvisation;
- award for the best free improvisation;
- award for the best improvisation on the imposed theme;
- award for the best solo improvisation;
- audience choice award;
- wildcard award.

The jury reserves the right to withhold any award in case the required standard is not met.

10.3. Dispute

The decision of the jury is final and binding.