

WALTER FURRER PRIZE 2025 for pianists studying in Europe

The Förderverein Komponist Walter Furrer is awarding a prize for the best interpretation of Walter Furrer's *Piano Variations (1926)*.

Written in Paris after his years of study with **Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979)**, this composition by the German-born Swiss composer **Walter Furrer (1902–1978)** reflects cultivated European musical traditions and, in our opinion, represents a milestone for future generations of musicians to discover.

The world premiere took place in January 2025, performed by **Ilya Shmukler**, winner of the Concours Géza Anda 2024. And now it is your turn: **apply for the Walter Furrer Prize 2025!**

WHO CAN APPLY?

Pianists of all nationalities enrolled as students at music universities across Europe.

WHAT WE OFFER

- A total prize fund of **CHF 5,000**.
- Three solo piano concerts in Switzerland from **16 to 18 January 2026**, with accommodation and travel expenses covered.

JURY

- Cristina Marton-Argerich
- Andreas Frölich
- Igor Andreev

EVENTS

The auditions will take place in two rounds:

1. Video preselection
 - Application deadline: **1 August 2025**.
 - Results announced by 1 September 2025 (all participants will be informed via email).
2. Live audition at the Hochschule der Künste Bern in Switzerland
 - Date: **1 November 2025**.
 - A maximum of 20 participants will be invited.
 - Maximum program length: **15 minutes**. Performances exceeding this limit will be interrupted by the jury.

Results announced on 7 November 2025. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs for the audition in Bern.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

There is no obligation to record Walter Furrer's *Piano Variations* for the video preselection; this is up to the participant's discretion. However, *Piano Variations* **must be performed during the live audition** in Bern on 1 November 2025. The rest of the repertoire is the applicant's free choice, with creativity and artistic value in the selection highly appreciated.

The prize money will be distributed as follows:

- CHF 2,500 immediately after the winner is announced.
- CHF 2,500 after performing the three concerts in Switzerland from 16 to 18 January 2026.

During these concerts, Walter Furrer's *Piano Variations* must be performed. The rest of the program is the winner's free choice. The concerts will take place at:

- Piano Lounge, Aarau
- Elfenau Park Kultur, Bern

Participants **must be available** for all events related to the Walter Furrer Prize 2025. The jury's decisions are final and cannot be appealed. Feedback may be provided upon request after the results are announced.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted via the website: <https://www.walter-furrer.ch/register>

The following documents must be submitted:

1. **Two video recordings** of contrasting styles (maximum total duration: 20 minutes), one of which must be a **20th-century composition**:
 - Minimum duration of each piece: **6 minutes**.
 - Recordings must have been made within **one year** prior to submission.
 - Movements from larger works are accepted.
2. **Curriculum Vitae**
3. One **high-resolution artist photo**
4. The **composer and title of the second piece** to be performed alongside Walter Furrer's *Piano Variations* at the live audition in Bern.
5. **Concert program** for performances in Switzerland (16–18 January 2026).
6. **Proof of payment** of the application fee.

The application fee of **CHF 50** must be transferred to the following account **before the registration deadline**:

Valiant Bank AG
CH93 0630 0507 7634 0467 5

If you have any questions, please contact us at post@walter-furrer.ch.
We look forward to receiving your application!