

WALTER FURRER PRIZE 2026

for singers

The Förderverein Komponist Walter Furrer is organising a competition for singers dedicated to the vocal works of Walter Furrer (1902-1978).

Following the inaugural piano edition in 2025, the Walter Furrer Prize 2026 turns to the rediscovery of his vocal works. As a German-born Swiss composer who studied in Paris with Nadia Boulanger, Furrer combined cultivated European traditions with his own artistic voice. His songs, rarely performed until now, open a new chapter in Swiss vocal repertoire and call on young singers to bring them to life.

The live rounds will take place in September 2026 in Wohlen (AG), Switzerland, with an international jury of renowned artists and educators. And now it is your turn: **apply for the Walter Furrer Prize 2026** and become part of this new tradition!

WHO CAN APPLY?

Singers of all nationalities worldwide who are **not older than 35** on the date of the competition (key date: 26 September 2026).

WHAT WE OFFER

- A total prize fund of **CHF 20'000**.
- Concert promotion in Switzerland, including winner performances organized by Konzertfonds Wohlen and other partners.

JURY

- **Claude Eichenberger**, mezzo-soprano, opera and concert singer, Professor at the Bern University of the Arts (chair);
- **Christian Hilz**, baritone, Professor and Co-Head of Schola Cantorum Basiliensis;
- **Ina Karr**, Intendant of Lucerne Theatre; Member of the International Theatre Institute and the German Academy of the Performing Arts;
- **Philippe Bach**, Chief Conductor of Kammerphilharmonie Graubünden and Co-Director of Berner Kammerorchester;
- **Igor Andreev**, pianist, organizer, and Co-President of the Walter Furrer Association.

EVENTS

The competition will take place in three rounds:

1. Video preselection
 - **Application deadline:** 10 July 2026.
 - **Results** announced by 10 August 2026 (all participants will be informed via email).

2. **Opening day:** 23 September 2026, Kanti Wohlen (AG), Switzerland
 - **Registration:** 23 September 2026, 2:00-6:00 pm.
 - **Drawing of lots:** 23 September 2026, 6:30 pm.
 - **Inaugural concert:** 23 September 2026, 7:00 pm.
3. Live rounds
 - **Semi-Final:** 24-25 September 2026.
 - **Final:** 26 September 2026.
 - **Closing ceremony:** 26 September 2026, 7:30 pm.

PRIZES

- **1st Prize:** CHF 4,000 prize money and CHF 4,000 towards concert promotion by the organizers
- **2nd Prize:** CHF 2,000 prize money and CHF 2,000 towards concert promotion by the organizers
- **3rd Prize:** CHF 1,000 prize money and CHF 1,000 towards concert promotion by the organizers
- **Best Pianist Prize:** CHF 2,000

Additional prizes may be awarded by external partners.

REPERTOIRE LIST

Preselection round

Two songs of contrasting styles, one of which must be a 20th-century composition.

Semi-Final

Max. 20 minutes, 5 pieces total

- A song by Nadia Boulanger
- A song on poems by Gottfried Keller (e.g. Johannes Brahms, Hugo Wolf, Hans Sommer, Walter Furrer etc.)
- A song by a 20th-century Swiss composer, EXCEPT Walter Furrer (e.g. Othmar Schoeck, Frank Martin, etc.)
- A song by Walter Furrer
- Free choice

Final round

Max. 20 minutes, 5 pieces total

- A song by Ludwig van Beethoven, Robert Schumann, or Johannes Brahms
- 2 songs by Walter Furrer
- Free choice

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

There is no obligation to record Walter Furrer's vocal works for the video preselection; this is up to the participant's discretion. The rest of the repertoire is at the applicant's free choice from the repertoire list. Creativity and artistic value in the selection are highly appreciated.

A maximum of **20 applicants** will be admitted to the live round. A maximum of **6 participants** will be admitted to the final round. Repertoire repetitions across different rounds (with the exception of the video round) are not permitted. Performances exceeding time limits will be interrupted by the jury.

Participants **must be available** for all events related to the Walter Furrer Prize 2026. The jury's decisions are final and cannot be appealed. Feedback may be provided on request after the announcement of results. Jury members must declare their students and will withdraw from voting in such cases.

Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. Piano accompaniment will be provided; however, we encourage participants to perform with their own pianist. The Best Pianist Prize will be awarded to one of the external pianists.

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, one of which must be a **20th-century composition**. Recordings must have been made within **one year** prior to submission.
2. **Curriculum Vitae**
3. **One high-resolution artist photo**
4. List of the **repertoire** to be performed in the live rounds in Wohlen (AG)
5. **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!