

Music Scholarship Competition 2024

Barbara and Roberto Conza Foundation

The Barbara and Roberto Conza Foundation is launching a new scholarship program in 2024 in addition to the existing scholarships in the field of music. It is thus opening a new door for music students. Here you will find answers to the most important questions: competition rules, selection criteria, procedure. Please read these guidelines carefully before applying. If you still have unanswered questions, please contact our office first by e-mail (info@conzastiftung.ch). Please include your telephone number so that we can answer your questions on the phone if necessary.

The concept of the new scholarship program is provisionally valid for 2024. The Foundation Board will decide on the continuation of the program at the end of the year. We reserve the right to make adjustments.

Time Schedule Summary

March 30, 2024	Registration deadline
April 15, 2024	Invitation to audition
June 14 or 15, 2024	Auditioning
End of June 2024	Handover of the scholarships in a festive setting

1. What are the advantages of the new scholarship program?

Both you and the foundation as the donor benefit from the new competition-based concept for the allocation of music scholarships.

The benefits for you:

- - You are given a broader stage for a differentiated self-presentation of your qualities and your personality as a musician to the committee that decides on the scholarships. It will be easier to convince us that we should support you.
- The scholarships in this program are significantly higher than the scholarships we usually award.
- The process is a chance to work on your stage performance in a semi-public setting different from others you know.
- Obtaining one of the scholarships is linked to a written record of achievement. Being a stipendiary of the Barbara und Roberto Conza Foundation is useful for your CV.

The advantages for us:

- We engage longer, closer and more intimately with the candidates. This enables us to recognize your musical talents and ideas more clearly. We understand your professional and life situation better than through a written application alone. As a consequence our decisions will be fairer.
- The awarding of study scholarships becomes fairer. Wrong decisions are less likely.
- The concept is a contribution to encouraging and preparing a new generation of musicians who have creative ideas for the stage. Audience-engaging work on a high level that goes beyond traditional forms is essential for securing the funding of classical music production and performance on stage.

2. Who can attend?

Young musicians (16 to 28 years) with a well-founded and proven personal learning and development project. These are primarily students at Swiss music academies living in Switzerland. However, young musicians who are pursuing a defined and verifiable learning project independently of an educational institution can also be considered. Only individuals may apply. However, the personal learning project may be part of a musical project of an ensemble.

3. Amount of the scholarships

The following scholarships will be awarded in Swiss francs: 1 x 10,000.- 2 x 5,000.- and an open number of scholarships in the amount of 2,000.-.

The awarding of scholarships requires that a sufficient number of suitable musicians who fulfill the qualitative requirements are in competition. The Board of the foundation decides exclusively on the awarding of scholarships. There is no accountability.

4. Criteria

Please note that the Barbara and Roberto Conza Foundation curates this scholarship program independently.

With this program, the Foundation is committed to music as a creative art, i.e. an art that goes beyond mere repetition and routine, which is oriented towards basic aesthetic values as well as towards the audience and inspires it. Preferably, music should also attract the attention of

a new audience that understands musical experiences as an important part of a quality life (quality time), but has hardly been reached so far. The music production that the foundation wants to promote with the program should foster the attention, aesthetic differentiation and value awareness of the new target group. Ultimately, music should open doors for more humanity. Classical music must also continue to develop and attract new audiences in order to remain socially recognized and relevant.

Therefore, in this program, we acknowledge the technical (psychomotor) skills of the applicants on the one hand, but give at least equal weight to musical understanding and mindfulness, expression, the ability to touch the jury emotionally representative of a fictitious audience, to affect them cognitively and also to surprise them with creative intelligence. Please consider that this program is aimed at supporting young applicants with different levels of training. The level of training is taken into account by the jury and future potential is assessed.

5. Constitution of the jury

The jury is made up of between three and five experts. This shall include at least one member of the Foundation Board. The jury submits applications to the Foundation Board. The jury is newly formed each year.

6. Registration / Application procedure

You can apply via the Foundation's website (www.conzastiftung.ch) until **March 30, 2024**.

Fill out the electronic application form. In addition to the form, send us a video. The purpose of your video is to give us an impression of your musical abilities in sound and vision. The video should not be longer than 10 minutes. The video will only be used by us as part of the application process and will be treated confidentially.

We will select candidates from the applications and invite them to perform. You will be informed by April 15, 2024 whether you are invited to the audition or not.

7. The audition / your music performance

Together with the confirmation you will receive information about all the details you need to know about your audition.

Here is already some of this information:

Your audition will take place **on Friday, June 14 or Saturday, June 15, 2024** in the city of Biel/Bienne in the theater "La Grenouille" (Theaterzentrum junges Publikum / Centre théâtre jeune public Biel/Bienne, Rennweg 26, 2504 Biel/Bienne). We will reserve exactly 20 minutes for your performance from the moment you enter the audition stage until you leave.

You should therefore play or sing for a maximum of 10 to 12 minutes. Consider the audition as good practice for the musical stage performance.

Will you be accompanied by an accompanying instrument during the audition? A grand piano is available on stage. You can be accompanied on stage by up to two people (so there is a maximum of three people on stage with you).

The audition is not a public event. In addition to the jury, guests (e.g. producers who are interested in new young artists and have been personally invited by the Foundation Board) as well as members of the Foundation Board and employees of the Foundation may be present as audience members.

Your music performance will be recorded on video. The recording will not be published. We will make it available to you on request.

8. Topic of your music performance

You are not bound by any style in the choice and arrangement of the pieces you perform. Choose pieces of music that you feel comfortable playing. To encourage you to be creative in your performance, this year we are offering two themes to one of them we would like you to refer in your performance. We recommend, for example, that you first play a piece that characterizes you perfectly and then additionally play a second piece that inspires you with one of the two themes of the year. The two annual themes 2024: "As new" («So gut wie neu»), "True Stories and Other Dreams" («Wahre Geschichten und andere Träume»).

9. Compensation for expenses

To cover the expenses (e.g. travel expenses) incurred for the audition, you will receive a fixed rate of SFr. 50.- We therefore ask you to indicate a bank or postal account for the transfer of the money when you register.

10. Handover of the scholarships certificates

The official awarding of the scholarships takes place at the end of June with an aperitif and media presence. As a scholarship holder, you will receive a certificate at the event that certifies you as a scholarship holder of the foundation.

11. Contact

Your contact for any questions: Ms Lara Schaub, Office of the Barbara and Roberto Conza Foundation, Coordinator of the scholarship program, info@conzastiftung.ch