

Jury statute

1. Definitions

1. Chair: is in charge of the ways of the jury and formulates the jury's conclusions. The chair is also the first public spokesperson of the jury.
2. Members of the jury: together carry the responsibility of assessing the participants of the competition, by the procedures explained below. The members contribute equally to the conclusions of the jury, except in cases specified below.
3. Artistic director: is a member of the jury on behalf of his or her status as director. The director attends all meetings of the jury. The director has suffrage equally to any other jury member.
4. Secretary of the jury: can be appointed optionally by the chair, and is responsible for recording the proceedings of the jury meetings. On behalf of his or her position, the secretary does not contribute to the conclusions of the jury.
5. Combination of positions:
 - a. The position of secretary may be combined with any of the other positions.
 - b. The position of chair may be combined with a regular position of member of the jury.

2. General conditions: discreteness and neutrality

1. Meetings of the jury are secret. Those attending the meetings shall take care that nothing of the proceedings is revealed to others.
2. Outside the jury meetings, jury members exercise secrecy concerning their opinions as to the competition participants and their performances.
3. As to safeguard secrecy, the chair shall see that all written material generated by the jury shall be collected and destroyed immediately after the competition, preferably by the secretary.
4. A member of the jury shall abstain from voting when he or she has a close relationship to a participant. This includes if the participant is:
 - a student
 - a close friend
 - a relative
 - or any other bias-inducing relation

of his or hers. This also applies to those students that are not officially registered as a student of the jury member, but the relationship with whom must nonetheless be seen as a relationship of teacher-and-pupil. In case of doubt, abstention prevails.

5. Members of the jury shall inform the chair on these relationships in advance of the competition.
6. The chair has no suffrage (unless the position is combined with a regular jury membership, see first article), which is to say that he or she normally does not cast a votes. Only in the exceptional case that voting among the regular members of the jury produces an *ex aequo*, the chair decides.
7. It is likely that the number of voting jury members will be different between participants. In such cases, it will be granted arithmetically that such differences do not bear on the outcomes.

3. Order of the meetings

1. The chair is in charge of the jury meetings. He or she sees that grading, voting and counting of votes and grades takes place in well order.
2. The members of the jury will remain silent, until the chair formally opens the discussion, following the guidelines under 'procedure of the meetings' and 'assessment and criteria'.
3. After the discussion, the chair formulates the jury's conclusions.
4. After each round, the chair announces the results in public. The chair is allowed to delegate this task to others, for example in case a celebrity is invited to award the final prizes.

4. Procedure of the meetings

1. At the start of each meeting, the chair will take care that jury members have sufficient time in silence to complete the forms, insofar as they haven't done so during the performances.
2. As to facilitate the assessment, jury members will be handed out assessment forms that will help them grading the duos. The secretary of the jury will explain the forms and their use at the beginning of the competition. Part of the form is intended for note-taking, and not compulsory to use. Part of the form will be intended for a concluding grade, which is compulsory to fill out.
3. As explained above, all members of the jury will first fill out the forms (at least the compulsory part), and first then start discussing.
4. The numerical evaluation (see below under 'Assessment and criteria') will provide the starting point for the discussion.

5. The chair decides which duos are discussed in-depth and which are not. Obviously high and obviously low scores may be exempted from discussion in case of time pressure.
6. Jury members are not allowed to change the grades in the course of the discussion. However, the discussion may conclude to different duos being forwarded to the next round than what would follow straightforwardly from the numbers (That is, there may be convincing arguments why a lower score should win over a higher score.).
 - The vote of the chair will tip the balance in the following cases:
 - One or more jury members do not accept the conclusion of the majority of the jury. ("Doubtful cases")
 - Two or more duos either gain the same number of points, or gain numbers of points that are too close to call, to be decided by the jury. ("Ex aequo")

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5. Assessment and criteria

1. Members of the jury shall only take account of the performance of duos in the present round. Achievements of earlier rounds may not be taken into account, neither positively nor negatively. (Thus, participants will have the opportunity to develop in the course of the competition, while still the absolute level of the performance is being assessed, not the progress of the duo.)
2. The votes of the jury members are equal in weight.
3. For the assessment, the capacity of the duo is of utmost importance. Only in second instance, the individual capacities can be taken into account, if an imbalance in quality between the pianist and vocalist is clearly visible.
4. The jury is obliged to award the first, second and third prizes, as well as the other prizes.

6. Prizes

1. The jury will award the first, second and third prize.
2. The jury will award the prize of Vrienden van het Lied. The prize is to be awarded to a European duo.
3. The audience will decide upon the audience prize. Each visitor may cast one nomination for the prize. The duo with the largest number of nominations will win the prize. The jury has no influence on the prize awarded by the audience.
4. All duos can be nominated for the audience prize, including the duos that have not survived the first or second rounds.
5. It is possible for one of the first, second or third prize winners to also win one of the other prizes.