

# 2024 EARLY MUSIC YOUNG ENSEMBLE COMPETITION

THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL  
**FESTIVAL**  
*of*  
**EARLY MUSIC**

## OVERVIEW

The London International Festival of Early Music invites applications from ensembles to take part in its 2024 Early Music Young Ensemble Competition. The preliminary round will be judged via audio or video recordings and a maximum of four ensembles will be selected to perform live in the final. The final will be held on Friday 15th November at Blackheath Halls at 2pm, as part of LIFEM 2024.

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2024  
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YOUNG ENSEMBLE COMPETITION

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2024, BLACKHEATH HALLS, LONDON

**Prizes:**  
**1st:** £1,500 and recital at LIFEM 2025  
**2nd:** £1,000  
**3rd:** £500

**ADJUDICATORS**  
Erik Bosgraaf  
Darina Ablogina  
Robert Smith

**APPLY NOW**  
[WWW.LIFEM.ORG/COMPETITION](http://WWW.LIFEM.ORG/COMPETITION)  
**DEADLINE**  
MONDAY 3rd JUNE 2024

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## HOW TO APPLY

Applications should be completed online [HERE](#). Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. After completing the online application form, your ensemble's main contact will receive an invoice for the £30 entry fee which needs to be paid within 7 days.

The application deadline is **Monday 17th June 2024**. All fees must be received by Monday 24th June.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Ensembles must have a minimum of 3 members and a maximum of 8.
- Soloists are not eligible.
- All ensemble members must be over 18 at the time of entry.
- The ensemble must have an average age of 30 or under on 15th November 2024 to be eligible.
- Competitors must predominantly perform repertory from the period ranging from the Middle Ages to the mid-18th century using historically informed playing techniques, instruments and stylistic conventions.
- Ensembles are welcomed from any country.
- Individuals may enter with any number of ensembles.
- Previous winning ensembles may not enter.

## PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

The 15-minute programme that you provide as part of the application should be indicative of the type of programme that you would want to present at the final, but it does not have to be the same programme.

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## AUDIO/VIDEO GUIDELINES

The audio or video submitted must feature only the musicians who will take part in the competition. All individual members of the ensemble must be included. Two contrasting pieces should be chosen that best represent the ensemble's usual programming. The audio/video must be un-edited and recorded in one take, just as in a live performance. It should be uploaded to a video platform (i.e. YouTube or Vimeo), but there should be no mention of the competition if the video is public. As two contrasting pieces are required, exact timing details of the pieces should be specified if taken from a longer video. If you have any questions regarding your audio or video, please contact [ann@lifem.org](mailto:ann@lifem.org).

## SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

A maximum of four ensembles will be chosen to proceed to the live finals on Friday 15th November 2024 at LIFEM. Finalists will be notified that they have been successful by Friday 13th September 2024. The judges will choose the finalists based on the following criteria:

- Musicianship
- Interpretation
- Historical style of performance
- Technical ability
- Repertoire choice

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## THE FINAL

The final will take place at 2pm on Friday 15th November in the Recital Room at Blackheath Halls, London, as part of LIFEM 2024. Finalists will be given a short soundcheck (no more than 20 minutes) on the morning of the final at the venue. There will be a double manual harpsichord (tuned at a=415) and a chamber organ (tuned at a=415/440) available for finalists to use. LIFEM may be able to assist with other keyboard instruments, but their procurement will ultimately be the responsibility of the finalists. The order of the finalists will be decided by LIFEM. The finalists' programme and programme notes will need to be submitted by Tuesday 1st October 2024, along with a photo and short biography of the ensemble.

## OTHER RULES

- The decisions of the panel are final and cannot be appealed.
- LIFEM reserves the right to record any or all of the competition final, and to organise broadcasts and/or distribute recordings of the final without recompense to the competitors.
- The finalists will co-operate with LIFEM and provide requested material in a timely manner, for example ensemble photos, biographies and any other material needed by LIFEM to promote the competition and the final.
- LIFEM reserves the right to:
  - - Cancel or change the competition at any point
  - - Vary or change the prizes
  - - Substitute judges if required
  - - Disqualify any ensemble which breaches the rules