Call for tenders
28th International *Louis-Spohr-Competition* for Harp

Louis Spohr Stiftung

5th to 7th October 2026 – Kassel / Nieste, Germany
- III. International Louis-Spohr-Festival, Harp, 6th to 9th October 2026

Patron: Andreas Siebert, District Administrator, district of Kassel

Jury: Joel von Lerber (Chinese University of Hongkong in Shenzhen, Jury Chair)
Sarah O'Brien (Zurich University of the Arts, Basel Academy of Music), **Anaëlle Tourret** (NDR, Hamburg University of Music and Theatre) **Teresa Zimmermann** (Munich Philharmonic)

Festival: Jury members also give the masterclasses at the 3rd. Louis Spohr Festival for Harp

Prizes, Honours and Awards:

- **Prizes:** **LouisA - Louis Spohr Award 2026** **2.000 €**
  Audience award **500 €**
  Finalists will receive **€ 250** of their entry fee back.
- Participation oft the prizewinners in at least one concert of chamber music in Hesse.

Terms and conditions of participation: The competition is open to all pupils and students born between 1995 and 2008. The participants must be fill at least one of the following criteria; They must be citizens of a country within the European Union, or a country in which Louis Spohr had been active; otherwise they need to have studied at a University within the European Union.

Application: digitally with all documents [CV, repertoire list with sheet music, proof of citizenship, certificate of enrollment, portrait photo as a JPEG file >300 dpi]; **Video link with one of Spohr's solo pieces;**
Deadline: June 30, 2026
Mailto: wettbewerb@louisspohr.de Subject: 28th International Louis Spohr Competition 2026 - Harp
Festival: festival@louisspohr.de Subject: 3rd International Louis Spohr Festival 2026 - Harp

28th Internationaler Louis-Spohr-Wettbewerb 2026 - Harp

Samples available for download on our website → https://www.louisspohr.de/wettbewerb/

- **Registration fee - to be paid in full upon registration**
  Competition: € 350 (full board, October 5-8, 2026), 11.a.m.): € 150 (without accommodation or meals)
  Competition and Festival (full board, October 5-9, 2026, 11:00 AM, + overnight stay October 9-10): € 550
  Festival (full board, October 6-9, 2026, 11:00 AM + overnight stay October 9-10): € 400
  Cancellation fee in case of withdrawal or non-admission: € 80

- With the registration for the competition or festival, the participant accepts the conditions of participation and the further conditions of this competition as well as the decisions of the jury. Any recourse to courts of law is not included.

Preliminary Round : Admission decision by the jury. Written notification of presentation times for round 1.

Round 1 (closed): Monday, October 5, 2026, from 1:00 p.m.
Sensenstein Youth Castle and Sports Education Center, 34329 Nieste near Kassel

Round 2 / Final (open to the public): Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m., State Hall,
Hesse State Welfare Association, Ständeplatz 6-10, 34117 Kassel

Post-Competition Event (open to the public): Saturday, October 10, 2026, 3:30 p.m., Winners' Concert
Augustinum Kassel Ballroom, Im Druseltal 12, 34131 Kassel

For the **competition**, **harps** from the **brands Salvi and Lyon&Healy** are available.

Förderverein Louis-Spohr-Stiftung e. V. • Nordshäuser Straße 6 • D 34132 Kassel • info@louisspohr.de
Bankverbindungen: IBAN: DE16 5205 0353 0001 1829 56.- DE85 5209 0000 0157 9570 07

Louis Spohr Stiftung

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www.louisspohr.de • wettbewerb@louisspohr.de

28th International Louis Spohr Harp Competition

October 5 – 7, 2026

Sensenstein Youth Castle, Nieste near Kassel

Terms and conditions of application / Registration

Competition requirements (please include your name, full address, telephone number, email address and signature)

Round 1

• **Required piece: Louis Spohr (1784–1859):** Fantasy in C minor, Op. 35 (~9 min)

OR

Louis Spohr: Je suis encore dans mon printemps, Op. 36 (~7 min)

• **1 piece of your choice**

For the first round, a program length of 12–14 minutes is expected:

One of the Spohr pieces + one piece of your choice of a corresponding length

Round 2 (Final)

• **Required piece: Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924):** *Une châtelaine en sa tour*

• **1-2 additional works of your choice** from different stylistic periods (with opus/work number)

Original compositions, no arrangements. Duration: 15-20 minutes

Quartier: Youth Castle and Sports Education Center Sensenstein

34329 Nieste near Kassel

Accommodation in simple rooms. Full board. https://www.sensenstein.de/

Departure on October 8th by 11:00 AM

4. Costs

October 5th to 7th (full board + competition fee) → € 350

Processing fee € 80. Due in case of cancellation or non-admission to the main round.

For the competition, harps from the brands Salvi and Lyon&Healy are available.

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3rd International Louis Spohr Harp Festival

6. bis 9. Oktober 2026 –

Sensenstein Youth Castle and Sports Education Center, Nieste near Kassel.

Lecturers: Joel von Lerber (Chinese University of Hong Kong in Shenzhen, Festival Director)**, Sarah O'Brien** (Zurich University of the Arts, Basel Academy of Music), **Anaëlle Tourret (**NDR, Hamburg University of Music and Theatre), **Teresa Zimmermann** (Munich Philharmonic)

Registration

Don't forget your name, full address, phone number, email address, and signature.

1. **First masterclass starts Tuesday, October 6th, at 2:00 PM.**

   Submit a video and a list of prepared pieces.

   Sensenstein Youth Castle and Sports Education Center, Nieste near Kassel.

2. **Final Concert: Friday, October 9, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

   with awards ceremony for course participants and scholarship recipients

   Ständesaal, LWV Hessen, Ständeplatz 6-10, 34117 Kassel

   Awarding of the Louis Spohr Scholarship (€ 1,000)

   Participants with high development potential will receive a partial refund of the participation fee (€250).

3. **Quartier: Sensenstein Youth Castle and Sports Education Center**

   34329 Nieste near Kassel https://www.sensenstein.de/

   Accommodation in simple rooms. Full board until the morning of October 9, 2026.

   Change of accommodation on October 9/10 to a hotel in Kassel.

   Transfer and change of accommodation: Sensenstein - Ständesaal and to the hotel in Kassel by the organizer - Departure October 10th by 11:00 am

4. **Masterclass Costs: € 400.**

   full board, October 5-9, 2026, 11:00 AM, + overnight stay October 9-10

   Costs for Masterclass and Competition: € 550

   full board, October 5-9, 2026, 11:00 AM, + overnight stay October 9-10

   Processing fee € 80. Due in case of cancellation.

   For the **festival & competition**, **harps** from **the brands Salvi and Lyon&Healy** are available.