



[' t a c t u s]

'TACTUS 2010-2011 - REGULATIONS

General

1. The aim of the 'Tactus project is to offer an opportunity to young composers to increase their understanding of what is involved in writing for a symphony orchestra. To this end, a series of working sessions with the Brussels Philharmonic and the conductor Michel Tabachnik will be held in Brussels between 24 and 29 January 2011.

A maximum of six composers, to be selected on the basis of a submission, will be given the privilege of rehearsing a work or part of a work (a movement) of about 10 minutes in length with the orchestra. The working sessions will be followed by discussion in the presence of internationally renowned composers.

Lectures will also be given on various aspects of composing for a symphony orchestra.

At the end of the sessions an international reading panel will select one or more works that may be included in programmes of the Orchestre National de Lille, the Brussels Philharmonic, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the course of the 2011-12 season.

The sessions will end with a closing concert given by the Brussels Philharmonic, conducted by Michel Tabachnik, on 29 September 2011 at the Théâtre Royal in Mons. This concert will include one or more of the works selected.

Entry requirements

2. The workshops are open to all composers who have attained an advanced level of training and who are under the age of 35 at the registration deadline.
3. Applications together with the application form must be submitted at the latest by 15 October 2010, by registered post, to the Secretariat of 'Tactus, 40 Avenue Alexandre Bertrand, B-1190 Brussels (Belgium). 'Tactus reserves the right to extend this deadline to 30 October 2010.
4. The application package must include the following documents:
 - A] the completed application form;
 - B] a complete biography with photo (everything mentioned in the biography must be backed up by documentation) in hard copy as well as in digital form;
 - C] one chamber music work;
 - D] a work or part of a work (a movement) for symphony orchestra of about 10 minutes in length;
 - This piece is the one that will be rehearsed during the workshops with the Brussels Philharmonic, conducted by Michel Tabachnik;

- The score should be presented in A3 format if possible, and printed on a laser printer, preferably using the Sibelius software, which is one of the project's partners.

The orchestral forces may not exceed the following:

Woodwinds in groups of three: 3 flutes (including piccolo) - 3 oboes (including cor anglais) - 3 clarinets (including bass clarinet or soprano clarinet) - 3 bassoons (including contrabassoon) / Brass: 4 horns - 3 trumpets - 3 trombones - 1 tuba / Percussion: 3 players (1 timpanist and 2 percussionists) / Harp: 1 player / Strings: 15-13-11-10-8

- E] in order to help the Tactus selection committee assess the applications, each candidate should include with his/her application any document that may serve to add weight to the application (recordings, prizes, diplomas, list of compositions, copies of programmes, confirmations of commissions, etc.).
5. If an application is rejected on technical grounds, an explanatory note will be attached to the file.

Procedures for the sessions

Selection committees

6. An international selection committee will choose the candidates who will be allowed to work with the orchestra.
7. This committee will select from among the submissions one or more works to receive one or more public performances.
8. The board of directors of the Young Composers' Forum will have the sole right to appoint the members of the various selection committees. These will be chosen from among musical figures of international renown, without regard to racial, ideological, political, or linguistic considerations.
9. The members of the selection committees have no administrative responsibilities. The selection committees are assisted by a secretary appointed by the board of directors of the Young Composers' Forum.

Selection of participants

10. Applications will be recorded and numbered in the order in which they are received. The secretary to the selection committee will draw up a list of the candidates' names and registration numbers.
11. The applications will then be examined by an international selection committee.
12. The selection committee will choose a maximum of six candidates. The decision of the selection committee is not subject to appeal.
13. To this end, each member of the selection committee will receive a ballot paper containing the list of candidates, arranged by registration number. After examining all the applications, and following a brief exchange of views within the selection committee, each member of the selection committee will indicate on the ballot paper whether or not each candidate is worthy of selection. In addition to this yes-or-no answer, he/she will also assign a score between 1 and 5 to help nuance the assessment.
14. The members of the selection committee will then submit their ballot papers, signed, to the secretary to the selection committee.
15. The ballots will be counted by the chairperson of the board of directors of the Young Composers' Forum and/or his or her representative and by the secretary to the selection committee.
16. The candidates will be ranked on the basis of the number of votes received.
17. The six candidates who have received the most votes will be selected to participate in the sessions.

18. The number of candidates selected may be less than six if a significant gap between the numbers of votes received should indicate that fewer candidates are deemed worthy by the majority of the members of the selection committee. The decision in that event is up to the chairperson of the board of directors of the Young Composers' Forum and/or his or her representative, with the consent of the chairperson of the selection committee.
19. The candidates selected will be notified after 15 October 2010.
20. Every candidate who is selected commits him/herself to:
 - provide the Secretariat of 'Tactus with the orchestral parts of his/her work as soon as possible (Sibelius file if possible);
 - be present in Brussels during the period between 24 and 29 September 2010;
 - attend all the working sessions as well as the lectures.

Working sessions with the Brussels Philharmonic and with the Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles **Discussions, debates, lectures, master classes**

21. The working sessions with the orchestra have been foreseen between 24 and 29 January 2010.
22. Several different works will be rehearsed each day.
23. The sessions will take place at Flagey in Brussels and at the Théâtre Royal in Mons (Belgium).
24. The discussions, debates, lectures, and master classes will be held at the same moment.
25. The organisation of the working sessions may be subject to slight modifications. In that event, participants will be informed in sufficient time.
26. All working sessions, discussions, debates, lectures, and master classes are open to the public and will be recorded by Musiq3.

Presentation of the works in concert

27. At the end of the sessions an international reading panel will choose one or more of the candidates' works to be given one or more public performances.
28. For this purpose, each member of the international reading panel will receive a ballot paper listing the participants and the works presented. Each member of the reading panel will indicate on this ballot paper whether or not the work deserves to be given a public performance. In addition to this yes-or-no answer he or she will add a score between 1 and 5 to help nuance the assessment.
29. The members of the international reading panel will then return their ballot papers, signed, to the secretary to the reading panel.
30. The ballot papers will be counted by the chairperson of the board of directors of the Young Composers' Forum and/or his or her representative and the secretary to the reading panel.
31. The candidates will be ranked on the basis of the number of votes received.
32. The work receiving the most votes will be designated as the "winning composition – 'Tactus 2010-11'".
33. If none of the participants' works receives the vote of the majority of the members of the international reading panel, the chairperson of the board of directors of the Young Composers' Forum and/or his or her representative, with the consent of the chairperson of the reading panel, may decide not to award the prize to any of the works.
 The winning work(s) will be included in programmes of the Orchestre National de Lille, the Brussels Philharmonic, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra in the course of the 2011-12 season.
34. At the end of the sessions a closing concert will be given by the Brussels Philharmonic on 29 January 2011 at the Théâtre Royal in Mons. The concert will include one or more of the works selected. It is expected that the concert will be recorded by the Musiq3 radio station. The performance of the winning composition(s) may possibly be postponed slightly.

Counting the votes

35. The ballot papers submitted by the members of the reading panel to its secretary in a sealed envelope will be counted, and the points tallied under the responsibility of the chairperson of the board of directors of the Young Composers' Forum and/or his or her representative, along with the secretary to the reading panel. The members of the reading panel may not enter the room where the votes are being counted.
36. Any correction made on a ballot paper must be initialled by the member of the reading panel concerned and by the secretary of the reading panel.
37. If there is any difficulty in reading a ballot paper such as might give rise to an error, the secretary to the reading panel may invite the member of the reading panel to fill out a new ballot paper.
38. The ballot papers signed by the members of the reading panel remain confidential and will be kept in the archives of 'Tactus.

Miscellaneous

39. Registration fee
The candidates who have been selected will be required to pay a registration fee of EUR 50 before 15 November 2010.
40. Travel
The participants will have to organise their own travel to Belgium (Brussels or Mons). The travel costs are at the participant's expense.
41. If the work rehearsed during 'Tactus is later published or performed in public, the composer undertakes to ensure that the score or the concert programme contains the following text: "Work written under the auspices of 'Tactus – Young Composers' Forum".
42. Each candidate who has been selected will cede the publication rights for the selected score to the Young Composers' Forum non-profit organisation for a period of ten years.
43. The works selected will be recorded for promotional purposes; no payment will be made to the composers for this recording.
44. Each candidate who has been selected will participate in a photo session during the week of the programme in Brussels for the purpose of producing high-quality promotional material.