

dutch
harp
festival.

DHF World Harp Competition 2018
Rules and Regulations



DHF World Harp Competition

Rules for the fifth edition, 2018

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A. Timetable

1 May 2017	Announcement of the competition
15 July 2017	Open for applications
15 September 2017	Deadline for applications
October 2017	Announcement of the contestants Drawing of lots to determine the order of performance
October – December 2017	YouTube wildcard application round
1 January 2018	Scouting Jury announced
January 2018	Regional quarterfinals
31 January 2018	Invitations sent to semifinalists
15 February 2018	Semifinalists announced
12-13 May 2018	<i>Dutch Harp Festival</i> Performances of semifinalists
13 May 2018	Gala showcase of finalists Announcement of prize winners
2018-2019 season	CCC program for first prize winner

B. Terminology

DHF	- the association which produces the Dutch Harp Festival
Festival	- the Dutch Harp Festival 2018
Competition	- the DHF World Harp Competition 2018
Candidates	- harpists who have completed an application and submitted the required application materials by the application deadline
Contestants	- harpists competing in the live rounds of the competition
Preliminary round	- the first elimination round of the competition, based on an audio recording
Preselection Jury	- the jury responsible for judging the preliminary round
Quarterfinals	- the first live round of the competition, held in three locations around the world
Scouting Jury	- the jury responsible for judging the quarterfinals
Semifinals	- the second live round of the competition, held during the DHF
Original Program	- the program created and presented by the contestants during the semifinals
Finals	- the final round of the competition, held during a final gala concert at the DHF
Competition Jury	- the jury responsible for judging the semifinals and finals
Organization	- the competition director and all team members responsible for organizing and managing the competition
Legal Official	- an unbiased third party responsible for upholding the competition rules and resolving disputes

C. Candidates

General conditions

- 1.1 The DHF World Harp Competition 2018, hereinafter referred to as the 'Competition', is open to all harpists regardless of age, nationality, or musical background. The types of harps that may be used in performance include, but are not restricted to, pedal, lever, electro-acoustic, electric, and ethnic harps.
- 1.2 The official language of the Competition is English.
- 1.3 The competition consists of a non-public Preliminary round plus three, live public rounds—the Quarterfinals, Semifinals, and Finals. Applicants entering the live rounds of the Competition, hereinafter referred to as the 'Contestants', agree to participate in one of the live Quarterfinal rounds offered in three separate locations. During their participation, Contestants agree to comply with the instructions of the Competition Director and all team members responsible for the organization and management of the Competition, hereinafter referred to as the 'Organization', and accept the decisions reached by the jury of the Competition, hereinafter referred to as the 'Jury'.
- 1.4 By participating in the Competition, Contestants cede to the *Stichting Dutch Harp Festival* (Dutch Harp Festival Association), hereinafter referred to as the 'DHF', the right to record, reproduce and arrange for the reproduction of their performances during the Competition and the affiliated Dutch Harp Festival 2018, hereinafter referred to as the 'Festival', on any existing or future medium of recording, as well as the right to broadcast and distribute their performances by any existing or future medium of transmission, in the Netherlands and abroad. Additionally, Contestants waive all claims to remuneration arising from the use of the above-named recordings and distributions by the DHF.
- 1.5 Contestants are expected to use the original scores of the published works they perform and must be able to supply these scores to the Competition. The DHF cannot be held liable for any law infringement committed by a Contestant regarding public use of illegal copies.
- 1.6 During the public rounds of the Competition, the DHF will provide a selection of harps for use by the Contestants, hereinafter referred to as 'Competition Harps'. Contestants may choose either to bring their own harp or request to perform on a Competition Harp. Contestants requesting the use of a Competition Harp may indicate a type and manufacturer of preference through their application. The Organization will attempt to fulfill these requests to the best of their ability but cannot guarantee the availability of any specific harp.
- 1.7 Contestants participating in the Quarterfinals are responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodations. Contestants selected to perform in the Semifinals are entitled to a reimbursement of travel expenses, and accommodation will be arranged during their stay in Utrecht.
- 1.8 The DHF cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to personal property of Contestants.
- 1.9 The first prize winner agrees to take part in concerts and recitals during a concert tour arranged by the DHF in the concert season 2018/19. The DHF will cover all travel expenses and lodging for the entire tour. The first prize winner will receive remuneration for the concert tour. The amount of remuneration will be determined by the DHF.

Entry conditions

Applications

- 2.1.1** Applications for the Competition will open on 15 July 2017. The application procedure commences by submitting an online application form. All applicants to the Competition, hereinafter referred to as 'Candidates', will then be requested to send additional documents by e-mail. Applications will only be accepted electronically.
- 2.1.2** The application materials must include the following:
1. An audio recording and an accompanying online form, as set out in C2.2;
 2. A program description for the Semifinals, as set out in the following section;
 3. In the case of students, a written approval of the teacher;
 4. A curriculum vitae;
 5. A copy of the Candidate's ID or passport;
 6. Two different publicity photos, in high-resolution suitable for print (minimum 300 dpi), both in color;
 7. A proof of payment of the registration fee of EUR 100.
- 2.1.3** As part of the application process, Candidates must give a short, written description of the program that they wish to present at the Semifinals, hereinafter referred to as the 'Original Program'. This description must include the following:
1. A title for the program
 2. The name and composer of at least three works to be performed (these can also be original compositions, traditional folk songs, improvisations, etc.)
 3. A 150-word explanation of the program
- 2.1.4** In the case that the Original Program involves other performers or collaborators besides the Candidate, these extra performers will not be considered Candidates. There can be only one Candidate per application. In the special case of a harp ensemble, the ensemble must select one member to submit the application and serve as the Candidate.
- 2.1.5** Candidates must indicate on their application form which location they wish to attend for the Quarterfinals. Candidates may also indicate one or both of the remaining locations as second- and third-choice options.
- 2.1.6** All application materials must be submitted by 23:59 CET, 15 September 2017. Suitability of these materials is at the sole discretion of the Organization.

Recording Requirements

- 2.2.1** Candidates must submit an audio recording of one (1) free-choice piece that they feel best represents them as a musician. There is no limit on the duration of the piece.
- 2.2.2** The recording must be of a live, unedited performance given by the Candidate. No cuts or sound alterations of any kind are permitted.
- 2.2.3** The performance in the submitted recording may not have taken place more than one year before the application deadline.
- 2.2.4** The recording must have good sound quality and be submitted as an MP3 file. The name of the file should be the Candidate's full name, and all further meta data of the file should be left blank. Any submitted video material will be disregarded, and only the audio portion of the file will be considered in the event that a Preliminary round is held.
- 2.2.5** In an online form provided by the Organization, the Candidate must state the place and date of the recording, as well as certify its authenticity and confirm that no copyright restrictions apply.

Examination of applications

- 2.3.1 All applications will be examined by the Organization. Only Candidates whose applications have met the documentation requirements listed under C2.1.2 and the deadline requirement listed under C2.1.6 can be admitted to the Competition.
- 2.3.2 A Preliminary round will be held to evaluate the audio recordings and select the Quarterfinalists of the Competition. For further description of this selection process, refer to Articles D2 and E3.2.
- 2.3.3 During the Preliminary round, only recordings of those Candidates whose applications are complete by the application deadline will be considered.

Acceptance of Candidates

- 2.4.1 Candidates will be informed in October 2017 as to whether or not they are admitted to the Quarterfinals of the Competition.
- 2.4.2 Candidate admitted to the Quarterfinals will be asked to sign a document indicating his or her full acceptance of the rules and regulations of the Competition. A signed version of this document must be returned within two weeks of receipt in order to admit the Candidate as a Contestant to the Competition. Once this document has been received by the Organization, the Contestant will receive a final confirmation of his or her admission to the Competition. The signed agreement by which the Contestant accepts the regulations of the Competition shall constitute a contract between the Contestant and the DHF.
- 2.4.3 The registration fee cannot be reimbursed under any circumstances.
- 2.4.4 Candidates may not be rejected on grounds of ideology, language, political preference, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Registration of Candidates

- 2.5.1 As the applications are examined, data of each Candidate will be entered into a register, which will be kept by the Organization. This register will record:
 - 4. The Candidate's full name
 - 5. The date and place of birth of the Candidate
 - 6. The Candidate's nationality
 - 7. The Candidate's postal address and email address
 - 8. Copies of the documents used to establish the Candidate's identity
 - 9. All other documents enclosed with the application
- 2.5.2 Candidates who are admitted to the Competition will receive an individual registration document bearing the location and date of the Quarterfinal session they will attend, as well as a number obtained in a drawing of lots.
- 2.5.3 All participating Contestants will be entitled to receive one (1) free passe-partout, which grants entry to the events during the Festival, subject to availability. Contestants may collect their passe-partout upon arrival at the Festival.

D. Competition

General provision

- 1.1 Each round of the competition is detailed in the following sections.
- 1.2 In the Quarterfinals, the admitted Contestants will perform in the order established by a drawing of lots, as detailed in Articles D3.1-3.4.

Preliminary round

- 2.1 The purpose of the Preliminary round is to reduce the number of Candidates advancing to the Quarterfinals by restricting admission to Candidates whose audio recordings demonstrate the highest level of music excellence.
- 2.2 The Preliminary round will be adjudicated by the Preselection Jury. It will not be open to the public.
- 2.3 The Organization will prepare the audio recordings of the relevant Candidates in such a way that no identifying information is associated with them. The recordings will then be presented anonymously to the Preselection Jury in a randomized order.
- 2.4 The recordings will not be used for any other means than evaluating the Candidates during the Preliminary round. After the conclusion of the Preliminary round, the recordings will be saved in the Competition archives.

Drawing of Lots

- 3.1 The purpose of the drawing of lots is to establish the order in which the Contestants will perform during the Quarterfinals.
- 3.2 Contestants admitted to the Quarterfinals will receive an email invitation and must subsequently complete an online acceptance form to confirm their participation. The names of all Contestants who have successfully completed this form by the indicated deadline will be entered into the drawing of lots. Contestants who indicate that they do not intend to participate in the Quarterfinals or who do not complete the form will be considered to have resigned from the Competition.
- 3.3 The drawing of lots will be executed by the Competition Director in the presence of the Legal Official.
- 3.4 The order of performance as determined by the draw may not be changed, except in cases of force majeure, for which the Contestant will have to provide justification. The Organization will consider the causes given and make a binding decision.

Quarterfinals

- 4.1 The purpose of the Quarterfinals is to select the eight most outstanding harpists from around the world to present their original program as part of the DHF.
- 4.2 The Quarterfinals will take place in three separate regions—America, Europe, and Asia—on three different dates, so as to provide better access to the Competition for all Candidates, regardless of their country of residence. The exact dates and locations will be announced before applications are opened.
- 4.3 All three Quarterfinal sessions will be open to the public.
- 4.4 The jury adjudicating the Quarterfinals, hereinafter referred to as the ‘Scouting Jury’, will consist of the same jury members in each location.
- 4.5 Each Contestant will be allotted 15 minutes to give a presentation pitching their Original

Program to the jury, as set out in D4.7.1-5.

- 4.6** The total number of Contestants admitted to the Semifinal round, chosen from all three locations, is eight.

Original Program Pitch

- 4.7.1** The purpose of the Original Program Pitch is to give the Scouting Jury a clear idea of what may be expected from the Contestant if they are admitted to the Semifinals, and to select the most compelling all-around artists for inclusion in the Festival program. Contestants are therefore encouraged to design a program which best characterizes them as a musician and depicts their artistic vision.
- 4.7.2** The Original Program must feature the Contestant playing the harp. Otherwise, the entire design of the program—repertoire, style, theme, staging, instrumentation, etc.—is free for the Contestant to create.
- 4.7.3** The Pitch must be presented in English and must include at least 10 minutes of performance on a harp.
- 4.7.4** Contestants are permitted to distribute supporting material as part of their Pitch, if they choose, but are limited to one (1) item per Contestant. Examples of supporting material are program notes or flyers. This is optional.
- 4.7.5** Contestants understand that, if their Original Program is selected for the Semifinals, they will be asked to develop it further, in collaboration with the DHF Artistic Director and an official competition producer.

YouTube Wildcard Option

- 5.1** The purpose of the YouTube Wildcard Option is to offer the opportunity of participating in the Competition to harpists who are unable to attend the Quarterfinals. A maximum of one slot in the Semifinals may be filled in this way, and the winner must rank within the top eight of the Quarterfinalists.
- 5.2** To participate in the YouTube Wildcard Option, harpists must fill out a special application form for this purpose online and submit all application materials as outlined in Article C2.1.2 with the exception of the audio recording and the application fee. In place of the audio recording, applicants are invited to post a video of their Original Program Pitch (as outlined in Article D4.7) on YouTube. The maximum length of the video is 15 minutes.
- 5.3** The application period for this Option will occur after the regular application period for the Competition has ended and before the Quarterfinals take place.
- 5.4** All harpists are welcome to participate in the YouTube Wildcard Option, including those who also applied to the live Quarterfinals of the Competition.
- 5.5** The submitted videos will be reviewed by the Scouting Jury following the conclusion of the Quarterfinals. A winner will be selected following the procedure outlined in E3.3.9.
- 5.6** In the event that there are too many video submissions for the Scouting Jury to evaluate in the allotted time, a video preselection round will be held, following the same procedure as for the Preliminary round, outlined in articles D2 and E3.2.

Semifinals

- 6.1** The purpose of the Semifinals is to showcase the creativity and talent of harpists from around the world at the Dutch Harp Festival.
- 6.2** The Semifinals will take place in Utrecht, the Netherlands, on May 12th and 13th, 2018 as part of the Festival programming.
- 6.3** The performances will be open to all Festival attendees.

Performance Agreement

- 6.4.1** Each Contestant invited to the Semifinals will be asked to sign a performance agreement within two weeks of receiving their invitation. This agreement constitutes a binding contract between the DHF and the Contestant. If a Contestant chooses not to sign the performance agreement or fails to do so within two weeks, then their participation in the Semifinals will be considered forfeited, and the Contestant with the next-highest number of votes from the Quarterfinals will be invited.
- 6.4.2** Contestants participating in the Semifinals agree to
 1. Finalize their travel arrangements to Utrecht no later than two months before the Festival. Before booking any tickets, the proposed travel budget must first be approved by the Financial Director of the DHF.
 2. Submit suitable promotional material for their original program, as requested by the Organization. It is understood that the Contestant is responsible for any expenses incurred in the production of the promotional material.
 3. Collaborate with the DHF Artistic Director to adapt their original program as needed.
 4. Arrive in Utrecht at least one week before the DHF for rehearsals with the Artistic Director and official competition producers and lighting technicians.
 5. Present the final version of their original program during the DHF.
 6. Participate in the Finals, in the event that they are selected.
- 6.4.3** The DHF agrees to
 1. Reimburse approved travel costs of Contestants participating in the Semifinals, upon their arrival in Utrecht.
 2. Provide accommodation for Contestants during their stay in Utrecht.
 3. Hold remote consulting sessions with Contestants to refine their original program in the months leading up to the Festival.
 4. Organize in-person, guided rehearsals of Contestants' original program in the week before the Festival.
 5. Feature the Contestants' original program in the Festival.
 6. Provide a fixed honorarium for the performance at the Festival.
- 6.5** The jury adjudicating the Semifinals, hereinafter referred to as the 'Competition Jury', will attend all performances given by the Contestants, in their entirety.
- 6.6** The order of performance in the Semifinals will be left to the discretion of the Artistic Director.
- 6.7** Three Contestants will be admitted to the Finals.

Finals

- 7.1** The purpose of the Finals is to showcase the three most outstanding Contestants and for the Competition Jury to assign 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes.
- 7.2** The Finals will take place in the form of a Gala concert, as part of the Festival. During this concert, the three Finalists will each be given a turn to present the highlights of their Original Program.
- 7.3** The Contestants admitted to the Finals will attend rehearsals at the times communicated to them. Each Contestant will be entitled to the same amount of rehearsal time.

E. Jury & Voting

Jury

- 1.1** The Organization will assemble separate juries for each phase of the Competition. The Preselection Jury will adjudicate the Preliminary round of the Competition. The Scouting Jury will adjudicate the three regional Quarterfinals and evaluate any applications submitted under the YouTube Wildcard Option. The Competition Jury will adjudicate the Semifinals and the Finals. All three juries will consist of different members. The terms 'Jury' and 'Juries' will hereinafter be used to refer to the Preselection Jury, the Scouting Jury, and the Competition Jury.
- 1.2** All Juries consist of an odd number of members. For the live rounds of the Competition, both harpists and non-harpists will be installed as Jury members. The majority of the Competition Jury will consist of non-harpists.
- 1.3** Jury members are chosen by the Organization for their international eminence in the world of music, without any regard to ideology, language, political preference, race, gender, or sexual orientation.
- 1.4** The Juries' sole mission is to rank the Contestants according to the procedure established by these rules. All secretarial activities of the Juries will be executed by an external functionary appointed by the Organization, hereinafter referred to as the 'Secretary of the Jury'. The Secretary of the Jury does not take part in the voting procedure. In the Preliminary round and the Quarterfinals, the Organization will select one individual to perform the functions of both the Legal Official and the Secretary of the Jury. In the Semifinals and Finals, there will be a dedicated Secretary of the Jury appointed in addition to the Legal Official.
- 1.5** For the live rounds of the Competition, one of the members of the Jury will be appointed Chairperson, hereafter referred to as the 'Chairperson of the Jury', by the Organization. In the case of the Scouting Jury, the DHF Artistic Director will serve as Chairperson. No further discrimination is made between members of the Juries.
- 1.6** Immediate family members and other relatives of a Contestant, up to the fourth degree of kinship, may not serve on the Juries.
- 1.7** Members of the Juries may not have pupils who are Contestants in the Competition. In this context, 'pupil' is defined as a Contestant who has during the past year taken more than five lessons with the Jury member in question. In case of doubt, those concerned will refer the matter to the Organization, whose decision shall be final.
- 1.8** Contestants are not entitled to object to members of the Juries, but do have the right to lodge a complaint with the Legal Official, if they believe that Articles E1.6 and E1.7 have not been observed.

- 1.9 A list of the names of all Candidates will be given to each member of the Preselection Jury. Each member of the Preselection Jury will append his or her signature to the rules and to the list of Candidates to indicate his or her compliance with Articles E1.6 and E1.7.
- 1.10 A list of the names of all Quarterfinalists will be given to each member of the Scouting Jury. Each member of the Scouting Jury will append his or her signature to the rules and to the list of Contestants to indicate his or her compliance with Articles E1.6 and E1.7.
- 1.11 A list of the names of all Semifinalists will be given to each member of the Competition Jury. Each member of the Competition Jury will append his or her signature to the rules and to the list of Contestants to indicate his or her compliance with Articles E1.6 and E1.7.
- 1.12 A list of the names of all members of the Scouting Jury will be given to each Contestant at the commencement of the Quarterfinals. Each Contestant will append his or her signature to the rules and to the list of Jury members to indicate his or her compliance with Articles E1.6 and E1.7.
- 1.13 A list of the names of all members of the Competition Jury will be given to each Contestant at the commencement of the Semifinals. Each Contestant will append his or her signature to the rules and to the list of Jury members to indicate his or her compliance with Articles E1.6 and E1.7.
- 1.14 If compliance with Articles E1.6 and E1.7 is established to be untrue, the signatory in question will be excluded from the Jury or from the Competition.
- 1.15 Throughout the entire Competition, the Juries shall refrain from having any direct or indirect contact with any Contestant or his/her next of kin regarding the Competition.
- 1.16 Throughout the entire Competition, the Juries shall also refrain from making any statements about the Contestants or the activities of the Jury.
- 1.17 The Juries will vote by secret ballot.
- 1.18 The Juries shall refrain from any form of consultation.
- 1.19 If a Jury member is unable to attend one or more judging sessions, the Organization will be authorized to cancel the votes awarded by that member of the Jury for the whole of the round in question. If it turns out that one of the Contestants whom the absent Jury member has been unable to judge is ranked equal with another or others for the round in question, the Jury member in question may not take part in the tie-breaking vote.
- 1.20 In the case that a Preliminary Round is held, the complete lists of members of the Preselection Jury shall remain confidential until after the Preliminary Round of the Competition. The complete list of members of the Scouting Jury will be announced on January 1, 2018. The complete list of members of the Competition Jury, with the exception of the Chairperson, shall remain confidential until the commencement of the Semifinals.

Chairperson of the Jury

- 2.1 The Chairperson of the Jury oversees the relevant competition round(s) and ensures that the Jury's work is executed correctly. If, by his or her assessment, a member of the Jury has committed a serious breach of the rules, the Chairperson of the Jury is authorized to suspend that member immediately and to subsequently submit the matter for the urgent consideration of the Legal Official or the Organization.
- 2.2 In the event of illness or absence due to unforeseen circumstances, the Chairperson of the Jury will be replaced, for the entire Competition or for part of it, by the Organization. The person replacing the Chairperson of the Jury must meet all the requirements of Jury members listed under E1.

- 2.3 The Chairperson of the Jury announces the results of the relevant rounds of the Competition, herein faithfully reflecting the decisions of the Jury.
- 2.4 If the Legal Official is called upon to pronounce judgment on a matter implicating a member of the Juries, he or she is obliged to hear the Jury member in question and the Chairperson of the Jury, where applicable.

Voting procedure

General provision

- 3.1.1 Members of the Juries may not exchange comments about Candidates or Contestants. Any discussion concerning Candidates or Contestants will lead to the suspension of the Jury member having caused it.
- 3.1.2 The Secretary of the Jury and the Legal Official will be responsible for counting the ballot papers given to the Secretary of the Jury by the Jury members, and for tallying the votes. The Competition Director will supervise this process.
- 3.1.3 The votes will be tallied in a closed location. No one aside from those mentioned in Article E3.1.2 may enter the room where the votes are tallied.
- 3.1.4 Any correction on a ballot paper must be initialed by the Jury member in question and the Legal Official. If a ballot paper presents difficulties in reading that could result in an error, the Legal Official or the Secretary of the Jury may ask the Jury member to complete a new ballot paper.
- 3.1.5 All voting and tallying operations are confidential. The only results to be announced are the designation, without indication of ranking, of the Contestants admitted to the Quarterfinals, to the Semifinals, and to the Finals, and the ranking of the three finalists.
- 3.1.6 The ballot papers, signed by the Jury and later sealed by the Legal Official, will be kept in the Competition archives. The seals may only be broken with permission of the Legal Official.
- 3.1.7 All cases not accounted for in the Jury regulations taking place during the Preliminary round will be decided by the Organization.
- 3.1.8 All cases not accounted for in the Jury regulations taking place during the public rounds of the Competition will be decided by the Chairperson of the Jury, in consultation with the Organization.

Preliminary round

- 3.2.1 The Preliminary round will be adjudicated by the Preselection Jury and facilitated by the Competition Director and the Legal Official. It is not necessary for this round that the members of the Preselection Jury be physically present in the same location.
- 3.2.2 The identities of the Candidates participating in the Preliminary round will remain anonymous to all members of the Preselection Jury. Prior to the Preliminary round, the Competition Director will assign a random number to each Candidate whose audio recording will be adjudicated and label all audio recordings accordingly. Only the Competition Director will know which number corresponds to which Candidate. The Preselection Jury is not permitted to know the names of the Candidates until after the conclusion of the Preliminary round.
- 3.2.3 For each submitted audio recording, each member of the Preselection Jury will start listening from the beginning but may stop listening when he or she has received sufficient information to evaluate it. In the event that two or more members of the Preselection Jury are listening in the same room, the recording may be stopped only once all Jury members

have indicated that they have heard enough.

- 3.2.4** To adjudicate the Preliminary round, each member of the Preselection Jury will receive a ballot paper listing the numbers of the Candidates participating in the preliminary round. For each Candidate, each member of the Preselection Jury will indicate whether they wish to admit the Candidate to the Quarterfinals by indicating 'YES' or 'NO' under the heading 'May proceed to the Quarterfinals'. There is no limit to the number of 'YES' votes that may be given by a member of the Preselection Jury. The ballot papers, signed by all members of the Preselection Jury, will accordingly be given to the Legal Official.
- 3.2.5** Once the ballots have been collected, the Legal Official will record how many 'YES' votes each Candidate received. For each Quarterfinal region, the Organization may then decide either to admit all Candidates with three 'YES' votes, all Candidates with two or more 'YES' votes, or all Candidates with one or more 'YES' votes. Candidates with no 'YES' votes will not be admitted to the Quarterfinals. With regard to admitting Candidates to the Quarterfinals, all Candidates with the same number of 'YES' votes per region will be given equal treatment.
- 3.2.6** Depending on the results, and without having knowledge of the identities of the Candidates in question, the Organization will decide where to establish the cut-off point between the Candidates admitted and Candidates rejected, in such a way as to maximize the number of Contestants for each region without exceeding that region's capacity.
- 3.2.7** Candidates who indicated second- or third-choice options for the Quarterfinal region will be considered for those regions as well as their first-choice region. If by following the tallying and selection procedure outlined in articles E3.2.5-6 a Candidate is eligible to participate in more than one region, the Candidate will be admitted to the region that they ranked highest in order of preference. Each Candidate may only be admitted to one region.

Quarterfinals

- 3.3.1** The Quarterfinals will be adjudicated by the Scouting Jury and facilitated by the Organization and the Legal Official.
- 3.3.2** To adjudicate the Quarterfinals, each member of the Scouting Jury will receive one ballot paper per region with the names of the Contestants participating in that region. Based on their evaluation of each Contestant's performance, each member of the Scouting Jury will indicate whether they wish the Contestant to proceed to the Semifinals by indicating 'YES' or 'NO' under the heading 'May proceed to the Semifinals'. In addition, each member of the Scouting Jury may assign preference votes to three of the Contestants by marking a star (*) next to their 'YES' vote. There is no limit to the number of 'YES' votes that may be given by each Jury member, but the maximum number of preference votes over all three Quarterfinal regions is three (3). The ballot papers, signed by each member of the Scouting Jury, will be collected by the Legal Official at the conclusion of the third Quarterfinal session.
- 3.3.3** Contestants will be ranked according to the total number of 'YES' votes awarded by the Scouting Jury. The eight (8) contestants with the most 'YES' votes, regardless of region, will be invited to participate in the Semifinals.
- 3.3.4** In the event of a tie between Contestants for the last place in the Semifinals, the preference votes will be counted for all Contestants involved in the tie.
- 3.3.5** If the outcome of following the procedure in Article E3.3.4 does not resolve the tie, the Organization may choose either to hold a series of tiebreaker voting rounds (as described in Articles E3.3.6-8) or to fill one remaining slot with the winner of the YouTube Wildcard Option (as described in Article E3.3.9), or both.

- 3.3.6** In the case of a tiebreaker vote, all members of the Scouting Jury will receive a new ballot paper with the numbers of the equally ranked Contestants. Each member of the Scouting Jury may indicate their preference for one (1) of the Contestants involved in the tie.
- 3.3.7** If the outcome of following the procedure in Article E3.3.6 reduces the number of Contestants involved in the tie, the same procedure is repeated until eight Contestants are selected for the Semifinals.
- 3.3.8** If an unsolvable tie arises after following the procedure in Article E3.3.7, the Chairperson of the Jury will decide which Contestant(s) will be admitted to the Semifinals.
- 3.3.9** To determine the winner of the YouTube Wildcard Option, the Scouting Jury will view all the submitted YouTube videos corresponding to applications that have been completed as outlined in Article D5. Based on their evaluation of each video, each member of the Scouting Jury will indicate whether they wish the Contestant to proceed to the Semifinals by indicating 'YES' or 'NO' under the heading 'May proceed to the Semifinals'. There is no limit to the number of 'YES' votes that may be given by each Jury member. The ballot papers, signed by each member of the Scouting Jury, will be collected by the Legal Official. Contestants will be ranked according to the total number of 'YES' votes awarded by the Scouting Jury. The Chairperson of the Jury will then select which Contestant(s)—from among those with the most 'YES' votes—to admit to the Semifinals.
- 3.3.10** If the outcome of following the procedures in Articles E3.3.6-9 still does not result in eight Contestants being selected for the Semifinals, the Organization may decide to admit fewer or more than eight Semifinalists, depending on the distribution of votes.

Semifinals

- 3.4.1** The Semifinals will be adjudicated by the Competition Jury and facilitated by the Organization and the Legal Official.
- 3.4.2** To adjudicate the Semifinals, all members of the Competition Jury will receive a ballot paper with the names of the Contestants. Based on their evaluation of each Contestant's performance, each member of the Competition Jury will indicate whether they wish the Contestant to proceed to the final round, by indicating 'YES' or 'NO' under the heading 'May proceed to the final round'. There is no limit to the number of 'YES' votes that may be given by a member of the Competition Jury. The ballot papers, signed by each member of the Competition Jury, will accordingly be given to the Legal Official.
- 3.4.3** Contestants will be ranked according to the total number of 'YES' votes awarded by the Competition Jury. The three (3) contestants with the most 'YES' votes will be invited to participate in the Finals.
- 3.4.4** In the event of a tie between Contestants for the last place in the Finals, all members of the Competition Jury will receive a new ballot paper with the numbers of the equally ranked Contestants. Each member of the Competition Jury may indicate their preference for one (1) of the Contestants involved in the tie.
- 3.4.5** If the outcome of the counting of the votes of preference following the procedure in Article E3.4.4 reduces the number of Contestants involved in the tie, the procedure in Article E3.4.4 is repeated until three Contestants proceed to the final round.
- 3.4.6** If an unsolvable tie arises after the counting of the votes of preference following the procedure in E3.4.5, the Chairperson of the Competition Jury will decide which Contestant(s) will be admitted to the Finals.

Finals

- 3.5.1** For the Finals, all members of the Competition Jury will receive a ballot paper with the

names of the Contestants. Based on their evaluation of each Contestant's performance in both the Semifinals and the Finals, each member of the Competition Jury will rank the three Contestants by filling in the names of the Contestants under the headings 'First Prize', 'Second Prize', and 'Third Prize'. The ballot papers, signed by each member of the Competition Jury, will accordingly be given to the Legal Official.

- 3.5.2 The Secretary of the Jury and the Legal Official will fill out a tally form, recording how many votes for 'First Prize', 'Second Prize', and 'Third Prize' each Contestant received. The Contestant with the most 'First Prize' votes will be the first prize winner.
- 3.5.3 After the first prize winner has been determined, two Contestants remain. Of these two Contestants, the one who has received the most votes for the highest rank will be the second prize winner.
- 3.5.4 The remaining Contestant will be the third prize winner.
- 3.5.5 In the event of a tie between two Contestants for the first prize, the names under the heading 'Second Prize' will be counted. If this does not solve the tie, there will be a second vote for the Contestants involved in the tie among all the members of the Competition Jury. The Contestant winning this vote will be the first prize winner, the Contestant losing the vote will be the second prize winner. The remaining Contestant will be the third prize winner.
- 3.5.6 In the event of a tie between two Contestants for the second prize, there will be a new vote to determine which Contestant will be the second prize winner. The remaining Contestant will be the third prize winner.

Audience Award

- 3.6.1 Following the Semifinals, all Festival audience members may indicate which Contestant he or she evaluated as the best of the Semifinals.
- 3.6.2 The tallying of the votes will be supervised by the Legal Official and the Organization. The Contestant with the most votes will receive the Audience Award.
- 3.6.3 In the event of a tie between Contestants, the Audience Award will be awarded to all Contestants involved in the tie. The prize money of which this prize consists will be divided amongst the equally ranked Contestants.

Other Awards

- 3.7.1 For all other awards awarded by the Competition Jury, all members of the Competition Jury will receive a ballot paper with the names of the Contestants at the end of the round in question. Each member of the Competition Jury will indicate which Contestant he or she evaluated as the winner of the award in question by indicating the name of the Contestant on the ballot paper. The ballot papers, signed by each member of the Competition Jury, will accordingly be given to the Legal Official.
- 3.7.2 In the event of a tie between Contestants, the members of the Competition Jury will receive a new ballot paper with the names of the Contestants involved in the tie. Each member of the Competition Jury will indicate which Contestant he or she evaluated as the winner of the award.
- 3.7.3 If the tie proves to be unsolvable, the Chairperson of the Competition Jury will make the final decision.

F. Prizes

1. A number of prizes and awards will be awarded amongst the Contestants. These will be published on the website of the Competition.
2. The prizes, awards, and certificates, signed by the Chairperson of the Competition Jury and all members of the Competition Jury, will be presented to the laureates at the conclusion of the final Gala concert.
3. All prizes will be awarded.
4. None of the prizes are divisible, with the exception of the Audience Award.
5. All prize money is subject to tax under the Dutch Taxation Laws.

G. Authorities

Management of the Competition

- 1.1** The DHF World Harp Competition is managed by the Organization.
- 1.3** The Organization is responsible for overseeing the application of the Competition rules and may take any measures necessary to ensure the rules are upheld during the course of the Competition. If breaches of these rules take place, the Organization is authorized to bring these to light and to refer them to the Legal Official.
- 1.4** For all matters pertaining to the administration of the Competition, the Organization is authorized, under its own responsibility, to delegate particular powers or functions to persons not otherwise involved in the Organization.

Legal Official

- 2.1** For each round of the Competition, a Legal Official will be appointed by the Organization. The Legal Official has the task of fairly resolving any administrative, civil, or disciplinary disputes that may arise between the Contestants, members of the Jury, members of the Organization, and/or members of the DHF. The judgment of the Legal Official is binding and is not subject to appeal.
- 2.2** The Jury and the Contestants will be informed of the name and responsibilities of the Legal Official.
- 2.3** By participating in the competition, the members of the Jury and the Contestants are deemed to accept the jurisdiction of the Legal Official.
- 2.4** In order to be considered, complaints addressed at the Legal Official must indicate the name of the person or persons against whom they have been lodged.
- 2.5** The Legal Official shall keep records of all operations he or she may be called upon to carry out, and of any facts he or she may be asked to establish.

Sanctions

- 3.1** The authorities described in Articles G1-2 can issue warnings and impose the following penalties on members of the Jury and Contestants:
 - 1. A reprimand
 - 2. An official warning
 - 3. Exclusion from the Competition
 - 4. A permanent ban
- 3.2** A reprimand can be given by the Organization. Warnings and penalties can only be given by the Legal Official. The other administrative authorities of the DHF do not have any legal or disciplinary powers.
- 3.3** Apart from the disciplinary measures outlined above, the Legal Official can also decide on all questions legitimately submitted to it and, in particular, can impose penalties requiring the payment of damages and interest to injured parties.
- 3.4** In the event of disputes, only the 2018 version of these rules is legally binding.

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