



Schloss Weißenbrunn Stiftung

Schlossstraße 2 · 96106 Ebern-Weißenbrunn · Tel. 09531 9448660 · info@schloss-weissenbrunn.de · www.schloss-weissenbrunn.de

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FANNY HENSEL COMPETITION 2026

LIED DUO

24 – 26 April 2026 at Schloss Weißenbrunn

Conditions of Participation

Who can take part in this competition?

The 2026 FANNY HENSEL COMPETITION is open for application from Lied duos. There is no age limit. Requirement: intensive study of historically informed performance practices and skills and knowledge of playing historical keyboard instruments, in particular those of the first half of the 19th century.

How can I apply?

Applications are only possible via the online form on the website of the Schloss Weißenbrunn Foundation www.schloss-weissenbrunn.de.

Application period

15 October to 31 December 2025

Which documents are needed for an application?

- contact data of both duo members (name, address, e-mail, telephone)
- short artists' bio (maximum 1,200 characters) in German or English
- a recent photograph (printable, at least 1 MB, 300 dpi)
- links to 3 to 5 video recordings (YouTube or Vimeo, not listed/public)
- list of suggested competition repertoire
- copy of the bank transfer of the application fee of 100 € as proof

The application fee

to the amount of 100 € must be transferred free of bank charges for the recipient to:

account holder: Schloss Weißenbrunn Stiftung

financial institution: BW Bank

IBAN: DE63 6005 0101 0405 5514 60

BIC (SWIFT): SOLADESTXXX

purpose: »Name of duo or singer and pianist«

Refund of the application fee is not possible, even if the duo does not participate in the competition.

Will my application be confirmed?

A written confirmation of the application will be sent, as soon as the complete documentation and the application fee have been received. Incomplete documentation or incorrect information given may result in exclusion from the competition. All submitted documents will be treated confidentially.

Applications will only be evaluated by the preselection committee, if they were submitted complete (including the application fee) and in due time.

What are the requirements for the video recordings?

3 to 5 video recordings must be submitted for the application. At least three of the lieder must be composed by Fanny Hensel. There is also an option of additionally including up to two lieder composed by Felix Mendelssohn. The recordings must be no older than one year, they must be unprocessed and recorded in original sound quality.

Which lieder have to be prepared for the concerts in the final round of the competition?

Together with your application you have to submit a binding list of an overall number of 10 lieder which you will prepare for the concerts of the final competition round, comprising eight lieder by Fanny Hensel and two lieder by Felix Mendelssohn. The eight lieder by Fanny Hensel must include two lieder which were published during her lifetime (op. 1, op. 7). The remaining six lieder may be freely chosen from her complete works.

From this submitted list of lieder, the jury will select 6 to 8 lieder for the duo's concert in the final competition round.

Material for the competition

→ List of all lieder by Fanny Hensel with links to printed music and manuscripts

→ Lieder of the obligatory programme for the concerts in the final competition round (op. 1 and op. 7)

Further Questions & Answers

How many duos will be admitted to the competition?

All applications submitted will be evaluated by the competition jury in a preselection round. A maximum of 8 duos will be invited to Schloss Weißenbrunn for the competition. The jury's decision is final.

How does the preselection work?

The preselection committee evaluates all documentation submitted and decides which duos will be invited to the competition. The results will be communicated by 1 February 2026 at the latest.

How does the competition in Weißenbrunn work?

Depending on the choice of keyboard instrument used, the participants will be divided up into two groups. Each group will consist of up to 4 duos and will perform in a public concert which will be recorded on film. The participants will have the choice of four instruments: Brodmann 1827, Graf 1828, Broadwood 1829, Pleyel 1836. A concrete schedule will be provided to participants on the day of their arrival.

Where will the competition be held?

The final round will be held in two public concerts in Schloss Weißenbrunn. This little Baroque castle was built around 1700 and houses historical keyboard instruments in two music salons. It is a regular venue for residences, film recordings and concerts. The little village of Weißenbrunn has 50 inhabitants and is part of the town of Ebern, located around 30 km from Bamberg in the Haßberge nature park.

When will the competition be held?

The competition will be held between 24 and 26 April 2026 in Schloss Weißenbrunn. Arrival and rehearsals are possible starting 21 April, with the latest arrival date of 23 April.

How do I find out whether I was admitted to the competition?

The preselection committee will evaluate all applications in the course of the month of January. The results will be communicated in an e-mail by 1 February 2026 at the latest.

Can I rehearse during the competition?

Yes. The original fortepianos are located in two separate rooms where rehearsals are possible, depending on arrangements. A concrete rehearsal schedule will be worked out as soon as all arrival dates are known.

Who bears the cost for travel and stay?

The participants will have to bear their own travel costs. The Schloss Weißenbrunn Foundation will bear the costs for the stay in Schloss Weißenbrunn.

Will there be a livestream?

The competition concerts will be recorded on film. We are planning a livestream of the competition and are currently checking technical feasibility. The films will be available via the Foundation's website and YouTube channel.

Can I get feedback from the jury after the competition?

Yes, the jury will be available for personal feedback conversations. The times for this will be communicated.

How can I ask questions or get in touch?

The Schloss Weißenbrunn team will be available to answer all further questions.

E-Mail: info@schloss-weissenbrunn.de