

Ideas Competition GÜLDENER HERBST 2025

“What a Delight!”

For the first time in its 25-year history, the GÜLDENER HERBST festival is launching an ideas competition. Soloists and ensembles with up to five musicians can apply with innovative and creative programs tailored to the theme "What a Delight!". The winning concept will be performed by the winners during the night concert of GÜLDENER HERBST 2025.

Prize: Night concert on September 27, 2025, in Meiningen

1. About the Festival

Baroque music at the highest level, exquisite concert programs, and resonant residences: that's GÜLDENER HERBST. Since its founding in 1999, it has become one of the most renowned festivals for early music in Germany. The festival is particularly dedicated to uncovering the richness of Thuringia's musical tradition and its openness to international influences, making it accessible to a broad audience. GÜLDENER HERBST also focuses on composers who are no longer prominent in the classical music scene today, connecting them with famous contemporaries from Germany and other parts of Europe. In doing so, the festival makes an important contribution to raising public awareness of the cultural heritage of Thuringia between 1500 and 1800.

2. Criteria

We are looking for soloists and ensembles that create innovative and creative concert formats around our 2025 theme, "What a Delight!". On the one hand, we are looking for musicians who bring a creative approach to Baroque music within the framework of our festival theme. On the other hand, it is desirable that the repertoire reflects the Baroque court culture of Thuringia between 1600 and 1780, which GÜLDENER HERBST is dedicated to. We expressly support multimedia and moderated concert programs as well as new compositions.

The winning concept should highlight a new facet of the theme of "delight," which has not yet been considered in the festival's concept. The following thematic areas have already been included in GÜLDENER HERBST 2025's program:

- The Delight of Nature
- Tafelmusik
- Musical and Poetic Pleasure Grove
- Coffee and Pastries
- Tobacco and Wine
- Organ Delight
- Original Sin



We are happy to provide more detailed information about our current program planning upon request.



3. Participation Conditions

Soloists and ensembles with 1 to 5 musicians specializing in historical performance practice are eligible to apply.

There is no age limit.

We expressly encourage ensemble formations that have not yet performed together to apply. We are delighted if our ideas competition inspires and supports the formation of new ensembles.



4. Prize

The winner(s) of the competition will perform at the night concert of GÜLDENER HERBST 2025 on September 27, 2025, at 10:00 PM in Meiningen. Each performer will receive a fee of 1,000 euros. Travel expenses must be covered by the participants themselves, but accommodation in Meiningen will be provided by the festival.

5. Deadlines

Applications are open until March 31, 2025, at 11:59 PM (CET). The jury will review the applications within four weeks after the deadline. The results will be announced on April 30, 2025. Each applicant will be informed of the result via email, and the results will also be published on the GÜLDENER HERBST website.

6. Participation Fee

The participation fee is 20.00 euros per application. It should be paid to:





Academia Musicalis Thuringiae e. V.

IBAN: DE49 8205 1000 0163 0430 60

BIC: HELADEF1WEM


Sparkasse Mittelthüringen

Purpose: **Name of Applicant/Ensemble** Ideas Competition 2025 GÜLDENER HERBST

7. Application

Please send applications to: kontakt[at]amt-ev.de

The application should be no longer than 5 pages, combined into a single PDF, and should include the following documents:

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- Concept (one page)
 - Program/repertoire (one page)
 - Names and short biographies (each max. 1,300 characters) of all artists

Additionally:

- Audio or video file of the ensemble or individual artists (if no recordings of the ensemble exist)
- Proof of payment of the participation fee

8. Jury

The jury consists of board members of Academia Musicalis Thuringiae, the sponsoring association of GÜLDENER HERBST.

The jury's decisions are final and irrevocable. There is no legal recourse. The evaluation will be treated confidentially.

