



## **Ideas Competition GÜLDENER HERBST 2026** **"HOMELAND SOUNDS"**

For the second time, 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 "HOMELAND SOUNDS". The winning concept will be performed by the winners during the lunch concert of GÜLDENER HERBST 2026.



**Prize: Lunch concert on September 27, 2026, in Gotha**



### **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 who create innovative and creative concert formats around our 2026 theme, "HOMELAND SOUNDS". 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 support multimedia and moderated concert programs as well as new compositions.

The winning concept should highlight a new facet of the theme of "HOMELAND SOUNDS," which has not yet been considered in the festival's concept. 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 also 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 lunch concert of GÜLDENER HERBST 2026 on September 27, 2026, at 13:00 in Gotha. Each performer will receive a fee of 1,000 euros. Travel expenses must be covered by the participants themselves, but accommodation in Gotha can be provided by the festival.

### **5. Deadlines**

Applications are open until March 31, 2026, 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, 2026. 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 30.00 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 2026 GÜLDENER HERBST

## 7. Application

The application should not exceed seven pages, be compiled into one PDF file, and include the following documents:

- Concept (one page)
- Program/Repertoire (maximum two pages)
- Names and short biographies (each max. 1,300 characters) of all musicians, including links to an audio or video recording of the ensemble or the individual artists
- Proof of payment of the participation fee



The PDF file name should follow this format:

2026-Ideenwettbewerb\_EngsembleName\_ConceptTitle

Please send your application to: **kontakt@amt-ev.de**

*IMPORTANT: Only applications that meet the formal requirements will be considered!*

## 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.

**Good luck!**

