

EARly 2020

AIM & BACKGROUND

The overall aim of EAR-ly is to stimulate an interest in early music among students and young professional musicians and to encourage the formation of new early music ensembles in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

The first edition of EAR-ly took place as a national competition and was organised by Stockholm Early Music Festival in Sweden in June 2008. Since 2010, the competition has become a Nordic/Baltic event arranged by NORDEM—Nordic Early Music—and held every second year in one of the Nordic/Baltic countries, hosted by one of the federation's member festivals. In 2010 the final took place in Stockholm (Sweden), in 2012 in Oslo (Norway), in 2014 in Skálholt (Iceland), 2016 in Vantaa (Finland) and 2018 in Copenhagen (Denmark).

For the purposes of EAR-ly 2020 early music means medieval, renaissance or baroque repertoire, performed according to the principles of HIP (historically informed performance practice). EAR-ly particularly encourages the inclusion of medieval and renaissance music, if possible.

The criteria for selection are musical quality, stylistic knowledge, communicative authenticity, and, in the final round, overall artistry.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

- Up to two winning ensembles/soloists may be awarded prizes, up to a combined total of €5000
- The jury reserves the right not to select prizewinners
- The audience will select one ensemble/soloist for the special EAR-ly Audience Award. The winner of this award will be invited to perform at one of the NORDEM member festivals during the season 2021-22

COMPETITION RULES

EAR-ly 2020 is open to

(a) vocal, instrumental or mixed ensembles consisting of a minimum of three and a maximum of eight members.

(b) vocal or instrumental soloists, performing either alone or with one accompanist.

- An individual musician may compete in a maximum of two ensembles. Soloists may perform in both categories: as a soloist and as a member of one ensemble.
- All entrants must without exception be born no earlier than 1 January 1987. This age limit does not apply to soloists' accompanists.
- All participants must be either citizens of one of the Nordic or Baltic countries or permanent residents of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Åland, Greenland, Faroe Islands, Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania. Accompanists are exempted from this rule.
- The competition has two parts: a preliminary presentation (audio) and live presentations (in Riga).
- Audio files for the preliminary presentation must include a minimum of two separate works, or parts of works, with a total duration of no more than twelve minutes (see APPLICATION PROCESS I).
- Repertoire chosen for the final round must include a work written by a Nordic/Baltic early music composer.



Katarina Widell, EAR-ly 2010. Foto: Negumbo Lew

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please prepare:

1. An unprocessed audio file of minimum six and maximum twelve minutes, containing a minimum of two separate works or parts of works. The audio file must be marked with a pseudonym. Please use one of the following formats: mp3, aiff or wav.
2. A PDF document containing the following information:
 - a. Name of the participants and details of instrumentation/vocal parts;
 - b. A copy of each participant's (including accompanist's) passport (photo page) or national ID card;
 - c. E-mail, postal address and phone number of a contact person;
 - d. Full and complete details of a programme for presentation in the final round, in performance order. The programme must include a work written by a Nordic/Baltic early music composer. The total length should be c.30 minutes;
 - e. A biography or CV of the soloists/ensembles, max.1000 characters;
 - f. Programme notes for the final presentation, max.1000 characters;
 - g. A link to the ensemble's/soloist's Facebook page and/or website.
3. A PR picture of the participants in print quality (300 dpi/inch). Please specify the name of the photographer.

Please send the prepared material via [wetransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) to secretary@nordem.org before the DEADLINE for applications: 23:59 (CET) on 15 March 2020.

All applications will be evaluated anonymously by a jury consisting of NORDEM members.