

Press release

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Menuhin Conducting Prize 2026 – Great talents emerge from the next generation of conductors

With the Menuhin Conducting Prize, the Menuhin Festival Gstaad continues its long-standing commitment to supporting young conductors. Established in 2015 as the Neeme Järvi Prize, the award enters a new chapter in 2026, with an evolved format and a stronger focus on sustainable career development for emerging talent. For the 11th remise, Leonhard Kreutzmann from Germany and Tess Jackson from the United Kingdom were awarded the Menuhin Conducting Prize. Gonzalo Alarcón Burriel from Spain won the Audience Prize.

Since July 28, ten young conductors have been working intensely within the Conducting Academy with Jaap van Zweden, Alexander Shelley, Johannes Schaepli and Stef Collignon. The Academy culminated the final concert at the Festival Tent Gstaad, where the finalists performed before the jury and the audience. The evening was hosted by Daniel Hope and Tamina Kallert, one of the most prominent travel and cultural moderators in the German-speaking TV landscape.

At the final concert, the ten finalists conducted the Gstaad Festival Orchestra, which played Edward Elgar's *Violin Concerto* with soloist Raphael Nussbaumer, as well as *Symphony No. 4* by Johannes Brahms.

The winners

Tess Jackson (2000) and Leonhard Kreutzmann (2003) share the Menuhin Conducting Prize. The jury decided to distribute a double award due to the extraordinary talent of both young conductors. Tess Jackson impressed with her assured performance in the third movement, *Allegro molto*, of Elgar's *Violin Concerto*. Leonhard Kreutzmann brought Brahms' *Symphony No. 4* to a triumphant conclusion with power and energy.

The winners share an extensive development package: guest conducting engagements with all five partner orchestras, an invitation to return as a jury member for a future edition of the Conducting Prize, as well as the chance to assist Jaap van Zweden on a project with one of his orchestras.

New in 2026 is an Audience Prize. During the final concert, the audience voted digitally for their favorite. With 23 percent of the votes, Spanish conductor Gonzalo Alarcón Burriel (2001) won the Audience Prize. He conducted the Gstaad Festival Orchestra in the first movement, *Allegro*, of Elgar's *Violin Concerto*. The prize includes three nights during the

Menuhin Festival Gstaad 2027 at the Ermitage Wellness & Spa Hotel in Schönried, including a destination and festival package.

Jury & Process

The jury comprises professors from the Conducting Academy, representatives of the Gstaad Festival Orchestra and representatives of the five partner orchestras: Alexander Shelley, Johannes Schlaefli, Polina Peskina and Witold Moniewski (Gstaad Festival Orchestra), Christopher Dingstad (Dresdner Philharmonie), Florian Scholz (Berner Symphonieorchester), Dieter Kaegi and Yannis Pouspourikas (Theater Orchester Biel Solothurn TOBS!), Ulrich Amacher and Sebastian Hazod (Musikkollegium Winterthur), as well as Michael Nassauer (Philharmonie Südwestfalen, in absentia).

The Menuhin Conducting Prize deliberately takes into account both each participant's development and overall performance throughout the Academy and their performance at the final concert.



Daniel Hope and Tamina Kallert present the Audience Prize to Gonzalo Alacón Burriel.
(Photo: Raphael Faux)



Tess Jackson and Leonhard Kreutzmann are the winners of the 2026 Menuhin Conducting Prize, which will give them the opportunity to take on new guest conducting engagements. (Photo: Raphael Faux)

About the Menuhin Festival Gstaad

Founded in 1957 by Yehudi Menuhin, the Menuhin Festival Gstaad is one of Europe's leading classical music festivals. Every summer, it brings together internationally renowned artists, distinguished orchestras and outstanding young musicians in the churches and concert venues of the Saanenland and Pays-d'Enhaut regions. With more than 75 concerts each year, the Festival combines artistic excellence, talent development and cultural exchange in one of Europe's most beautiful alpine settings. Through its Academies, Discovery programme and educational initiatives, it is committed to supporting the next generation of musicians and making classical music accessible to a broad audience. Since 2026, the Festival has been under the artistic direction of violinist Daniel Hope. The 70th is currently underway until 5 September 2026 under the theme *Family Matters*.

About the Menuhin Festival Academy

Nurturing the next generation of musicians was at the heart of Yehudi Menuhin's artistic and humanistic vision. The founder of the Menuhin Festival Gstaad believed that passing on knowledge and experience from one generation to the next was an essential part of his life's work. To continue this legacy, the Festival established the Gstaad Academy in 2008, which has since evolved into today's Menuhin Festival Academy. The Academy brings together all of the Festival's masterclasses for young professional musicians, as well as its orchestral programmes for dedicated amateur musicians and emerging young talent. Combining world-class artistic training with the inspiring atmosphere of an internationally renowned festival, it creates unique opportunities for the next generation to learn from and perform alongside internationally acclaimed artists.

Further information and tickets

[menuhin.ch](https://www.menuhin.ch)

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Media accreditation:

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