

ERIC ERICSON AWARD

2027

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Background

Eric Ericson served as chief conductor of the Swedish Radio Choir for more than 30 years, from 1951 to 1982, making incalculable contributions to choral singing and choral music in Sweden and around the world. By performing works by contemporary composers in his lifetime, many written especially for him and the Swedish Radio Choir, he opened an entirely new dimension to how a choir can sound and be led. Throughout those years, he also taught choral conducting at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, where he nurtured several generations of young conductors.

1.2. The international competition in Choral Conducting, The Eric Ericson Award (EEA), was first held in 2003. Previous winners of the Competition are Alexander Lügen (2024) Krista Audere (2021) Kjetil Almenning (2009), Martina Batič (2006), Peter Dijkstra (2003). In 2021, the competition was relaunched, this time with Swedish Radio as the principal organizer in collaboration with the Royal Swedish Academy of Music.

1.3. The EEA 2027 will be the sixth time the Competition has been held, and aims to identify, encourage and support young choral conductors in the spirit of Eric Ericson. The EEA strives to achieve a very high artistic and competitive level in choral conducting, in keeping with the status that Eric Ericson achieved worldwide during his active years. The EEA gives the next generation of choir conductors the foundations for an international career.

1.4. From now on, the EEA will be held every three years.

2. General Conditions

2.1. The 6th EEA will take place at Swedish Radio Studio 2 and Berwaldhallen in Stockholm from 20 October until 23 October 2027. Swedish Radio is organising the competition in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, with support from Rosenborg-Gehrman Foundation, and the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

2.2. There is an Executive Board, a Jury for the Competition, a Pre-selection Committee, and a Repertoire Committee. The Executive Board appoints jury members and members of the Pre-selection Committee and Repertoire Committee.

2.3. The Rules and Regulations for the Competition are determined by the Executive Board.

2.4. The repertoire for the Final Rounds is suggested by the Repertoire Committee and decided by the Executive Board. The repertoire is chosen from repertoire in the Classical, Romantic and contemporary periods of Western art music. Swedish and Nordic music in general have a special role in the Competition.

2.5. All artistic decisions by the Jury and the Pre-selection Committee shall be final, and no correspondence will be entered regarding their decisions. The Executive Board is empowered to act with regard to non-artistic matters affecting the Competition during the Final Rounds in Stockholm.

2.6. The EEA strives to be an objective Competition and thus requires all competitors and Jury members to avoid conflicts of interests. The EEA is to be notified during the application process if the applicant has been taught on a regular basis by any of the Jury members. However, it is understood that it is likely that members of the Jury may be acquainted with some competitors as a result of past associations (for example previous competitions, music festivals, master classes, or enrolment at academic institutions).

2.7. The EEA is open to young choir conductors of all nationalities who are 35 years of age or younger at the start of the Competition (i.e. 20 October 2027).

2.8. The official language of the EEA is English. A basic understanding of the English language is required of all applicants.

2.9. The number of competitors in the semifinal is limited to a maximum of eight.

2.10. The EEA is comprised of two phases:

a. Eight competitors are selected by the Pre-selection Committee based on pre-recorded material.

b. Final Rounds will be held in Swedish Radio Studio 2 and Berwaldhallen, Stockholm, 20-23 October 2027.

2.11. Competitors are required to cooperate in all media activities that the EEA implies, including interviews, photo shoots, and additional performances.

3. Application

3.1. Application:

In order to apply, please submit your application in one e-mail (with two Word- or pdf-files attached) to ericericsonaward@sverigesradio.se

The application shall consist of two Word- or pdf-files:

- One file stating Curriculum Vitae, Name, Address, Phone Number and Birthdate of applicant and URL Links to two recordings of the applicant's work (as stated in 3. 3.).
- A second file with a copy of passport/Id-card, as proof of birthdate.

3. 2. Application deadline: 1 February 2027.

3. 3. For the pre-selection process, we require two videos:

- One video of 8-10 minutes demonstrating a performance (audience not needed) of a piece with a choir or vocal ensemble.
- One video of 8-10 minutes from a rehearsal with a choir or vocal ensemble.

The repertoire in the two videos with choir or vocal ensembles must be contrasting – for example one video with Classical/Romantic repertoire and one with contemporary repertoire.

Further requirements:

- Both performances shall be a cappella.
- In both videos, the conductor's instructions should be spoken in English.
- The videos should show the applicant from the front (from the choir's perspective)
- The videos may be shortened but shall not be edited in any other way.

- The audio shall be of good quality.
- The application videos shall be uploaded to a YouTube account or similar channel (the video must be "Unlisted", not "Private") and the URL Links to the videos shall be stated in your application.
- One of the two videos may be made up of two performances, but the total length may not exceed 10 minutes.
- Both videos must be recorded in 2026 or 2027, and this must also be clearly indicated in the videos.

Deviations from the application requirements may result in disqualification.

3.4. The Executive Board of EEA decides on which competitors will proceed to the Final Rounds in consultation with the Pre-selection Committee. Additional information may be requested.

3.5. A limited number of travel grants of up to 10 000 SEK are made available by The Royal Swedish Academy of Music to selected semi-finalists travelling from outside Europe. Recipients will be asked to submit a travel receipt (airline ticket). If grant applications exceed available funds, full reimbursement cannot be guaranteed. Applicants wishing to apply for a travel grant should indicate this by writing "Travel Grant" next to their name in the competition application.

4. Pre-selection Phase

4.1. The Pre-selection phase will take place between 1 February 2027 and 14 May 2027.

4.2. The Pre-selection Committee will consist of seven members.

4.3. The Pre-selection is based on the materials provided by the applicants.

4.4. The Pre-selection phase will have three rounds:

In the first phase, the selection committee will divide the applicants so that half of the committee reviews one half of the applications, while the other half reviews the rest. The chair of the committee will go through all applications. In round 2, the aim is to reduce the number of applicants to around 25. The entire selection committee then reviews all submitted material and votes to select 12 final candidates. In round 3, the committee votes to choose 8 finalists and 4 reserves. The Pre-selection Committee meet again for discussion

if two or more candidates have the same ranking. A new vote is then taken after the meeting to arrive at eight competitors.

4.5. The results of the pre-selection will be made public on 21 May 2027 and communicated by e-mail to the selected competitors only. The rankings of the eight selected competitors will not be published.

5. Final Rounds Phase

5.1. The Final Rounds consist of two semi-finals and a final. All eight competitors participate in the semi-finals. Three of these competitors compete in the final.

5.2. The semi-finals and final are scheduled to be held in Swedish Radio Studio 2 and in Berwaldhallen, Stockholm on 20, 21, 22 and 23 October 2027.

5.3. The order of performance of the competitors and of the repertoire in the semi-finals will be decided by the drawing of lots, which will take place on 19 October 2027. The order of performance and repertoire of the final will be decided by the drawing of lots on 21 October. Deviations from this order can only be decided by the Chair of the Jury and shall only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

5.4. The competitors must be available for the whole period of the Final Rounds (arrival on 19 October, departure on 24 October).

5.5. The semi-finals on 20 – 23 October will be live-streamed from www.ericericsonaward.se. These serve as open rehearsals, and the jury will observe how the contestant chooses to rehearse with the choir.

5.6. The finale is held in Berwaldhallen October 23 2027 recorded and live streamed with live audience in the Hall.

5.7. Semi-finals

5.7.1. The competitors will conduct Allmänna Sången and the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir in the semi-finals. The competitors who conduct Allmänna Sången in semi-final 1 conduct the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir in semi-final 2, and vice versa.

5.7.2. At the drawing on 19 October 2027, each contestant is assigned a number, 1 to 8, and thereby the musical pieces on the next page to rehearse with the choirs, one piece per competition day and choir.

- I. Anton Bruckner: Os justi
Mattias Sköld: We know not where the dragons fly
- II. Lina Tjörnhøj: Crowd crystal
Morten Lauridsen: Io piango
- III. Knut Nystedt: O Crux
Britta Byström: Gloria
- IV. Sven-David Sandström: Lobet den Herrn
Sven-Erik Bäck: Se, vi gå upp till Jerusalem
- V. Sven-Erik Bäck: Natten är framskriden
Sven-David Sandström: Lobet den Herrn
- VI. Britta Byström: Gloria
Knut Nystedt: O Crux
- VII. Morten Lauridsen: Io piango
Lina Tjörnhøj: Crowd crystal
- VIII. Mattias Sköld: We know not where the dragons fly
Anton Bruckner: Christus factus est

5.7.3. Schedule for the semi-finals:

20 October 2027 Semi-final 1 – Swedish Radio Studio 2 with Allmänna Sången and the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir.

Eric Ericson Chamber Choir:

13.00-13.30 I

First performance

Anton Bruckner: Os justi

13.40-14.10 II

Second performance

Lina Tjörnhøj: Crowd crystal

14.10-14.30

Interval

14.30-15.00 III

Third performance

Knut Nystedt: O Crux

15.10-15.40 IV

Fourth performance

Sven-David Sandström: Lobet den Herrn

15.40-17.00 Interval

Allmänna Sången:

17.00-17.30 V

Fifth performance

Sven-Erik Bäck: Natten är framskriden

17.40-18.10 VI

Sixth performance

Britta Byström: Gloria

18.10-18.30

Interval

18.30-19.00 VII

Seventh performance

Morten Lauridsen: Io piango

19.10-19.40 VIII

Eighth performance

Mattias Sköld: We know not where the dragons fly

21 October 2027 Semi-final 2 – Swedish Radio, Studio 2 with Allmänna Sången and the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir.

Eric Ericson Chamber Choir:

13.00-13.30 V

First performance

Sven-David Sandström: Lobet den Herrn

13.40-14.10 VI

Second performance

Knut Nystedt: O Crux

14.10-14.30

Interval

14.30-15.00 VII

Third performance

Lina Tjörnhøj: Crowd crystal

15.10-15.40 VIII

Fourth performance

Anton Bruckner: Christus factus est

15.40-17.00 Interval

Allmänna Sången

17.00-17.30 I

Fifth performance

Mattias Sköld: We know not where the dragons fly

17.40-18.10 II

Sixth performance

Morten Lauridsen: Io piango

18.10-18.30

Interval

18.30-19.00 III

Seventh performance

Britta Byström: Gloria

19.10-19.40 IV

Eighth performance

Sven-Erik Bäck: Se, vi gå nu upp till Jerusalem

5.8. Final

5.8.1. 22 October 2027: Rehearsals for the final in Berwaldhallen with the Swedish Radio Choir.

Schedule:

14.15-15.00

Finalist no. 1

Ingvar Lidholm: Grekisk gravrelief 7'50

15.15-16.00

Finalist no. 2

Nana Forte: Silent steps 8'

16.15-17.00

Finalist no. 3

Einojuhani Rautavaara: Die Erste Elegie 9'3

5.8.2. 23 October 2027: Schedule in Berwaldhallen

12.00-12.30

Dress rehearsal

Finalist 1

12.30-13.00

Dress rehearsal

Finalist 2

13.00-13.30

Dress rehearsal

Finalist 3

15.00

Finale in Berwaldhallen with Swedish Radio Choir. Public audience will be present.

The Jury will be strict about the prescribed performance durations.

6. Repertoire

6.1.

Semifinals:

Anton Bruckner: Os justi - Carus Verlag

Anton Bruckner: Christus factus est - Carus Verlag

Knut Nystedt: O Crux - Hinshaw music

Lina Tjørnhøj: Crowd crystal - <https://edition-s.dk/composers/line-tjornhoj>

Sven-David Sandström: Lobet den Herrn - Gehrmans

Mattias Sköld: We know not where the dragons fly - Gehrmans

Britta Byström: Gloria - Ed Wilhelm Hansen

Sven-Erik Bäck: Natten är framskriden - Gehrmans

Sven-Erik Bäck: Se vi gå nu upp till Jerusalem - Gehrmans

Morten Lauridsen: Io piango - Peermusic, NY

Final:

Ingvar Lidholm: Grekisk gravrelief - Gehrmans

Nana Forte: Silent steps - Gehrmans

Einojuhani Rautavaara: Die Erste Elegie - Gehrmans

7. Prizes

The EEA awards the following prizes:

7.1. A sum of SEK 100,000 for the winner donated by the Rosenberg Gehrman Foundation

7.2. A sum of SEK 25,000 each for both runners up donated by the Rosenberg Gehrman Foundation

7.3. The winner will be engaged for concerts by a number of Radio Choir members of the EBU.

7.4. Relevant taxes shall be deducted from the prizes by Swedish Radio in accordance with Swedish tax law in effect at the time of the Competition.

7.5. The prizewinners shall be obliged to make the appearances associated with their prizes. Should a prizewinner breach this obligation, they can lose their claim on prizes, awards and appearances; in such matters, the Executive Board of the EEA shall make the final decision.

8. Judging process

8.1. The competitors will be assessed based on a ranking system.

8.2. The ranking system functions as follows:

- At the end of the semi-finals, the members of the Jury will judge the competitors by ranking them from 1 to 8
- Each member of the Jury ranks all candidates for their total performance
- The rankings of all Jury members will be converted to a total average ranking for each competitor.

8.3. The total average ranking for each competitor will determine the three finalists (those with the three highest total average rankings). The rankings of the other five competitors will not be made public.

8.4. The winner will be determined by the average ranking by all members of the Jury based on each competitor's total performance that includes both the semi-finals, rehearsal and final.

8.5. All Jury members are always required to attend all sessions of each round.

8.6. The sharing of first prize is not possible. The Jury has the right to choose a winner, second and third place or two runners up. The Jury also has the right to nominate two second prizewinners and one third prizewinner, in which case the prize sum 100 000 SEK is shared by the two second prizewinners and there will be no concerts with European radio choirs.

8.7. Should a competitor be a regular student of one of the members of the Jury or, is a relative of a member of the Jury either by direct line or as an in-law in the first, second or third degree that Jury member shall refrain from voting in respect of such a competitor.

8.8. Competitors shall not communicate with Jury members for the duration of the Competition, nor shall any other person communicate with the Jury members on behalf of

any competitor. Violation of this rule shall result in automatic disqualification from the Competition.

8.9. No relatives, friends or teachers may be present backstage.

9. Facilities

9.1. The EEA will supply the following to all eight finalists:

a. Accommodation in Stockholm from 19 October to 24 October 2027.

b. All local transport.

c. Applicants from outside Europe may apply for a travel grant from the Royal Swedish Academy of Music if they are selected for the semi-final. A limited number of travel grants of up to 10 000 SEK are made available. Recipients will be asked to submit a travel receipt (airline ticket). If grant applications exceed available funds, full reimbursement cannot be guaranteed.

9.2. Competitors in the Final Rounds (from 19 October until 24 October 2027) must arrange and pay for their own travel to Stockholm.

9.3. Accompanying individuals including family members must make their own travel and or accommodation arrangements.

10. Liability

10.1. The EEA accepts no liability of any kind whatsoever for any personal illness or injury sustained by a competitor, nor for any loss of or damage to a competitor's belongings during transit or while attending the Competition. Medical costs, of whatever nature, will not be reimbursed by the EEA.

10.2. Obtaining appropriate travel documents, visas and travel insurance is the sole responsibility of each competitor.

10.3. Competitors must be free of professional obligations during the entire Competition period.

10.4. All communication between the EEA and the competitors will be direct, without the mediation of any third parties or artist managements.

11. Applicant's undertaking

11.1. By submitting the online application form, applicants confirm their consent to and/or agreement with the following:

- a. All articles in the Rules and Regulations.
- b. All ensuing engagements as part of any prize.
- c. That all concert and recording engagements ensuing from the Competition or its designates as part of the prizes will not be subject to any fee or commission payable to the prize winner's current or future artist management.
- d. That Swedish Radio and the EBU is authorized to record, videotape, film, broadcast, and/or photograph any Competition concerts or events for any purpose, without payment of any fee. All rights, including copyright to such media shall vest in and be solely owned by the EEA in perpetuity.
- e. That Swedish Radio and the EBU is authorized to collect, store and use their contact details for purposes connected to the Competition and future activities of the EEA. No commercial third party will receive these contact details.
- f. That the Competition may be cancelled by Swedish Radio due to unforeseen circumstances.

All rights are reserved, and dates and locations are subject to change.

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