



**Press release—for immediate release
Budapest, 17 February 2025**

More than 100 brass players entered the 3rd Kodály International Music Competition

A total of 110 entries from 26 countries on three continents have been received for the third edition of the Zoltán Kodály International Music Competition, which will be held in Debrecen (Hungary) from 5-13 July and will be open to young horn, trumpet and trombone players.

After the strings (2022) and conductors (2023), the 2025 Kodály Zoltán International Music Competition is open to horn, trumpet and trombone players of any nationality, aged up to 30 on the opening day of the competition.

The applicants, who include musicians from the US, Colombia, Germany, Israel, Japan, China, Poland, and Azerbaijan, will take part in a video pre-selection before the three-round competition. Applicants will be informed of the results of the pre-selection by 3 March at the latest. This will also be the time to find out who will start the live competition from 5-13 July.

The jury of the Zoltán Kodály International Music Competition is chaired by Marie-Luise Neunecker and consists of Gábor Boldoczki, Abbie Conant, Frits Damrow, Gusztáv Hőna, Wim Van Hasselt and Szabolcs Zempléni.

The jury will select up to 18 competitors for the second round (at least 3 horn players, 3 trumpet players and 3 trombonists) and 6 for the final (at least 1 horn player, 1 trumpet player and 1 trombonist).

The composer of one of the compulsory pieces of the Zoltán Kodály International Music Competition, tuba player and composer Roland Szentpáli expressed his pleasure that this year the Kodály Competition will focus on several brass instruments at the same time, and emphasized that a prestigious international jury has been assembled, including not only the

foreign but also the Hungarian brass scene. As for the inclusion of a newly composed contemporary piece in the compulsory material, he said that 'this is a relatively well-established practice, and it can be very rewarding for a contestant to learn a piece that does not necessarily have to meet any stylistic expectations, nor have the sometimes different performing traditions been established.'

This is not the first time that Roland Szentpáli has been invited to compose for prestigious international competitions. His new piece, *Cover*, is inspired by the art of Zoltán Kodály, which he says is clearly focused on musical and technical challenges: 'it is a work that comes from within, in which the player can show himself in most aspects, and in the performance of which he can bring out his own musicality.'

The detailed rules and the repertoire of the €40,000 competition can be found [here](#).

The professional partner of the organiser, the Kodály Philharmonia Debrecen, is Jeunesses Musicales Hungary, the Hungarian branch of the world's largest youth music organisation. The Hungarian Academy of Arts, Hungaroton and Editions BIM have offered special prizes.