



Stichting
Willibrordusorgel

International Cesar Franck competition

Leidsevaart 146
NL 2014 HE HAARLEM
The Netherlands

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<https://willibrordusorgel.nl/category/cesar-franck-concours/>

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Press Release

17th International César Franck Competition 2026, St. Bavo's Cathedral and Basilica Haarlem, The Netherlands

Theme: César Franck and Louis Vierne

The 16th International César Franck Competition will take place on **14th, 16th and 18th April 2026** in the RC Cathedral and Basilica of St. Bavo in Haarlem, The Netherlands on the 'Willibrordus-organ' (Adema, 1923/1949/1971, 1978 85/IV/P). During the competition compositions of César Franck and Louis Vierne will be played.

The jury consists of: Vincent DUBOIS (Paris, France), Ignace MICHIELS (Bruges, Belgium) and Marcel VERHEGGEN (Maastricht, The Netherlands). They will give a recital on April 17th, 2026, at 8:15 p.m.

More information can be found at the website: <https://willibrordusorgel.nl/category/cesar-franck-concours/>

Preselection

Candidates are expected to send, **before February 1st, 2026**, a recording of **Pièce héroïque** (extr. of Trois Pièces) by César Franck

- as a WAV- or Mp3-file via wetransfer.com to info@cesarfranckconcours.nl.
- If this is not possible they can also send **before February 1st, 2026** a recording on CD-R, MiniDisk, DAT or audio cassette-tape to:

International César Franck Competition, Leidsevaart 146, 2014 HE Haarlem, The Netherlands.

The recordings have to be received by the organisation of the competition **before February 1st, 2026** and will be judged by a team of professional organists. Depending on the quality, a maximum of 10 candidates will be invited to participate in the first round on April, 14th, 2026. The results will be published before February 15th, 2026.

Selected candidates have to pay a fee of € 100,- by bank transfer before March 1st, 2026 without any charges for the receiver on IBAN: NL25 INGB 0003 7331 00 (BIC or SWIFT-code: INGBNL2A) of **Stichting Willibrordusorgel**, Haarlem, at ING-Bank with the mention: 'Cesar Franck Competition 2026'.

There are three rounds in the competition.

For the first round on Tuesday April 14th, 2026, starting at 10 a.m., the compulsory pieces are:

- César Franck: Prière op. 20 (extr. de Six Pièces)
- Louis Vierne, Scherzetto op. 31, nr. 14 (from: Pièces en style libre, livre 2)
- Louis Vierne, Naïades, op. 55, nr. 4 (from: Pièces de Fantaisie)

For the second round on Thursday April 16th, 2026, starting at 10 a.m., the compulsory pieces are:

- César Franck: Grande Pièce symphonique (extr. de Six Pièces)

For the final round on Saturday April 18th, 2026, starting at 3:30 p.m. the candidates have to prepare a program that contains:

- César Franck: *Trois Chorals* (all three of them; each candidate will play a choral at the choice of the jury)
- César Franck: Cantabile (extr. de Trois Pièces)
- Louis Vierne : the last movement of one of his six organ symphonies, chosen by the candidate

After the second round the jury will make a choice from these pieces to compose the program for the final round.

There are three prizes: 1st prize € 2.500,-, 2nd prize € 1.500,-, 3rd prize € 1.000,-.

There is also a prize of the audience of € 500,-. Finalists will be invited to give a recital in the series at Saturday afternoon in St.-Bavo's cathedral and basilica in Haarlem and the winner of the first prize also in the series at Sunday afternoon in 'De Duif' in Amsterdam.

[End of press release]