

INTERNATIONAL ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING COURSE CONVIMUS 2025

REGULATIONS

These regulations set out the terms and conditions for the **International Conducting Course**, part of CONVIMUS - International Music Festival in Porto, produced by the AMASING association and in collaboration with the AMASING Symphony Orchestra.

All participants accept that these Regulations may be amended at any time and without prior notice, whenever justified by force majeure, in which case the festival may adjust the format and rules of participation in the event in order to guarantee the health and safety conditions of all participants and other stakeholders.

Article 1

DESCRIPTION

In 2025, the AMASING association, in close collaboration with the Aldoar, Foz do Douro and Nevogilde Parish Council, is holding the 6th edition of CONVIMUS - International Music Festival, with conductor and violinist Eliseu Silva as artistic director. This year, CONVIMUS celebrates important milestones in Portuguese music, such as the 125th anniversary of Nicolau Medina Ribas, the 135th anniversary of Freitas Branco, the 100th anniversary of Carlos Paredes and Artur Napoleão and the 75th anniversary of Fernando Lapa and Christopher Lapa. This course was created with the aim of providing opportunities for young national and international artists, with a view to promoting the international careers of the young participants.

Registration deadline is June 30, 2025

Article 2

DATE AND PLACE OF THE COURSE

1. The International Orchestral Conducting Course will take place at the Lusíada University of Porto between **July 23 and 27, 2025**.
2. The more detailed calendar will be sent to each candidate by the end of **July 10** at the latest, via the e-mail address on the registration form.

Article 3

TEAM

1. The team is designated by the promoter AMASING and is made up of three people, all of whom are international personalities of recognized merit in the field of music.
2. The team is made up of:

Head Professor:

Volker Hartung - Internationally renowned conductor and Artistic Director of the Cologne New Philharmonic, he graduated from the Juilliard School and the California Institute of the Arts and was a disciple of the legendary Sergiu Celibidache. Throughout his career, he has conducted prestigious orchestras such as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic, the Rome Symphony and the Shanghai Philharmonic. He has also held the position of Director of Orchestral Studies at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore. His pedagogical approach combines the spiritual depth of the European tradition with the efficiency and clarity of the American method.

Assistant Professors:

Jacky Wong - Principal conductor of the Shenzhen Symphony Youth Orchestra, with an extensive career in Asia and Australia, award-winning pianist and conductor, trained in Hong Kong and Sydney.

Eliseu Silva - PhD Conductor with over 15 years' experience, Portuguese violinist and composer with an international career, artistic director of the CONVIMUS Festival and founding conductor of the AMASING Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted several orchestras, including concerts in Portugal, France, Slovakia and Hong Kong. With a doctorate and several award-winning recordings, he stands out for his pedagogical and artistic innovation.

Article 4

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the **CONVIMUS 2025 Orchestral Conducting Course** is to provide participants with intensive, structured training in orchestral conducting techniques, combining theoretical foundations, physical training and practical experience with live musicians. The training is aimed at beginners and advanced conductors, and is taught by an international faculty of excellence.

This course was conceived according to the pedagogical principles of conductor Volker Hartung, integrating decades of experience and a holistic approach to conductor

training, where technique, expressiveness and analytical preparation of the score are seen as a coherent and inseparable whole.

Specific Objectives

1. To develop technical conducting skills, with a focus on gestural precision, rhythmic articulation and musical expressiveness.
2. To apply gestural techniques to practice with ensembles, starting with piano, then string quintet and finally symphony orchestra and soloists.
3. Training non-verbal communication, exploring the use of the body, hands, baton and facial expression as essential tools for the conductor.
4. Deepen the reading and analysis of scores, with a special focus on the rhythmic and harmonic structure, form, dynamics and texture of the music.
5. Understand and apply 'score preparation' as the basis of effective musical direction, including formal analysis, simulated practice and interpretation decisions.
6. To enable participants to lead rehearsals and concerts with confidence and musicality, culminating in a final public performance.
7. Foster self-knowledge and critical reflection by recording and analysing rehearsals and performances.

Article 5

CONTENTS AND THEMES TO BE DEVELOPED

1. Baton techniques: posture, grip, fundamental movements.
2. Three- and four-stroke patterns; gestures for dynamics and articulations.
3. Entrance, attack, conducting and cutting of phrases.
4. Visual communication and stage presence.
5. Gestural codes for different styles: legato, marcato, staccato, etc.
6. Analytical preparation of the work:
 - Formal, rhythmic, harmonic and textural analysis
 - Style and spirit of the music
 - Decisions on time unit, agogic, articulation and character

Article 6

PEDAGOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

1. The course will be taught in Portuguese and English, ensuring accessibility for national and international participants.

2. The Advanced Training in Orchestral Conducting will take place in person, integrating theoretical and practical components, on the premises of Universidade Lusíada do Porto.
3. Phase 1 corresponds to theoretical training, with a total of 12 hours dedicated to conducting technique, musical analysis, music history and musical psychology.
4. The practical aspect will be developed progressively, with directed rehearsals with different musical formations: piano (Phase 2), string quintet (Phase 3) and symphony orchestra with soloists (Phases 4 and 5).
5. Each participant will have approximately 100 minutes on the podium, benefiting from individualised feedback after each session.
6. All rehearsal sessions will be recorded on video and then analysed together in dedicated sessions.
7. The training will culminate in a final concert open to the public, in which the participants will conduct musical excerpts previously selected by the candidate.

Article 7

COMPETENCES EXPECTED AT THE END OF THE COURSE

1. Ability to conduct clearly, expressively and effectively.
2. Mastery of essential rhythmic and gestural patterns.
3. Ability to communicate musical intentions to a real orchestra.
4. Knowledge of the analytical and interpretative fundamentals of a score.
5. Development of their own musical leadership style.

Article 8

REPERTOIRE TO BE WORKED ON DURING THE COURSE

1. Symphony No. 4 in C minor (string version), F. Mendelssohn
2. Two Melodies for String Orchestra, L. Freitas Branco (70 years since his death - Portugal's greatest symphonic composer)
3. Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major, KV. 218, W. A. Mozart
 - I. Allegro
4. Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, KV. 219, W. A. Mozart
 - I. Allegro
5. Souvenir d'Amitié, N. Medina Ribas (125 years since his death)
6. Romance Elegiaque, N. Medina Ribas (125 years since his death)
7. Sphinx Sonata for Symphony Orchestra, A. Napoleão (100 years since his death)

Article 9

ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES

1. Young conductors, musicians at the beginning of their careers, conducting students, pedagogues and professional musicians who wish to develop or deepen their musical leadership skills can apply for the International Conducting Course.
2. Applications are open to participants of all ages, with no age limit.
3. The number of places for active participants is limited to a maximum of **7**.
4. The number of places for listening to participants is unlimited.

Article 10

REQUIREMENTS

The application must include the following documents:

1. The applicant's Curriculum Vitae or Biographical Note containing personal, school and non-school information, such as their entire musical career, teachers, masterclasses, competitions, or relevant information.
2. Passport-size photograph (clear).
3. Photocopy of the applicant's identity card or ID card.
4. Letter of Motivation
5. Video (optional) of direction or performance
6. Other information that the candidate considers important.

Article 11

REGISTRATION

1. Entries must be submitted using the form on the website www.convimus.com by **30 June 2025**.
2. **Registration will only be considered once the registration fee has been paid and proof of payment** has been sent to geral@amasing.pt within 5 working days of registration.
3. Confirmation will be sent via the same email within 5 working days.

Article 12

PAYMENT OF REGISTRATION

1. The registration fee for active participants is **€550** and includes all lessons, both theoretical and practical, and the conducting of the AMASING Symphony Orchestra at

the CONVIMUS Closing Concert. The fee also includes an official certificate signed by the tutors of the International Conducting Course and endorsed by the CONVIMUS Festival and the AMASING Orchestra.

2. The registration fee for listening participants is **€200**.
3. Payment should be made by bank transfer to:

NAME OF BENEFICIARY: Associação Musical ASING
IBAN: PT50 0007 0000 0051 8807 3142 3
NIB: 0007 0000 0051 8807 3142 3
SWIFT/BIC: BESCPTPL
NAME OF BANK: NOVO BANCO
ADDRESS OF BANK: AVENIDA DA BOAVISTA 1354
EDIFÍCIO DOS MARISTAS 4100-114 PORTO
ADDRESS OF ASSOCIATION: RUA MARTIM MONIZ 722, 4100-322 PORTO

4. Proof of payment for registration must be sent to the following email address: geral@amasing.pt no later than **5 working days** after registration is submitted.

Article 13

FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

1. The festival programme can be consulted on the event page www.convimus.pt
2. The organisers reserve the right to change the programme without prior notice, up until the event's start date, and must always notify participants in writing.

Article 14

FOOD AND EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMPETITION

1. Meals such as lunches and dinners will not be provided for course participants.
3. It is the participant's responsibility to organise their meals according to the resources and food on offer during the event.
4. Participants are authorised to bring extra food to the event.
5. Participants will be responsible for travelling and accommodation costs.
6. The organisation may suggest nearby accommodation.

Article 15

CANCELLATION POLICY

1. Registration can be cancelled by sending an email to the organising team at geral@amasing.pt

2. In the event of withdrawal, the amount will not be refunded.

Article 16

PRIVACIDADE E DADOS PESSOAIS

1. All the personal details requested on the entry form must be filled in and are essential to validate participation in the course.
2. Any omission and/or inaccuracy of the data provided by participants is their sole responsibility and may invalidate their participation in the course.
3. Participants authorise the data provided to be collected and processed by AMASING for the purposes of the course and future communications about activities carried out by the association. Their confidentiality and security is guaranteed by the course organisers.
4. The organisation may make audiovisual recordings of the competitors' tests and other presentations as part of the competition for the purposes of registration and/or dissemination.
5. It is expressly forbidden for the public or participants to record or take photographs during the activities.
6. Enrolment in the CONVIMUS International Orchestral Conducting Course implies the transfer of the candidate's audiovisual rights.

Article 17

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Any application made after **30 June 2025** will not be accepted.
2. The organising team reserves the right to exclude any participant in the event of inappropriate conduct on their part.
3. The organising team reserves the right to exclude any participant if they are not present at any time during the event.

Article 18

OMITTED CASES AND FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The organisers reserve the right to decide on any omission or doubt in these regulations and all the points mentioned above, and their decision is irrevocable.
2. The organising team shall not be held liable for any material damage caused by any member of the team or participant, who shall be held responsible for any such damage and any penalties due.
3. The organising team cannot be held responsible in any way for the event not taking place or for any situation that may arise during the event.