



South African  
**Conductors'**  
**Competition**



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The 6th  
**South African**  
**Conductors' Competition**

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**CAPE TOWN**  
**PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
KAAPSTADSE FILHARMONIESE ORKES  
I-okhestra yomculo yaseKapa

# THE 6TH SOUTH AFRICAN Conductors' Competition

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Winning the **SA Conductors' Competitions** has helped five young musicians establish themselves as the new generation of South African conductors. The first three winners **Brandon Phillips (2010)**, **Xavier Cloete (2013)** and **Chad Hendricks (2016)** all benefited from specialized training in America with Maestro Victor Yampolsky, while **Schalk van der Merwe (2019)** and **Jacobus de Jager (2022)** benefited from working with Maestro Arjan Tien in the Netherlands. Originally established by **Len van Zyl** in collaboration with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra to fill a gap in the ongoing education of conductors, the competition owes much to its founder.

Van Zyl, an advertising executive with ties to the Philadelphia Orchestra, and Maestro Victor Yampolsky together with the CEO of the CPO, Louis Heyneman, crafted a process which involved master classes and competition rounds, with the finalists conducting the CPO in a symphony concert before a panel of judges. A written and aural theory examination is also included.

The competition is presided over by **Maestro Arjan Tien**, professor of conducting at Conservatorium of Amsterdam and Maastricht University, to offer the masterclasses and lead the adjudication.

The **preliminary rounds** will be held at the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre in Parow, Cape Town from **August 30 – September 1, 2024**. The **semi-finals** and **finals** will be held in **2025**.

Classical music is a very important pillar in the cultural life of any civilised community. While alive and well in South Africa, it needs all the support it can muster in order to ensure its continued success and growth and any financial support is gratefully acknowledged.



*Len van Zyl.  
Founder of the Conductor's Competition*

*"The competition has been proven to be an excellent project to develop young professional orchestral conductors in South Africa," says CEO Louis Heyneman.*

## MAESTRO

# Arjan Tien

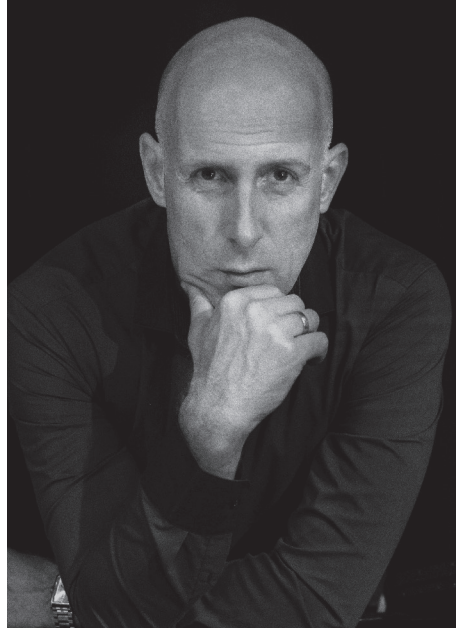
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Arjan Tien, winner of the first prize “Rotary Faller” at the competition of the International Conducting Master Class in La Chaux-de-Fonds – Switzerland, 1997, is widely considered to be one of the most versatile conductors of his generation. He performs in Europe, Asia, South America and Africa with internationally established orchestras such as the Residence Orchestra, the Radio Philharmonic, the North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, the WDR Funkhausorchester, Philharmonie Südwestfalen, Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, Dutch National Touring Opera, Wermland Opera – Karlstad (Sweden), the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra (Turkey), the Royal Life Guards (Denmark), the Guards (Finland), the Kyiv Symphony and the Cape Town, KZN and Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestras.

He served as the artistic director and principal conductor of the Magogo Chamber Orchestra from 2006 to 2012. From 2008 to 2016 he also was the principal conductor of the Atheneum Chamber Orchestra at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague. In 2017 the Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy and in 2021 the VU Orchestra (Amsterdam) both appointed him as principal conductor and artistic director.

Arjan Tien has released internationally critically acclaimed recordings on Decca Records, Channel Classics Records, Universal Music, Sony BMG – Heita Records and Brilliant Classics in a wide range of repertoire.

Tien is professor of conducting at the Conservatoire of Amsterdam and the Maastricht Conservatorium.



*Photo Credit: Helette Photography*

## SA CONDUCTORS' COMPETITION

# Laureates

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### Brandon Phillips 2010

Brandon Phillips, winner of the 1st Len van Zyl Conductors' Competition 2010, is head of woodwinds and orchestra at the University of Cape Town, having been the music director of the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra for many years. He is also resident conductor of the CPO. He is sought after to conduct all orchestras in South Africa and in 2023 conducted *Swan Lake* in Cape Town and Johannesburg with an international ballet cast.

### Xavier Cloete 2013

Cloete is a freelance conductor and bassoon player now based in Cape Town. He was lecturer in Orchestral Conducting Studies at UFS from 2014-2020 and Resident Conductor and Artistic Director of the Odeion School of Music (OSM) Camerata Orchestra at the same university from 2014-2018.

### Chad Hendricks 2016

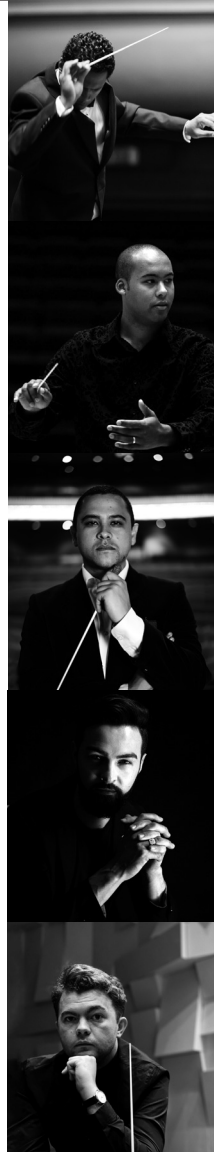
Hendricks is the music director of the Cape Town Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and a regular guest conductor of the CPO. He is an all-round conductor from symphony concerts to the recent Neo Muyanga's Requiem with Jazzart Dance Theatre. Highlights include conducting at the Kyknet Fiesta Awards, Verdi's Requiem and Starlight Classics.

### Schalk van der Merwe 2019

Conductor and Music Director of the University of Pretoria Symphony Orchestras, Van der Merwe also lectures at the university and conducts all orchestras in South Africa. Recent highlights include *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Cape Town Opera, recordings with the Gauteng Philharmonic and conducting in Amsterdam as a result of his prize.

### Jacobus de Jager 2022

De Jager, who is now completing his MMus in Conducting at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland with Martyn Brabbins, was also the first South African to reach the semi-finals of the Herbert von Karajan Conductors' Award in Salzburg. He was the resident conductor of the University of Stellenbosch Symphony Orchestra in 2022 and has conducted at the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival.



# RULES OF THE Competition

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## PARTICIPATION

The South African Conductors' Competition, which takes place every three years, is open to South African nationals who are not older than 33 on 1 January, 2025, the year of the finals, and who have undergone at least part of their music training in South Africa.

## THE PRIZE

Participants will compete for a single prize ... the title and an invitation to be a guest student in the conducting classes of Maestro Tien at the Conservatoire of Amsterdam and Conservatorium Maastricht in The Netherlands and assist him in symphony concerts with orchestras in the Netherlands. All travel and accommodation expenses for this trip will be paid by the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra. The winner will also be given the opportunity to conduct the CPO when it is deemed appropriate.

## THE ROUNDS

The competition will comprise pre-selection and preliminary rounds plus semi-finals and finals, the last with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra. Entries for the competition should be submitted no later than May 31, 2024. Pre-selection based on applications will take place by late June 2024, and selected candidates will be notified of the details of master classes and the first preliminary round, which will take place on August 30, 31 and September 1, 2024 at the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre in Parow. Candidates succeeding in the first round will be invited to return in 2025, for more master classes and the semi-final round. Finalists will be selected on September 1, 2024, by a panel of adjudicators to perform with the CPO at a public concert on a date to be announced in 2025. The masterclasses will be videotaped for the candidates' use.

## ADJUDICATION

The adjudicators for the prize will consist of a panel of leading experts not necessarily limited to **Arjan Tien, Bernhard Gueller, Richard Cock, Louis Heyneman** and some of the previous winners.

## REPERTOIRE

The repertoire will be:

### First round

**Verdi** *La Forza del Destino*

**Weber** *Oberon Overture*

**Beethoven** *Egmont Overture* performed with two pianos in first round (*all repertoire is available on ISMLP*).

### Semi-finals

**Beethoven** *Symphony no. 5 in c minor, Op 67, 1st mvt* (Bärenreiter edition)

**Mozart:** *Symphony No. 41 C, K551 "Jupiter", 1st mvt* (Bärenreiter/Neue Mozart Ausgabe)

**Mendelssohn:** *Symphony No. 4 in A, "Italian", Op. 90, 1st mvt* (Bärenreiter) with a string quartet and piano.

### Final round with the CPO

**Beethoven** *Symphony No. 5 1st mvt*

**Mozart** *Horn Concerto No. 4 in E flat, 1st mvt* (Bärenreiter Neue Mozart Ausgabe)

or

**Mendelssohn** *Italian Symphony 1st mvt*

**Koussevitzky** *Concerto for double bass in f-sharp minor, Op. 3, 1st mvt*

or

**Mozart** *Jupiter Symphony 1st mvt*

**Rossini** *"Una voce poco fa" from Il Barbiere di Siviglia.*

# RULES OF THE Competition

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## TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

All competitors who do not live within a 100 km radius of Cape Town will have their accommodation paid for the duration of the first round. Those selected for subsequent rounds / finals will also have their accommodation provided for the duration of their required stay if they live outside a 100 km radius of the city. Other competitors are responsible for their own transport costs to Cape Town but transport will be provided from the accommodation to the venue and back.

## CRITERIA FOR ADJUDICATION

The aim of the competition is to identify and promote young South Africans who will be the conductors of the future. Above passion and charisma, we are looking for the following traits, or the potential to expand them:

### 1. Musical skills

- Interpretation and understanding of the score and style
- Knowledge of performance practice of the repertoire
- General understanding of the context of the score, i.e. musical / cultural history
- Basic knowledge of orchestral repertoire, orchestration techniques, transposing instruments etc.

### 2. Communication skills

- Non-verbal skills, baton technique, left hand expression, facial expression and body language
- knowledge of orchestration made evident by means of communication (verbal & non-verbal)
- the ability to listen, react and anticipate during rehearsals and performance
- to use the above to musically facilitate the musicians and inspire them

### 3. Personal skills

- understanding of group psychology of the orchestra and how to deal with that
- self-confidence and assertiveness
- musical and social integrity
- to use all of the above, and above all, to make music

### 4. Written and aural examination

- General knowledge which will include Musical terms (German, Italian, French, English); Stylistic periods (from Baroque to Contemporary); Composers (periods) and main symphonic repertoire from Classical to Contemporary.
- Score preparation insight which will include Analysis (Sonata form, *Lied* form, Rondo form); Transpositions and instrument theory and personal process for score study
- Aural Training which includes rhythmical, interval, melodic and harmonic dictation
- A written personal motivation

## FURTHER RULES

The decisions of the organisers and of the Jury are final. Applicants must agree to abide by all the above regulations. Should the jury decide that the necessary standards have not been met, the organisers retain the right not to announce a winner. The organisers reserve the right of radio and television broadcast or for inclusion on any CD/DVD at any stage. Participants will receive no financial compensation for television, radio or video recordings and broadcasts of the competition, including international coverage. The winner will not be eligible to take part in future SA Conductors' Competitions.

## HOW TO SUBMIT AN

# Application

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### **APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:**

1. The completed application form (see next page)
2. A photocopy or scanned version of SA identity document
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Copies of academic qualifications
5. Any other documents providing proof of past work as musician and/or conductor
6. A recent high-res headshot

**There is no admission fee to enter the competition. No late entries will be accepted.**

Please note that the documents submitted as part of your entry will **not** be returned by the competition office. **Do not send original documents.** You may be required to present your original identity document(s) for verification at a later stage in the competition.

**APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO ARRIVE BY **MAY 31, 2024.****

**THE CLOSING DATE IS FINAL.**

### **APPLICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED BY HAND OR EMAIL**

6th South African Conductors' Competition  
Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra  
5th Floor, Artscape Theatre Centre  
DF Malan Street, Foreshore  
Cape Town, 8001

Email [shirley@cpo.org.za](mailto:shirley@cpo.org.za)

*The organizers reserve the right to make any changes necessary owing circumstances beyond their control.*

# Application Form

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## IDENTIFICATION

Family name: .....

First name(s): .....

Date of birth: .....

South African ID number: .....

## CONTACT DETAILS:

Address: (no, unit no, building) .....

Address: (street) .....

Address: (suburb/district) .....

Address: (city/town) ..... Postal code: .....

Tel: ..... Cell: .....

E-mail: .....

## QUALIFICATIONS & REFERENCES

Educational qualification(s): .....

Qualification obtained from: (institution) .....

Please provide the name and contact details of at least two references

Reference name 1: ..... Reference name 2: .....

Position: ..... Position: .....

Tel: ..... Tel: .....

Cell: ..... Cell: .....

Email: ..... Email: .....



