











« Vieuxtemps » Competition

From August 24 to 29, 1920, in commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Henry VIEUXTEMPS and on the initiative of his disciple Eugène YSAYË, a series of concerts is organized at the Grand-Théâtre of Verviers, in the presence of H.M. Queen Elisabeth of Belgium. A violin competition was part of this musical week. On August 25, 1920, on the occasion of this preliminary competition, a "QUEEN'S PRIZE" was awarded to the famous violinist Alfred DUBOIS, a pupil of Eugène YSAYË, then himself a teacher of the great Arthur GRUMIAUX. The "CONCOURS VIEUXTEMPS" was established three years later, after a donation was accepted and the rules of the competition were ratified by the town council

Instituted by royal decree on October 2, 1922 under the patronage of Queen Elisabeth and the municipal administration of Verviers, the first Vieuxtemps competition itself took place on February 16, 1923.

Until 2011, the Vieuxtemps Competition, organized every four years, has crowned among others: Carlo VAN NESTE, Arthur GRUMIAUX, Marcel DEBOT, Georges OCTORS, Pierre JETTEUR, Clémens QUATACKER, Henri-Emmanuel KOCH, Léopold DOUIN and Charles JONGEN, Ginette DE CUYPER, Eric MELON, Jean-Gabriel RAELET, Tatiana SAMOUÏL, finalist of the Queen Elisabeth Competition in 2001, Hrachya AVANESYAN, Claire DASSESSE (in 2011).

Since 2015 the "Henry Vieuxtemps" Competition is part of a trilogy. It is the most prestigious because the level is professional and international.

Trilogy of violin competitions

- "Vieuxtemps" Competition, open to violinists aged 26 years or younger at the time of the first round.
- "Deru" Competition, open to violinists who have obtained a distinction in a musical establishment subsidized by the Belgian public authorities, and who are no more than 23 years old on the date of the first round of the competition.
- The "Crickboom" competition is open to students up to the age of 18, enrolled in a music institution subsidized by the Belgian government.