

EARly 2026

HELSINKI, FINLAND
2-3 OCTOBER 2026
In collaboration with
Aria Borealis



Ensemble Duodeco, Lithuania. Photo: Pablo Palmieri

This is the eight edition of the competition EAR-ly since its inception in 2008. The overall aim of EAR-ly is to stimulate an interest in early music among students and young professional musicians and to encourage the formation of new early music ensembles, particularly in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

- The winning ensemble will be awarded a prize of 30 000 SEK
- The winner will be invited to perform at one or more NORDEM member festivals

WHO CAN APPLY

- Ensembles with at least *three* and at most *eight* members (vocal, instrumental or mixed)
- Members must be citizens or residents of an EU/EEA country, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom
- All participants must be born no earlier than 1 January 1996
- Repertoire from the medieval, renaissance or baroque, with one work connected to the Nordic or Baltic
- Performances according to the principles of HIP (historically informed performance practice)

HOW TO APPLY

- **The application deadline is 23:59 (CET) on 15 June 2026**
- First round of competition is judged by video, finalists are determined by 30 June 2026
- For rules and details of how to apply, please visit www.nordem.org

FINALS

- Held in Helsinki, Finland on 2-3 October 2026 in collaboration with Aria Borealis
- Judged by an international jury
- Finalists will receive masterclasses and individual feedback from the jury.

For general inquiries, please contact Johan Löfving (NORDEM Secretary) at secretary@nordem.org