Musical competitions like the Eurovision Song Contest, the Grammy Awards or the Pulitzer Prize for Music are not just a focal phenomenon of contemporary musical life. As early as the 19th century, competitions in the musical field were a widespread practice and received increased attention by the public. A glimpse into this time period reveals a heterogeneous landscape of music-related competitions and similar rivalries, which may refer to compositions, performances, instrument-making, libretti, poetry, musicological writing, etc. Although competitions were omnipresent in 19th century musical life, they did not – with a few exceptions like the Prix de Rome – inscribe themselves into cultural memory, and they have likewise scarcely been of a scholarly focus. The conference intends to address the diverse aesthetic discourses, social settings, as well as the actors and their economic, ideological or social motives involved in music competitions. Its goal is to bring international musicologists, historians and sociologists and their research together and to encourage further studies. In addition to an initial overview on competitions in 19th century music culture, the phenomenon will be theoretically examined and embedded into the interdisciplinary research discourse on questions concerning competitiveness.

The conference is open to the public. Participation is free of charge.
Program

FRIDAY, 28.06.2019

9:00 Application / welcome reception
9:30 Opening

Panel I: Conceptual Approaches
Chair: Wiebke Rademacher (Universität zu Köln)

9:45 Competition from the Perspective of Social and Cultural History: Questions and Prospects
   Ralph Jessen (Universität zu Köln)
10:30 What’s Wrong with Ambition? – The Politics of Performance in Fin-de-Siècle Germany
   Nina Verheyen (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen)
11:15 Coffee break
11:30 Competition in the Arts. Sociological Remarks
   Tobias Werron (Universität Bielefeld)
12:15 Introduction to the Database ‘Musikalische Preisausschreiben, 1820–1870’
   Carola Bebermeier, Clemens Kreutzfeldt (both Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien), Jonas Traudes, Aleksander Marcic (both Universität zu Köln)

12:45 Lunch

Panel II: Institutional Forces
Chair: Andreas Domann (Universität zu Köln)

14:00 Competition Cultures at the World Exhibitions of the Nineteenth Century
   Signe Rotter-Broman (Universität der Künste Berlin)
14:45 Musical Competitions as Opportunities for Professionalization? Female Violinists at the Conservatory of the ‘Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde’ in Vienna
   Annkatrin Babbe (Sophie Drinker Institut Bremen)
15:30 Coffee break
16:00 In Search of Italian Chamber Music. ‘Concorso-Basevi’ as a Promoter of National Music Culture
   Carola Bebermeier (Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien)
16:45 Catch and Glee Club Prizes in the Long Nineteenth Century: Nurturing a ‘National Music’
   Chris Price (Canterbury Christ Church University)

17:30 Break

20:00 Lecture concert
   (at Trinitatis Church, Filzengraben 4)
   Vom »Sängerkrieg« der Männerchöre – Gesprächskonzert zur Geschichte der Chorwettbewerbe im 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhundert
   Ensemble Vocapella Limburg und Christoph Müller-Oberhäuser (Universität zu Köln)

SATURDAY, 29.06.2019

Panel III: Nationalism and Civil Society
Chair: Evelyn Buyken (Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln)

9:30 Competing for the Nation: Competition as a Driving Force of Musical Culture and Civil Society in the Long Nineteenth Century
   Kristin van Geel-Moore (Universiteit van Amsterdam)
10:15 Competing with the Entire Musical World: Ambitions, Policies, and Results in the Composition Contests of the Dutch Society for the Promotion of Music (1829–1879)
   Jeroen van Gessel (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

11:00 Coffee break
   Lucio Tufano (Università degli Studi di Palermo)
12:00 Nineteenth-Century Musical Competitions
   Frank Hentschel (Universität zu Köln)
12:45 Lunch

Panel IV: Criticism and Legitimation
Chair: Andreas Stynen (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

14:00 Musical Competitions in Antebellum New York City
   Clemens Kreutzfeldt (Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien)
14:45 Musical Societies in Roubaix in the 1890s: Refusing Musical Competition, Promoting Social Revolution
   Sophie-Anne Leterrier (Université d’Artois, Arras)
15:30 Coffee break
16:00 Competitions and the State as a Topic in Nineteenth-Century French Musical Press
   Jonas Traudes (Universität zu Köln)
16:45 Final discussion