



**P R I X
D E
L A U S A N N E**

Press release

**Prix de Lausanne 2026
Young Creation Award 2026 winners**

International ballet competition for young dancers - Beaulieu Lausanne

Lausanne, 4 February 2026: For the sixth consecutive year, numerous students from our partner schools have embarked on solo choreographic creation for the Young Creation Award. During an evening entirely dedicated to choreographic projects, two young choreographers were awarded the Young Creation Award for their respective original choreography, presented to the Jury and the audience at the Beaulieu Theatre. The evening concluded with a public rehearsal of the Partner School Choreographic Project, giving the audience the chance to discover an original piece by choreographer Edwaard Liang, featuring 27 young dancers.

The winners of the Young Creation Award 2026

61 young choreographers (42 girls and 19 boys) from 19 partner schools of the Prix de Lausanne submitted their applications for the sixth edition of the Young Creation Award. After a video selection of the submitted choreographies, five choreographers were chosen to come to Lausanne with their dancers to refine their coaching and finalise their creation under the supervision of professionals. The five finalists presented their original creations this evening, with a student from their school dancing. The purpose of this choreographic competition, held alongside the Prix de Lausanne, is not only to stimulate choreographic creation but also to introduce young dancers to the art of coaching in preparation for a career in choreography.

The two winners of the 2026 edition are:

- **Max Cowan** (Ireland), from the School of the Hamburg Ballet, with the variation *Ritual*
Dancer: Quetzalcoatl Flores Cardeña
Music: *African Food Truck*, Sahara Skyli

- **Kyra Wentzlaff** (United States), from the School of the Hamburg Ballet, with the variation *Tidal*

Dancer: Paolo Leanza

Music: *Melting Glass*, Eden Avery

Their creations will be integrated into the repertoire of contemporary variations for the Prix de Lausanne 2026 for future candidates. The two choreographers will be invited to the next Prix de Lausanne to coach the candidates who choose to perform their work.

These two winning variations will be showcased again during the Interlude of the Finals this Saturday, 7 February, and during the **Rising Stars** performance on Sunday, 8 February 2026.

Partner School Choreographic Project

Following the Young Creation Award, the audience at the Beaulieu Theatre attended the public rehearsal of the Partner School Choreographic Project. In just one week, choreographer Edwaard Liang created and rehearsed an original piece with 27 young dancers from our partner schools. The result of their work will be presented during the Finals' Interlude and during the **Rising Stars** performance.

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The Prix de Lausanne follows the development of future dance talents throughout the year through various activities which culminates into the most prestigious classical ballet competition in the world. The first edition of the competition, designed for 15 to 18-year-old dancers, took place in 1973. Since then, it has become a major annual event in the dance sphere on a worldwide scale, and its goal remains unchanged: to identify, promote and help the best young dance talents around the world. Today, after 50 editions, the Prix de Lausanne is considered the most prestigious ballet competition on an international level and the foundation upholding and organising it has morphed into a wide scale charity, well beyond the initial event. We support the most promising young talents throughout the year through various education and training activities. The Prix de Lausanne allows them to live a unique experience that will serve them throughout their career. As a development partner, we provide them with a healthy environment to reach their full potential. That is why we have developed a vast network of partners to strive for excellence in this exceptional artistic dance field.

