



Rules for the 2026 Chamber Music Competition

Art. I

The competition is open to chamber music ensembles from trios to sextet, for strings or strings and piano (or harp), or also with one wind instrument (ex. string quartet with clarinet / trio with flute, viola and harp / quartet with clarinet, violin, cello and piano, etc.) with members of any nationality.

The *average age* of each member – of any nationality – cannot exceed *30 years* (*maximum individual age 33 years*). None of the ensemble members can be over *33 years old* (they have to be born after 1.1.1993). The jury reserves the right to make small exceptions.

All members must play in all pieces.

Art. II

a) Programme for the first round

Video recording uploaded on a private channel (i.e. youtube, vimeo, etc.), indicating on the application form the link, with place and date of the recording.

The repertoire presented must be original and correspond to the following details:

- a) Contain at least two pieces from different periods and styles: one composed before 1900, and one piece composed after 1900.
- b) The total duration of the programme must be about 40-60 minutes.
- c) The recording must be integral (not edited or cut in the pieces. Cuts are possible only between pieces or between movements) and not older than one year.

In the first round, the programme may include also single movements if the piece is too long.

In the second and third rounds, the pieces must be complete.

b) Programme for the second round (semi-final)

Two or more freely chosen pieces, at least one of them composed before 1900 and at least one composed after 1900.

The total duration of the programme must be between 20 and 40 minutes.

During the second round, the jury may request to hear only part of the chosen programme.

c) Programme for the third round (final)

Freely chosen concert programme of max 50 minutes without a break.

Only original parts are allowed, no photocopies.

In the second round, it is permitted to play the same pieces presented for the first round (recording). For the final round the choice of the programme is free.



Art. III

Applications must be received by the Competition Office of the GIANNI BERGAMO CLASSIC MUSIC AWARD no later than **15 June 2026** (date of reception) per email to info@giannibergamoaward.ch

The applications must contain:

- a) The duly completed registration form
- b) A colour photo of the ensemble
- c) A photocopy of the passport or other identity document of each member of the ensemble
- d) Short curriculum vitae (résumé) in Italian or English (max. one A4 page) of the ensemble and of each member
- e) the scores of the recorded pieces in pdf format
- f) programme of the competition (first, second and third rounds, see Art. II) specifying the duration of each piece.

Incomplete applications will be rejected. Documents and musical material sent will not be returned.

We do not request any enrolment or participation fee.

Art. IV

The members of the jury are:

- Gianni Bergamo
- Fabio Bonizzoni
- Jürg Dähler
- Giulia Genini
- Daniel Rowland

The organizers reserve the right to substitute one or more jurors.

If, in the two years before the beginning of the competition, a member of the jury has taught any of the applicants, an internal rule, defined by the jury at the beginning of the competition, will be applied. At the beginning of the competition, each jury member must submit a declaration about his/her own relationship with the applicants, according to the above-mentioned decision.

The jury evaluates and selects the participants according to these regulations and according to the internal procedures determined in accordance with the official regulations.

The voting procedure for the second and third rounds is open within the jury; the decisions are determined by a majority of the votes. The decisions of the individual jury members are not made public outside of the jury.

The participants are not allowed to contact jury members at any time while they are in the competition.



Art. V

A core group of the jury will make the first selection. The results of the first round should be communicated no later than 15 July 2026. The decisions of the jury are indisputable; no justification will be given.

The applicants admitted to the competition will receive a written confirmation with detailed information regarding the development of the next rounds. Foreign participants who need a visa in order to enter Switzerland can apply for the visa using the above-mentioned confirmation.

The participants admitted must send the pieces for the second and third round to the Competition Office in pdf format not later than 31 July 2026.

Art. VI

The competition (2nd round – semi-final and 3rd round – final) will take place in Lugano from 9 to 11 September 2026.

Each participant must arrive and register in person at the Competition Office on the day of the group's performance with a valid identity document. The date and time will be communicated no later than 31 July 2026.

The participants must be readily available during the entire period of time in which they are in competition. Participants must avoid any kind of professional engagement or concert for the entire duration of the competition (2nd and 3rd round).

Any group which takes part in the competition (regularly invited by the Competition Office) but for any reason does not satisfy all conditions of the rules of the competition, immediately loses the right to take part in the competition and to any reimbursement.

For all rounds of the competition, the participants' travel, room and board are at their own expense.

The Organization is available for any information and also assistance in booking accommodation, if necessary.

Each group admitted to the second turn will receive a forfeit amount (CHF 120 per person) to partially cover travel and accommodation expenses.

Art. VII

1st prize: Euro 12'000

2nd prize: Euro 8'000

3rd prize: Euro 5'000

The jury reserves the right not to award the prizes or to assign them in a different way.

Art. VIII

The competition organisation will do its best to find interesting performance opportunities for the winners. The winners are required to accept such engagements. For these concerts, no additional monetary compensation will be given.



Art. IX

The participants give their consent to radio and television broadcasts and transmissions as well as to any audio and video recordings which may be made during the competition performances, without incurring any additional obligation from the organizers.

Art. X

The organizers reserve the right to modify these regulations; any changes will be communicated to the participants in due course.

Art. XI

The decisions of the jury are final and binding. Entry in the competition implies full acceptance of the jury's decisions and of these regulations.

Art. XII

The competition rules in the Italian language shall be legally binding.

Participants waive all rights to initiate legal proceedings against the decision of the jury.

For any details not included in these competition rules, the Swiss Code of Obligations (Codice svizzero delle obbligazioni) and the specific laws are binding.

For additional information, please contact:

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