

Violin Edition 2026

Lugano International Music Awards

August 14 - 17, 2026

Application Deadline: July 10, 2026

Official Website www.lismc.com

Contact : Competition@lismc.com

Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana

Via Soldino 9

6900 Lugano, Switzerland

Lugano International Music Awards

2026 Violin Competition

Celebrating the next generation of musical excellence.

About the Competition

Competition Details

Event: Lugano International Music Awards

Year: 2026

Instrument: Violin

Venue: Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana, Lugano, Switzerland

Two Divisions

The competition is organized into two main divisions: the **Professional Division**, intended for young musicians and advanced performers with high artistic and technical ability, and the **Open Division**, welcoming participants across a wide range of age groups from children to adult amateurs.

Key Dates

August 13 — Professional Registration

August 14 — Rehearsals (Professional) / Open Registration & Rehearsals

August 15 — Professional Semi-Finals / Open Rehearsals

August 16 — Professional Final Rehearsal / Open Division Final

August 17 — Professional Finals & Awards Ceremony



Open Division Schedule

August 14 — Registration



Participants advancing to the Final Round must complete on-site registration within the designated time. Registration includes identity confirmation, confirmation of performance order, and accompaniment arrangements (if applicable). The detailed rehearsal schedule and final performance order will be announced on the same day.

August 15 — Rehearsal with Pianists



Participants rehearse with the designated piano accompanist according to the time schedule arranged by the organizing committee. Each participant receives an assigned rehearsal slot to ensure fairness and sufficient preparation time.

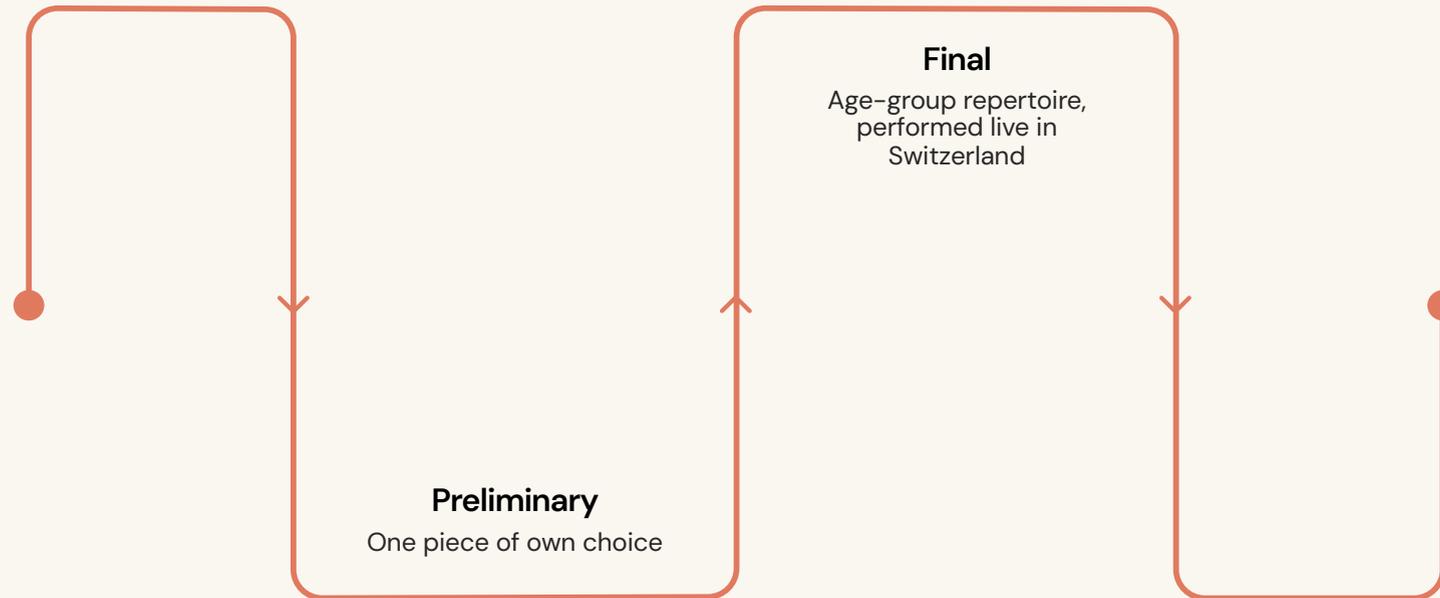
August 16 — Open Division Final Round



The Open Division Final is held as a live performance event. Participants perform according to their respective age categories. The Jury conducts on-site evaluation. Awards for each category are announced following the completion of all performances.

 **General Notes:** All participants must strictly follow the official schedule. Failure to attend rehearsals or sessions on time may result in disqualification. Specific venue arrangements and performance order will be announced prior to the competition. The organizing committee reserves the final right of interpretation of the competition process.

Open Division — Repertoire Requirements



The Open Category consists of two rounds: the **Preliminary Round** and the **Final Round**. Participants are grouped by age, each with tailored repertoire requirements.

01

Preliminary Round

One piece of own choice. Style is unrestricted — etude, solo piece, or concerto excerpt. May be performed with piano accompaniment or unaccompanied. Arranged versions are permitted.

02

Final Round — Children A & B / Junior A

Children A (8 and under), **Children B** (9–11), and **Junior A** (12–14): one piece of own choice. Repertoire may include an elementary concerto, character piece, etude, or works of different styles.

03

Final Round — Junior B & Youth

Junior B (15–17) and **Youth** (18–22): one Etude plus one piece or one movement from a concerto.

04

Final Round — Adult Amateur

Adult Amateur (23 and above): all repertoire must be performed from memory. Piano accompaniment is allowed. The organizer reserves the right to control performance duration.



Open Division — Awards & Contact

Open Division Prizes

Absolute First Prize (100/100): Diploma + Scholarship — Category A: CHF 100 / B: CHF 150 / C: CHF 200 / D: CHF 250 / E: CHF 300.

- **1st Prize:** Score 95–99 — Diploma of First Place
- **2nd Prize:** Score 90–94 — Diploma of Second Place
- **3rd Prize:** Score 85–89 — Diploma of Third Place
- **Diploma of Merit:** Score 80–84

All other contestants receive a **Participation Diploma**. Additional awards include the **Audience Prize** and **Jury Special Mention**.

Absolute First Prize winners are invited to the 2027 Opening Concert; 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prize winners to the 2027 Festival Concert Series.

Rules & Contact

Registration implies full acceptance of the Competition Rules and any amendments made by the Artistic Direction. For any dispute, the competent court is the **Court of Lugano, Switzerland**.

Personal data provided during registration is processed solely for competition administration purposes, in compliance with the Swiss **Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP)**.



Professional Division Schedule



Aug 13 — Registration

All finalists must complete on-site registration: identity confirmation, collection of materials, issuance of credentials, confirmation of competition order, and accompaniment arrangements. The official schedule and rehearsal instructions will be announced on the same day.



Aug 14 — Rehearsal with Pianists

Official rehearsal day. Finalists rehearse with the assigned piano accompanist according to the scheduled time. Slots are coordinated to ensure fairness and equal preparation time. The Semi-Final performance order is confirmed after rehearsals.



Aug 15 — Semi-Finals

Held as a live public concert. Contestants perform in the order determined by drawing lots. The Jury evaluates in accordance with competition regulations. Finalists are announced on the same day.



Aug 16 — Final Rehearsal

Finalists hold their final on-stage rehearsal. The organizing committee allocates specific time slots for adaptive rehearsals. All rehearsals must take place within the officially designated schedule.



Aug 17 — Finals & Awards

The Final Round is held as a public concert. After performances, the Jury confirms prize winners and a formal Awards Ceremony follows with trophies, certificates, and scholarships. Open to the public as a major festival event.



Professional Division — Repertoire

1

Round I: Preliminary (Online + Offline)

Applicable to all groups: one **Etude or Caprice**, plus one **work of the candidate's own choice** demonstrating both technical ability and musical contrast (solo work or concerto).

2

Round II: Semifinal (Live in Lugano)

Group A (12 and under): one Etude or Caprice + one movement from a Bach concerto.

Group B (13–18): one Etude or Caprice + one movement from a work by Mozart (sonata or concerto).

Group C (19–28): one movement from a Bach unaccompanied work + the first movement of a violin sonata.

3

Round III: Final Round

Group A (12 and under): **present one work of own choice and one movement from a concerto.**

Group B (13–18): **present one work of own choice and one movement from a concerto.**

Group C (19–28): **one virtuosic work and the first movement of a 19th- or 20th-century violin concerto.**

★★★★★ 3/3

Category

The Professional Division comprises three age groups — A (12 and under), B (under 18), and C (under 28) — each with progressively demanding repertoire across three competitive rounds.

Professional Division — Awards

The Professional Division recognizes exceptional talent across multiple award categories, from official prizes to special distinctions granted at the Jury's discretion.



Official Prizes

Each category awards a **1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prize**. All winners receive an Official Competition Certificate and a Medal of Distinction.



Audience Prize

Awarded to the finalist receiving the highest number of audience votes.



Outstanding Talent Award

The most outstanding Professional Division candidate receives an invitation to the Academy entrance examination and a scholarship of **CHF 3,000** upon successful enrolment. Granted at the Jury's discretion.



Best Artistic Interpretation

Awarded to the candidate demonstrating outstanding stylistic awareness and artistic maturity.



Founder's Award

Sponsored by **Zhen Xu**, this award recognizes exceptional artistic individuality, interpretative depth, and a distinctive musical vision. **Cash Prize: EUR 1,000.**



Best Concerto Performance

Awarded to the candidate presenting the most distinguished concerto performance in the Final Round.

1st Prize winners of each category are invited to perform at the **Opening Concert of the 2027 Competition**.

2nd and 3rd Prize winners are invited to perform in the **2027 Festival Concert Series**. Concert invitations are subject to artistic planning and scheduling.

Registration

Registration Steps

- Step 1:** Visit the official website: www.lismc.com
- Step 2:** Review payment information and complete the application fee payment.
- Step 3:** Fill in and submit the official online registration form.
- Step 4:** Upload proof of payment (screenshot or valid transfer confirmation).
- Step 5:** Submit the preliminary round video per the requirements below.
- Step 6:** From 20 July, receive e-mail notification of preliminary round results.
- Step 7:** Admitted candidates complete on-site registration per the official schedule.

Application Deadline: 10 July

Preliminary Round Result Notifications: From 20 July by e-mail

Preliminary Round Video Requirements

- **General:** Recent recording made specifically for the competition; one continuous take per work; no editing, audio enhancement, or post-production.
- **Performance Conditions:** Face and both hands must be clearly visible throughout; instrument and posture clearly shown; candidate must remain the main focus.
- **Repertoire:** Must contain the required preliminary round repertoire performed in the candidate's chosen order.
- **Authenticity:** Must faithfully represent the candidate's current artistic and technical level. Any manipulation may result in disqualification.
- **Submission:** Submit in the format indicated on the official registration page; ensure video link or file is accessible at time of review.

Contact

Lugano International Music Awards
Via Soldino 9, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland
E-mail: competition@lismc.com
Website: www.lismc.com