
cello
horn
voice

31 mar
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covilhã

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18-30

applications
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nov.26



JÚLIO CARDONA

INTERNACIONAL
MUSIC
COMPETITION

Com o apoio de:



Fundação "la Caixa"

covilhacriativa.com/concursojuliodcardona



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GENERAL TERMS AND SCHEDULE

1. The second edition of the Julio Cardona International Music Competition, promoted and organised by the Municipality of Covilhã, will take place from 31 March to 4 April 2027.
2. The competition is dedicated to Julio Cardona (1879–1950), a native of Covilhã and one of the most distinguished Portuguese violinists of the twentieth century, renowned for his prestigious career as both performer and educator. Alongside the promotion and recognition of young musical talents, the competition's primary objective is to revive and expand the memory and legacy of one of the greatest cultural ambassadors of the host city.
3. The competition takes place in Covilhã and is open to musicians of all nationalities who are at least 18 years old (on 31 March 2027) and no older than 30 years old (on 4 April 2027). All performances are open to the public and the admission is free.
4. The competition comprises the following categories:
 - Cello;**
 - Horn;**
 - Voice.**
5. Each category consists of three compulsory rounds:
 - Pre-selection (video submission):** 1–30 November 2026;
 - Main Round (live):** maximum of 8 participants (31 March–2 April 2027);
 - Final Round (live):** maximum of 3 participants (3 April 2027).

PRIZES

1. The following prizes, awarded by a specialised jury, are available in each category:
 - First Prize: €2,500**
 - Second Prize: €1,000**
 - Possible Honourable Mentions**
2. In addition to the prizes listed above, the jury may award the following special prizes:
 - Prémio Solista:** the First Prize winner in each category will have the opportunity to perform as a soloist with one of the following professional Portuguese orchestras in 2028: Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa, Orquestra do Algarve, Orquestra Filarmonia das Beiras, Orquestra Clássica do Centro and Orquestra do Norte. These projects will be coordinated jointly between the orchestras and the Julio Cardona International Music Competition.
 - Prémio AVA Musical Editions:** a special prize for the best performance, in each category, of the compulsory unpublished work by a Portuguese woman composer. Award: voucher for the purchase of sheet music from the publisher's catalogue. Value per category: €300.
 - Prémio Cidade da Covilhã:** Awarded by public vote to one of the First Prize winners during the Laureates' Concert on 4 April 2027. Prize value: €1,000.

REGISTRATION

1. Registration deadline: 30 November 2026.

2. Registration must be completed between 1 and 30 November 2026 via:

<https://covilhacriativa.com/concursojuliocardona/>

3. The following documents must be submitted upon registration:

Completed application form, including the repertoire selected for all three rounds of the competition;

Copy of passport or national identity card (valid at least until April 2027);

Artistic curriculum vitae in continuous text format (1400–1600 characters including spaces);

Recent artistic photograph (JPG format, colour, high resolution 300 dpi, copyright-free);

Required repertoire for the Pre-selection Round, recorded on video, subject to the following requirements:

a) Two files, one for each required work, in MP4 format, maximum 1 GB per file, identified by the competitor's first name, surname, instrument and composer (for example: maria_santos_horn_gliere.mp4);

b) Links must be included in the application form and the corresponding files must be downloadable through a transfer service (e.g. WeTransfer, SendAnywhere, SwissTransfer, etc.) or cloud storage service (e.g. Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.). Links to YouTube or similar streaming platforms will not be accepted;

c) Good audio and video quality, front-facing view using a single fixed camera, with the competitor fully visible throughout the recording;

d) Each required work must be recorded in a single uninterrupted take, without editing;

e) Recordings must have been made no more than six months before the registration date;

f) Recordings of public performances are permitted, provided they comply with the above requirements;

g) The required repertoire may be consulted in the Repertoire section;

h) Proof of payment of the registration fee of €50, free of bank charges to the beneficiary.

The registration fee is non-refundable in the event of withdrawal and must be transferred to the following bank account:

Bank: BPI

Account Holder: Municipality of Covilhã

Reference: CIMJC + Competitor's Name

BIC (SWIFT): BBPIPTPL

IBAN: PT50 0010 0000 1896 5910 1173 8

4. Incomplete applications or applications that do not comply with the competition regulations will be rejected. Submitted documents will not be returned.

ADMISSION

1. The jury's decision following the Pre-selection Round, determining admission to the Main Round, will be communicated to applicants by the end of December 2026.

The final admission lists may include up to three reserve candidates, who may be invited to participate in the event of withdrawal by admitted competitors.

2. Competitors admitted to the Main Round must pay an admission fee of €50, free of bank charges to the beneficiary.

This fee is non-refundable in the event of withdrawal and must be transferred to the bank account indicated under Registration, within 14 days of written notification of admission.

REPERTOIRE

1. The repertoire list and competition programme submitted by competitors are binding. Subsequent changes are not permitted.

2. Certain requirements apply exclusively to specific categories (for example, compulsory performance from memory).

3. Competitors must calculate the duration of their programme as accurately as possible, to ensure compliance with the minimum and maximum durations established for each round.

4. The compulsory works for the Finals in each category are exclusive commissions of the Julio Cardona International Music Competition and may not be publicly performed before the competition.

5. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in penalties or disqualification.

**CELLO
HORN
VOICE**

CELLO

In the Cello category, Section 2 of the Final Round must be performed by memory. In all other sections or rounds, performing by memory is not required.

PRE-SELECTION – VIDEO SUBMISSION (TOTAL DURATION: 10–20 MINUTES)

1. J. S. Bach: Prelude, Sarabande and Gigue from one of the following Suites for Solo Cello:
BWV 1007 in G major
BWV 1008 in D minor
BWV 1009 in C major
2. One virtuoso work of the candidate's choice with piano accompaniment, for example:
K. Davydov: Am Springbrunnen, Op. 20 No. 2
D. Popper: Elfentanz, Op. 39
P. Tchaikovsky: Pezzo Capriccioso, Op. 62
B. Martinů: Variations on a Theme by Rossini
etc.

MAIN ROUND (TOTAL DURATION: 35–45 MINUTES)

1. J. S. Bach: one Prelude from one of the following Suites for Solo Cello:
BWV 1010 in E-flat major
BWV 1011 in C minor
BWV 1012 in D major
2. One of the following works with piano accompaniment:
L. van Beethoven: Sonata No. 3 in A major, Op. 69
L. van Beethoven: Sonata No. 5 in D major, Op. 102 No. 2
F. Schubert: Sonata in A minor, D. 821 "Arpeggione"
J. Brahms: Sonata in E minor, Op. 38
J. Brahms: Sonata in F major, Op. 99
D. Shostakovich: Sonata in D minor, Op. 40
S. Prokofiev: Sonata in C major, Op. 119
F. Poulenc: Sonata, FP 143
B. Britten: Sonata in C major, Op. 65
3. One of the following solo works:
Z. Kodály: Sonata, Op. 8 – first movement
P. Hindemith: Sonata, Op. 25 No. 3
E. Ysaÿe: Sonata, Op. 28
G. Cassadó: Suite
L. Dallapiccola: Ciaccona, Intermezzo e Adagio
G. Ligeti: Sonata
G. Crumb: Sonata
H. Dutilleux: Trois Strophes sur le nom de Sacher
K. Penderecki: Divertimento

FINAL ROUND (TOTAL DURATION: 35–45 MINUTES)

1. Compulsory Solo Work:

Isabel Soveral: Ignis et Nebula (commissioned by CIMJC) (www.editions-ava.com)

2. One of the following works with piano accompaniment:

F. J. Haydn: Concerto No. 2 in D major, Hob. VIIb/2

R. Schumann: Concerto in A minor, Op. 129

A. Dvořák: Concerto in B minor, Op. 104*

E. Elgar: Concerto in E minor, Op. 85

S. Prokofiev: Sinfonia Concertante in E minor, Op. 125*

D. Shostakovich: Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major, Op. 107

D. Shostakovich: Concerto No. 2 in G major, Op. 126

S. Prokofiev: Sinfonia concertante em Mi menor, op. 125 *

D. Shostakovich: Concerto n. 1 em Mi bemol maior, op 107

D. Shostakovich: Concerto n. 2 em Sol maior, op. 126

* The CIMJC Artistic Direction will provide information in due course regarding certain tutti cuts, in order to ensure the maximum total duration of 45 minutes per competitor in the Final Round.

HORN

In the Horn category, Section 3 of the Final Round must be performed by memory. In all other sections or rounds, performing by memory is not required.

PRE-SELECTION – VIDEO SUBMISSION (TOTAL DURATION: 10–20 MINUTES)

1. R. Glière: First Movement with Cadenza from the Concerto in B major, Op. 90, with piano accompaniment.
2. One work of the candidate's choice, either solo or with piano accompaniment, which cannot form part of the programme selected for the Main Round or the Final Round.

MAIN ROUND (TOTAL DURATION: 30–40 MINUTES)

1. One of the following works with piano accompaniment:
 - F. J. Haydn: Concerto No. 1 in D major, H. VIId No. 3
 - G. Ponto: Concerto No. 5 in F major
 - W. A. Mozart: Concerto No. 4 in E-flat major, K. 495
 - A. Rosetti: Concerto in E-flat major, Murray C. 49 / Kaul III:36
2. R. Schumann: Adagio und Allegro, Op. 70, with piano accompaniment.
3. One of the following solo works:
 - O. Messiaen: Appel interstellaire
 - P. Maxwell Davies: Sea Eagle
 - H. Holliger: Cynddaredd – Brenddwyd (Fury – Dream)
 - K. Aho: Solo X
 - E.-P. Salonen: Konzert-Etüde 7'
 - A. Valero-Castells: Las Tres Rosas del Cementerio de Zaro
 - J. Widmann: Air

FINAL ROUND (TOTAL DURATION: 30–40 MINUTES)

1. Compulsory Solo Work:
 - Anne Victorino d'Almeida: Solitude for Horn, Op. 124 (commissioned by CIMJC)
(www.editions-ava.com)
2. One of the following works with piano accompaniment:
 - P. Dukas: Villanelle
 - H. Neuling: Bagatelle
 - E. Bozza: En Forêt
 - J. Françaix: Divertimento
3. R. Strauss: Concerto No. 2 in E-flat major, TrV 283, with piano accompaniment

VOICE

Competitors shall perform, throughout the various stages of the competition, repertoire appropriate to their voice type – Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, Countertenor, Tenor, Baritone or Bass – with piano accompaniment.

All works must be performed in their original language and original key.

The same work may not be repeated in different stages of the competition.

Recitatives, cabalettas and second sections of arias associated with the same character must be performed in full and together with the aria to which they are structurally linked. This rule does not apply to dialogues involving several characters.

In the Voice category, all rounds and sections, with the exception of Section 1 of the Final Round, must be performed by memory.

PRE-SELECTION – VIDEO SUBMISSION (TOTAL DURATION: approximately 10 MINUTES)

1. One aria
2. One song

Both works must represent different periods and languages and must be performed with piano accompaniment.

MAIN ROUND (TOTAL DURATION: 25–35 MINUTES)

1. One aria from a sacred work (oratorio, cantata, passion, mass, requiem, etc.)
2. One opera aria written up to and including the 18th century
3. One opera aria from the 19th or 20th century
4. One aria, song or couplet from an operetta or zarzuela
5. One song

The works of the Main Round must be performed with piano accompaniment in at least three different languages.

FINAL ROUND (TOTAL DURATION: 20–30 MINUTES)

1. Compulsory work in Portuguese, with piano accompaniment:
Ana Seara: O tempo, o mesmo tempo de si chora (commissioned by CIMJC)
(www.editions-ava.com)
2. One concert work (concert aria, choral-symphonic repertoire piece, song with orchestra, etc.)
3. One song
4. One opera aria

The works listed under points 2, 3 and 4 of the Final Round must be performed with piano accompaniment, represent at least two different musical periods and be performed in at least two different languages.

JURY

1. The jury of each category shall consist of the President of the Jury and the Artistic Director of the Competition, together with two other personalities of recognised international standing and reputation, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion or gender. The decisions of the jury are final and not subject to appeal.
2. In the event of a teaching relationship – maintained on a regular and continuous basis until less than one year before the beginning of the competition, excluding masterclasses – or a family relationship between a jury member and a competitor, the jury member concerned shall abstain from voting in relation to that competitor.

PARTICIPATION

1. Competitors must register in person at the Competition Office, located at the Municipal Theatre of Covilhã, by 6:00 p.m. on the day preceding the Main Round of their category, upon presentation of a valid passport or identity card. Each participant undertakes to remain free from professional commitments or obligations throughout the entire duration of the competition.
2. Competitors are responsible for making all travel and accommodation arrangements and for covering all related expenses. The competition organisation will recommend suitably located hotels and restaurants at reasonable prices to competitors admitted to the Main Round.

LAUREATES' CONCERT AND PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

1. The Laureates' Concert and Prize-Giving Ceremony for all categories will take place on 4 April 2027 at 3:00 p.m. The First Prize winner of each category, or the Second Prize winner(s) where no First Prize has been awarded in that category, shall perform a recital with piano accompaniment. The repertoire, selected from the programme presented by the laureate during the competition, shall be determined in co-ordination with the Artistic Direction of CIMJC following the announcement of the Final Round results.
2. Attendance at the Laureates' Concert is compulsory for all competitors who qualify for the Final Round of their category. Competitors participating in the Main Round must therefore arrange their travel and accommodation plans accordingly to ensure their presence at the Laureates' Concert.
3. The "City of Covilhã Prize", awarded by the audience during the Laureates' Concert, shall be contested exclusively by the First Prize winners of the different categories. Voting shall take place in person following their recital performances with piano accompaniment. Should only one First Prize be awarded across all categories, that laureate shall automatically be declared the winner of the "City of Covilhã Prize". If no First Prize is awarded in any of the three categories, the "City of Covilhã Prize" shall be contested by the Second Prize winners of each category during the Laureates' Concert and decided by audience vote.
4. The Prize-Giving Ceremony shall take place during the Laureates' Concert. Prize winners shall only be entitled to receive their prizes if they are present.

OUTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Official piano accompanists are available free of charge during the Main Rounds and Final Rounds. The competition organisation will provide competitors with a 45-minute rehearsal with the accompanist before the Main Round and a further 45-minute rehearsal before the Final Round. Competitors may bring their own piano accompanist; in which case they shall be fully responsible for their engagement and all related expenses.
2. The Main Round shall be conducted in alphabetical order according to the competitors' (last) surnames. Competitors shall be informed of their exact performance time at least one day in advance.
3. The order of performance of the programme in each round must follow the sequence established in the Repertoire section.
4. The competition strongly encourages competitors to use only original music scores and discourages photocopies or illegal reproductions. Urtext editions should be given preference.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. By submitting the application form, the competitor acknowledges acceptance of all rules and conditions of the competition set out in these Regulations, as well as the decisions of the jury.
2. Furthermore, the competitor consents to the processing of all personal data and photographs collected by the competition organisation in accordance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of 25 May), for the purposes of administering the competition.
3. The competition organisation reserves the right to record the Main Rounds and Final Rounds, in audio and/or video format, either partially or in their entirety, and to use such recordings for promotional purposes, public broadcasting and archival preservation, but never for commercial purposes. Competitors and their piano accompanists shall not be entitled to claim any remuneration in connection with such recordings and/or broadcasts.
4. The competition organisation accepts no responsibility for any costs arising from illness or accident, nor for any loss, theft or damage involving musical instruments or any other personal belongings of competitors during their stay in Covilhã. Competitors are responsible for arranging their own insurance coverage.
5. In cases of force majeure, the competition organisation reserves the right to modify any aspect of the competition. Any full or partial amendments shall be announced in due course, including the implementation of restrictions on public events or any other measures imposed by governmental authorities for reasons of public health and safety

CONTACT

All enquiries and requests for clarification must be submitted exclusively by electronic means to the following e-mail address: [juliocardona.covilha\(a\)gmail.com](mailto:juliocardona.covilha(a)gmail.com)