



# PREMIO PAGANINI INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION

=58<sup>TH</sup> EDITION PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH PROJECT=

2025



# HISTORY OF THE PREMIO

The attraction of Genoa is undoubtedly due to the name of Paganini (Genoa, 27<sup>th</sup> October 1782 – Nice 27<sup>th</sup> May 1840) and the “Premio” has become a prestigious event with international appeal. For the Genoese, this event has particular significance: not only cultural and artistic, but also emotional.

The idea of establishing it came about in 1940, to mark the first centenary of the death of the famous Genoese maestro: it was the music critic Carlo Marcello Rietmann who envisaged a competition for young violinists dedicated to Niccolò Paganini. The aim was to create an outstanding international violin competition that would give prestige to Genoa and allow new talents to be discovered. The outbreak of the Second World War prevented it from being set up until 1954 when the first edition was held.

The competition quickly established itself as **one of the most rigorous and prestigious at an international level.**

The first two editions ended without a winner. During the 1956 edition, which saw a tie between Gyorgy Pauk and Gerard Poulet, the foundations were put in place to establish the “World Federation of International Music Competitions” (WFIMC), which was set up the following year in Geneva, of which the Premio Paganini was a founding member.

In 1959 and 1967, the Premio was awarded by the Presidents of the Republic, Gronchi and Saragat.



# GENOA, PAGANINI AND HIS VIOLIN

Genoa is internationally recognised as the birthplace of Niccolò Paganini, who was born on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1782. He was famous throughout the world for having developed new violin techniques, expressing virtuosity through his favourite instrument. Paganini himself described it as **“my violin cannon”** due to the fullness of its sound, which was capable of transmitting extreme emotional tension during the performance. It was built in 1743 by the Cremonese violin maker Bartolomeo Giuseppe Guarneri (1698 - 1744), who was known as “del Gesù” (“of Jesus”) due to his practice of combining the sign of the cross with his signature. Paganini received it as a gift from an admirer, probably in 1802, and from that moment, it became almost a natural extension of himself. According to the custom of the time, he would play it without a chin rest, instead resting his chin directly on the bottom of the lower bout, which still bears signs of intense use. Paganini left it in his will to his city to be “perpetually preserved”.

Today it is kept in the Paganini rooms at the Palazzo Tursi and is entrusted to the care of the conservative luthiers, Bruce Carlson, Alberto Giordano and Pio Montanari.

On 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024, it was used at the concert held by Simon Zhu in London, with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Antonio Pappano, in the presence of His Majesty King Charles III.



# THE RELAUNCH PROJECT

The ambitious project to relaunch the Premio started in 2022 at the instigation of Mayor Marco Bucci who entrusted its administration to Prof. Giovanni Panebianco, advisor to the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers and former Secretary General of the Ministry of Culture.

This project aims to promote the figure of the maestro across the board: it is a relaunch inspired by the principle of **“renewing and preserving”**. On the one hand, it keeps intact the record of artistic excellence, which is typical of the Premio, and on the other, it uses new tools, methods and languages to involve the widest audience, especially young people, enhancing the ties with Genoa and promoting its extraordinary artistic-cultural heritage also abroad.

The first edition of the new competition once again attracts the attention of the highest institutions: the President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella grants High Patronage to the presentation event taking place in Paris at the Italian Embassy. The Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers recognises the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Paganini’s birth as a “date of national interest” and the Ministry of Economic Development has authorised the Italian postal system to issue a commemorative stamp.

The general guidelines of the Premio Paganini relaunch project were presented during the press conference held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 at the Reception Hall of Palazzo Tursi, the headquarters of the Municipality of Genoa. Shortly thereafter, the new Regulation was approved, which incorporated a series of important new developments. The competition takes place **every two years** and includes **collateral events and initiatives** both in Italy and abroad, also during the year in between editions, as well as the establishment of the “Premio Paganini Ambassadors”.



# GOVERNANCE

## **The Paganini Committee**

Giovanni Panebianco, President

Elvira Bonfanti (Palazzo Ducale)

Carlo Clavarino

Nicola Costa (Giovinetti Orchestra Genovese)

Enrico De Barbieri

Claudio Orazi (Teatro Carlo Felice)

Francesco Micheli

Martine Orsini

Luigi Giachino (Paganini Conservatory of Genoa)

## **Artistic Director**

Nicola Bruzzo

## **General Secretary**

Gloria Piaggio



# THE PAGANINI AMBASSADORS

Alberto II of Monaco

Amyr Aga Khan

Robert Allegrini

Sylvain Bellenger

Irène Cantacuzene

Giacomo Cattaneo Adorno

Irene Cervellera

Maria Cristina Croce

Emanuela D'Alessandro

Daniela d'Amelio

Enrico De Barbieri

Emmanuel Ducamp

Caterina Fasolini

Yasunori Gunji

Inigo Lambertini

Gianni Letta

Davide Livermore

Giandomenico Magliano (date tbd)

Giovanni Malagò

Fernanda Medici Giulini

Paolo Momigliano

Jos Bendinelli Negrone

Niccolò Paganini jr.

Domenico Antonio Pallavicino

Antonio Pappano

Carlo Perrone

Ermindo Polidori

Melania Rizzoli

Nuria Sanz-Gallego

Aimone di Savoia-Aosta

Federica Tittarelli Cerasi

Carlos Zurita



# THE 57<sup>TH</sup> EDITION IN FIGURES

**117** - the number of applications received from violinists from 31 countries around the world. The highest number in the history of the Premio Paganini.

**104** - the number of violinists who took part in the pre-selections in Guangzhou, New York, Tokyo, Prague and Genoa where, for the first time, the pre-selection took place at the “Niccolò Paganini” Conservatory.

**70** - the number of prize concerts offered to the winner of the 57<sup>th</sup> edition by the main Italian musical institutions, the first of which is the Teatro alla Scala in Milan.

**1,400** - tickets booked by the public to attend the final on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Teatro Carlo Felice.

**22,943** - live streaming views of the semi-finals and finals.

**11,521** - spectators (in attendance and streaming) for the Grand Finale on 27<sup>th</sup> October. For the first time, the two days of the semi-finals were also streamed, in line with the standards of other international music competitions, whereas in the past only the final was broadcast. In addition to the Youtube channel @Genovamorethanthis, the streaming was also broadcast on Violin Channel (USA) and Amadeus TV (China).

**Over 1 million** - interactions on the Premio's social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) in just one year - activation date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022.



# EVENTS RUNNING UP TO THE 58<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

## **23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 - Paris**

Concert at the Louvre Museum by Simon Zhu, winner of the 57th edition

## **16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Rome, Palazzo Ruspoli**

Jingzhi Zhang concert and awarding of the “Paganini Ambassador” titles to Gianni Battistoni and Robert Allegrini

## **18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - Alzate Brianza, Castello Durini**

Simon Zhu concert at the Festival LacMus

## **28<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - Portofino**

Simon Zhu concert at the Concorso CLIP

## **23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 - Madrid**

Simon Zhu concert at the Prado Museum

## **8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - New York**

Giuseppe Gibboni concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral during the Teatro Carlo Felice tour

## **14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - London**

Presentation and publication of the 58<sup>th</sup> edition competition announcement at the Italian Embassy in London

## **15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - London**

Simon Zhu concert at the *Guildhall* with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Antonio Pappano

## **9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Muscat**

Presentation of the “Premio Paganini in Oman” multidisciplinary project at the Royal Opera House





# THE 58<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE COMPETITION

The 58<sup>th</sup> edition will take place in Genoa from **14<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025**, under the patronage of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**.

The competition is open to registered violinists of any nationality, religion, ethnic group or gender, aged between 15 and 30.

**The announcement is available to view online on the website [www.premiopaganini.it](http://www.premiopaganini.it)**

For the 58<sup>th</sup> edition, the choice has been confirmed to hold the pre-selection stage abroad. This will offer competitors the opportunity to be heard live and judged by a committee of expert violinists, as well as strengthen the international focus of the Premio through collaboration with Italian Cultural Institutes Abroad.

## **Artistic Director:**

Maestro Nicola Bruzzo

## **International Jury:**

Uto Ughi (Italy), President; Pavel Berman (Italy); Ana Chumachenco (Argentina-Germany); Pamela Frank (USA); Mihaela Martin (Romania); Enzo Restagno (Italy); Sayaka Shoji (Japan).

The winner of the competition may be allowed to perform using the “Cannone” or alternatively the “Sivori” violin, both of which belonged to Paganini.



# COMPETITION STAGES

## **April – May 2025 (Pre-selections)**

Guangzhou, Kayserburg Concert Hall  
New York, Italian Cultural Institute  
Berlin, Italian Cultural Institute  
Seoul, Italian Cultural Institute  
Genoa, “Niccolò Paganini” Music Conservatory

## **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

Roll Call – Palazzo Tursi Reception Hall

## **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October**

First Round Eliminations - Palazzo Tursi Reception Hall

## **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

Second Round Eliminations – Teatro Carlo Felice

## **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October**

Semifinal – Teatro Carlo Felice

## **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

Final and Award Ceremony - Teatro Carlo Felice



# EVENTS RELATED TO THE 58<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

## **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 10.30 am**

- Press conference for the presentation of the 58<sup>th</sup> Premio Paganini – Teatro Carlo Felice
- Presentation of Paganini's "Libro Mastro" volume – Teatro Carlo Felice

## **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2025, 9.30 am**

- International Day of Studies on the Cannon and the Conservation of the Historic Violin.  
Presentation of the volume and musical event - Palazzo Tursi Reception Hall

## **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

- 9 am "Paganini Ambassadors" Conference - Palazzo Tursi Reception Hall
- 12 pm Paganini exhibition Press Conference - Palazzo Tursi Reception Hall
- 6 pm Paganini exhibition preview - Strada Nuova Museums

## **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Paganini exhibition opening to the public - Strada Nuova Museums

## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 7.30 pm**

Gala Concert - Teatro Carlo Felice

Gala Dinner and Final Toast in Honour of Paganini

## **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 10.30 am**

Closing press conference of the 58<sup>th</sup> Premio Paganini - Palazzo Tursi Reception Hall

**Lead-up events are planned for 2025 (concerts/events in Genoa, Muscat, Guangzhou and Capri).**



# THE PRIZES FOR THE 58<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

<b>“Premio Paganini”</b>	€ 30.000,00
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize</b>	€ 20,000.00
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize</b>	€ 10,000.00

**In addition to the award concerts at musical institutions in Italy and abroad, “Special Awards” are planned:**

- “Award in memory of Maestro Mario Ruminelli”, provided by the “Mario Ruminelli Cultural Association” of Domodossola
- “Fondazione Pallavicino Award”, provided by Prince Domenico Pallavicino
- “Dr. Enrico Costa Memorial Award”, provided by the Costa family
- “Amici di Paganini Association Award”
- “Renato and Mariangiola De Barbieri Memorial Award”, provided by the De Barbieri family
- “Hotel Bristol Palace-Duetorrihotels collection Award” for the best chamber music performance

The winner of the Competition is also offered the opportunity to sign a recording contract with the record company **“Platoon”**.



# PARTNERSHIP RESEARCH

It is possible to support the Competition and the initiatives related to it, which involves the participation of the “Paganini Ambassadors”, through donations and/or forms for economic and/or technical partnerships.

The different partnership options are specified below, which include the following categories:

- *CORPORATE PARTNER*
- *PLATINUM PARTNER*
- *GOLD PARTNER*
- *SUPPORTER*
- *TECHNICAL SPONSOR*

**The membership will be formalised through a specific agreement, prepared by the Office for Relations with the Companies and Fundraising of the Municipality of Genoa, in which the various aspects of the agreement will be defined in detail.**



## **CORPORATE CATEGORY (from €150,000.00 - exclusivity in the category)**

- Direct involvement in the press conferences and insertion of presentation sheet in the press kit
- Visibility and placement of the logo in the communication material for the Competition and in the publications relating to the exhibition on Paganini and the activity at the Cannon Study Day, as well as in the volume “Libro Mastro di Niccolò Paganini: combining history and the contemporary”
- A dedicated article and visibility of the logo on the organisation’s website and on the social media channels for the Premio
- Provision of a special ad hoc prize to be awarded to the winner of the competition
- 50 invitations reserved for the Final and the Gala Concert of the Premio at the Teatro Carlo Felice
- 30 invitations reserved for the opening of the Paganini exhibition curated by Sylvain Bellenger, at the Strada Nuova Museums
- 20 invitations reserved for the International Day of Cannon Studies at Palazzo Tursi
- 20 invitations reserved for the presentation of the “Libro Mastro di Niccolò Paganini: combining history and the contemporary”
- 20 invitations reserved for the gala dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Possibility of offering a prize concert in which the winner of the Competition will perform
- Private visits to the Paganini exhibition at Palazzo Tursi
- Private meetings with artists and the jury during the competition and award concerts
- A concert or collateral event of the Premio Paganini to be dedicated to the Corporate Partner
- Branding on Premio merchandise and on the official printed event programmes
- Opportunity to host an exclusive private concert with the Premio winner
- Participation in other events organised with the Paganini Ambassadors



## PLATINUM CATEGORY (from €50,000.00)

- Insertion of presentation sheet in the press kit
- Visibility and placement of the logo in the communication material for the Competition and in the publications relating to the exhibition on Paganini and the activity at the Cannon Study Day, as well as in the volume “Libro Mastro di Niccolò Paganini: combining history and the contemporary”
- Visibility of the logo on the organisation’s website and on the social media channels for the Premio
- Provision of a special ad hoc prize to be awarded to the winner of the competition
- 30 invitations reserved for the Final and the Gala Concert of the Premio at the Teatro Carlo Felice
- 20 invitations reserved for the opening of the Paganini exhibition curated by Sylvain Bellenger, at the Strada Nuova Museums
- 10 invitations reserved for the International Day of Cannon Studies at Palazzo Tursi
- 10 invitations reserved for the presentation of the “Libro Mastro di Niccolò Paganini: combining history and the contemporary”
- 8 invitations reserved for the gala dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Possibility of offering a prize concert in which the winner of the Competition will perform
- Private visits to the Paganini exhibition at Palazzo Tursi
- Participation at other events organised with the Paganini Ambassadors



## **GOLD CATEGORY (from €35,000.00)**

- Insertion of presentation sheet in the press kit
- Visibility and placement of the logo in the communication material for the Competition and in the publications relating to the activity at the Cannon Study Day and the volume “Libro Mastro di Niccolò Paganini: combining history and the contemporary”
- Visibility of the logo on the organisation’s website and on the social media channels for the Premio
- Possibility of awarding a special prize to the winner of the Competition
- 20 invitations reserved for the Final and the Gala Concert of the Premio at the Teatro Carlo Felice
- 20 invitations reserved for the opening of the Paganini exhibition curated by Sylvain Bellenger, at the Strada Nuova Museums
- 10 invitations reserved for the International Day of Cannon Studies at Palazzo Tursi
- 10 invitations reserved for the presentation of the “Libro Mastro di Niccolò Paganini: combining history and the contemporary”
- 4 invitations reserved for the gala dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025
- Possibility of offering a prize concert in which the winner of the Competition will perform
- Private visits to the Paganini exhibition at Palazzo Tursi





## **SUPPORTER CATEGORY (from €5,000.00)**

- Logo placement on the Premio Paganini organisation website and in the press material
- 4 invitations reserved for the Final and the Gala Concert of the Premio at the Teatro Carlo Felice
- 4 invitations reserved for the opening of the Paganini exhibition curated by Sylvain Bellenger, at the Strada Nuova Museums
- 4 invitations reserved for the International Day of Cannon Studies at Palazzo Tursi
- 4 invitations reserved for the presentation of the volume “Libro Mastro di Niccolò Paganini: combining history and the contemporary”
- 2 invitations reserved for the gala dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025

## **TECHNICAL PARTNER CATEGORY**

Technical partnerships are possible relating to the supply of goods and services that are useful for the promotion and organisation of the Competition and related initiatives. Unless specific changes are made during negotiations, these partnerships will include the following:

- Insertion of presentation sheet in the press kit and in communication material
- Placement of the logo in the communication material, as well as on the Premio website
- 4 invitations reserved for the Final and the Gala Concert of the Premio at the Teatro Carlo Felice
- 4 invitations reserved for the opening of the Paganini exhibition curated by Sylvain Bellenger, at the Strada Nuova Museums
- 4 invitations reserved for the International Day of Cannon Studies at Palazzo Tursi
- 4 invitations reserved for the presentation of the volume “Libro Mastro di Niccolò Paganini: combining history and the contemporary”



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<https://www.instagram.com/premio.paganini/>



<https://www.facebook.com/premiopaganini>



<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLisNxdJaZJKvKxxhSb6PFGd8fTlaBgGdD>

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