



COMUNE DI GENOVA



PREMIO
PAGANINI

“PREMIO PAGANINI”
59TH INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION
(Genoa, 11 – 24 October 2027)

1. APPLICATION

Application deadlines and procedures

Applications will be accepted from 1 September 2026 until the deadline of 1 December 2026 at 11:59 PM (Italian time).

Registration is completed exclusively online via the website: <http://www.premiopaganini.it>.

Requirements

The Competition is open to violinists of any nationality, aged between 15 and 30, who:

- have reached the age of fifteen by the application deadline of 1 December 2026, 11:59 PM (Italian time);
- have not yet reached the age of thirty-one by 24 October 2027.

Application form and documents

The application is submitted by completing and attaching the Application Form (Annex I).

The application must also be accompanied by:

- copy of a valid identity document (identity card valid for international travel or passport);
- recent colour photo;
- any diplomas from competitions affiliated with the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC), see section “Direct Admission”;
- upload of a video recording of the performances of the works specified in Article 2 of these Competition Regulations.
- receipt of payment of the application fee of €150.00 (one hundred and fifty euros).



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Payment method

The payment must be made:

- **for residents in Italy**, via Pago PA at the link

<https://www.comune.genova.it/servizi/amministrazione/generazione-avvisi-di-pagamento-iuv>

- **for residents abroad**, via bank transfer

bank account number: 000100880807 at Banca UNICREDIT S.p.A.

payable to: MUNICIPALITY OF GENOA (VAT Number and Tax Code: 00856930102) IBAN: IT 08 T 02008 01459000100880807

ABI: 02008 CAB: 01459 CIN: T BIC: UNCRITMM

The payment reference must include: "SURNAME and FIRST NAME of the candidate - Premio Paganini".

For further details, please refer to Annex II – "General Rules".

Direct Admission

Direct admission to the "Preselection STAGE 2 – LIVE AUDITIONS" is granted to those who have won first, second, or third prize in the most recent edition of one of the competitions affiliated with the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC).

For this purpose, a copy of the relevant certificate must be attached to the application in the WFIMC Competition Diplomas section.

The Secretariat reserves the right to carry out verification checks.

2. PRESELECTION

The Competition Preselection is divided into two stages.

stage 1 - video

At the time of application, it is necessary to upload the video to one of the following platforms: Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, or iCloud.

A single video file must be uploaded, containing the required musical program, recorded with a fixed camera, without cuts or editing.



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The candidate must be fully visible for the entire duration of the recording, with particular attention to hands and face.

The video must be in MP4 format, widescreen 16:9, with a minimum accepted resolution of 1280×720. A “Full HD” version is recommended.

A professional recording is not required.

Admission to the live auditions is determined by the Artistic Direction of the Premio Paganini.

The number of candidates admitted to STAGE 2 is not subject to a predetermined limit.

stage 2 – live auditions

The list of candidates admitted to “STAGE 2 – LIVE AUDITIONS” will be published on the website www.premiopaganini.it by 15 February 2027.

At the time of application, candidates must indicate two options, in order of preference, from those listed below:

Calendar

- o 12-13 April 2027, Tokyo, Japan, Italian Cultural Institute;
- o 15-16 April 2027, Shanghai, China, Shanghai Conservatory;
- o 26-27 April 2027, Berlin, Germany, Italian Cultural Institute;
- o 29-30 April 2027, Genoa, Italy, “Niccolò Paganini” Conservatory of Music;
- o 11-12 May 2027, New York City, USA, Italian Cultural Institute.

The Premio Paganini reserves the right to make the final and binding decision regarding the Preselection venues.

Any changes will be communicated promptly. Upon completion of the administrative checks, a letter will be drawn to determine the order of performance of the candidates.

Procedures

Candidates admitted to the Preselection stage 2 - live auditions will receive from the Competition Secretariat detailed information regarding the venue, date and exact time of their audition.



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They must appear at their assigned Preselection venue and present a valid identification document (passport or identity card). Failure to appear at roll call, unless justified by force majeure, shall result in exclusion from the Competition.

All travel, accommodation and living expenses shall be borne entirely by the candidates.

These auditions will not be open to the public.

Preselection programme

stage 1 - video

1. Niccolò Paganini: two Capricci of the candidate's choice from the 24 Caprices op. 1 (Urtext - G. Henle edition)
2. Georg Philipp Telemann: one Fantasia of the candidate's choice from the 12 Fantasies TWV 40:14–25.

stage 2 – live auditions

1. Niccolò Paganini: two Capricci, excluding those presented in the stage 1 - Video, chosen by the competitor, from the 24 Capricci op. 1 (Urtext - G. Henle edition)
2. Johann Sebastian Bach:
Adagio e Fuga from the Sonata No. 1 BWV 1001; *or*
Grave e Fuga from the Sonata No. 2 BWV 1003; *or*
Adagio e Fuga from the Sonata No. 3 BWV 1005.
3. Robert Schumann: 1st movement from the Sonata No.1 in A minor op. 105.

The first movement of Schumann's Sonata must be performed exclusively with the pianist appointed by Premio Paganini, who will be available for a rehearsal with the candidates prior to each audition. It will not be possible to participate with a personal pianist for this stage of the competition.

Preselection Commission

Candidates will be evaluated by a Commission appointed by the President of the Premio Paganini and composed of the Artistic Director, acting as Chair, and two violinists or musicians of international renown.

The list of candidates admitted to the 1st Round of the Preliminary Stage, to be held in Genoa (see Rounds and Schedule), will be published on the website www.premiopaganini.it by 16



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June 2027; the relevant notifications will be sent to candidates at the email address they have provided.

3. ADMISSION TO THE SUBSEQUENT STAGES (Genoa, 11 – 24 October 2027)

No more than 24 (twenty-four) candidates will be admitted to the 1st Round of the Preliminary Stage.

Submission of the Musical Programme

Upon receiving notification of their admission, candidates shall have 30 days to submit to the Premio Paganini Secretariat their chosen musical programme for the subsequent rounds of the Competition. After this deadline, no changes to the programme will be permitted.

Candidates shall also provide digital copies of all works selected for the Second Round.

Commissioned work

For the 59th edition, Premio Paganini has commissioned a new work by composer Matteo Franceschini. By 19 July 2027, the score of the work will be sent; it may not, under any circumstances, be shared or performed prior to its “world premiere” during the Semifinal round of the Competition.

4. COMPETITION STAGES (PRELIMINARY, SEMIFINAL AND FINAL)

Hospitality

Starting from the day before the roll call, and for as long as they remain in the competition, candidates will be provided with free accommodation at facilities designated by the Competition Secretariat.

Travel expenses shall be borne by each candidate.

Any expenses for accompanying persons, as well as accompanist pianists, shall also be borne by each candidate.

Applicants who require a visa to enter Italy must indicate this in the Application Form, so that the Competition offices may provide an official letter of invitation.

All visa application procedures and related expenses shall be the responsibility of the candidates and any accompanying persons.



Under no circumstances shall the Premio Paganini be held responsible for the failure to obtain a visa.

Roll Call and Draw for Performance Order

All candidates admitted to the First Round shall appear, carrying a valid identity document (passport or identity card valid for international travel), at the roll call scheduled for 11 October 2027 at 10:00 AM in the Salone di Rappresentanza of Palazzo Tursi, the seat of the Municipality of Genoa, Via Garibaldi 9.

The order of performance shall be determined by a randomly drawn letter of the alphabet and shall remain valid throughout all rounds of the Competition.

Failure to appear at roll call, unless justified by force majeure, shall result in exclusion from the Competition.

Rounds and Schedule

The Competition rounds will take place from 12 to 24 October 2027 and will be open to the public.

Roll Call and Drawing	11 October	Palazzo Tursi
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Competition stages	Candidates allowed	Dates	Location
Preliminary (First Round)	24	12-13 October	Palazzo Tursi
Preliminary (Second Round)	12	16-17 October	Teatro Gustavo Modena
Semifinal	6	20 October	Teatro Gustavo Modena
Final	3	23 October 24 October	Teatro Carlo Felice



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All candidates will be provided, free of charge, with an accompanist pianist during the 2nd Round of the Preliminary Stage. However, they may choose to be accompanied by a pianist of their own choice, bearing all related expenses.

Each candidate is guaranteed a rehearsal session prior to their performance in the Competition.

Candidates are responsible for providing their own copies of the scores to be used throughout all rounds of the Competition.

5. PROGRAMME

1° ROUND (24 CANDIDATES)

1. Johann Sebastian Bach:

a) Two contrasting movements from one of the three Partitas, namely:

- BWV 1002 (to be performed together with its Double movements);
- BWV 1004 (excluding the Chaconne);
- BWV 1006.

or

b) The third and fourth movements from one of the three Sonatas, namely:

- BWV 1001 (Siciliana e Presto);
- BWV 1003 (Andante e Allegro);
- BWV 1005 (Largo e Allegro assai).

2. Pietro Antonio Locatelli: One Capriccio of the candidate's choice from the *24 Capricci for Solo Violin, Op. 3* (Schott edition, 2002; edited by Dunning/Porta).

3. Niccolò Paganini: One Capriccio of the candidate's choice from the *24 Capricci, Op. 1* (G. Henle Urtext edition), excluding the four Capricci performed in Stage 1 and 2 of the Preselection.

4. Béla Bartók: *Tempo di Ciaccona from the Sonata for Solo Violin, Sz. 117*.



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2° ROUND-RECITAL (12 CANDIDATES)

A freely designed recital programme with a minimum duration of 55 minutes and a maximum duration of 65 minutes, including:

1. A presentation in English of the selected programme, aimed at illustrating its genesis and artistic message (maximum duration: 5 minutes).
2. Niccolò Paganini: one work chosen by the candidate from:
 - a) Variations on “Di tanti palpiti” M.S. 77 (Peters o Ricordi edition);
 - b) Variations on "Mosè" M.S. 23 ("Sonata a preghiera");
 - c) Variations on “Non più mesta” M.S. 22 (Ricordi edition);
 - d) Variations on “Le streghe” M.S. 19 (Peters edition).

The above-mentioned works by Paganini shall be performed without scordatura.

3. One Sonata chosen by the candidate from:
 - a) Ludwig van Beethoven: Sonata op.12 n.1;
Sonata op.12 n.2;
Sonata op.12 n.3;
or
 - b) Franz Schubert: Sonatina op.137 n.1;
Sonatina op.137 n.2;
Sonatina op.137 n.3;

4. One or more additional works chosen by the candidate to complete the programme up to a maximum duration of 65 minutes. Original works and transcriptions from any period and in any musical style are permitted. The order of performance of the works is at the candidate's discretion, as is the placement of the programme presentation within the recital.



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SEMIFINAL (6 CANDIDATES)

1. Matteo Franceschini: Commissioned work for violin and live electronics
2. Niccolò Paganini: Variation on “Nel cor più non mi sento” M.S. 44 (IMC edition)
3. One Quintet chosen by the candidate from:
 - a) Antonín Dvořák: *Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major, Op. 81*;

or

- b) César Franck: *Piano Quintet in F minor*.

The commissioned work shall be performed together with the composer (live electronics).

The quintets shall be performed together with established chamber ensembles designated by the Competition.

Appropriate rehearsal sessions will be scheduled in the days preceding the Semifinal.

FINAL (3 CANDIDATES)

The Final, to be held over two days, consists of the performance of two violin concertos.

Each of the three finalists, accompanied by the Orchestra of the Teatro Carlo Felice, shall perform:

23 October 2027

One concerto of the candidate's choice from the following list:

- Ludwig van Beethoven (op. 61);
- Johannes Brahms (op. 77);
- Max Bruch (n.1, op. 26);
- Antonin Dvorak (op. 53);
- Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (op. 64);
- Robert Schumann (WoO 1);
- Jean Sibelius (op. 47);
- Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (op. 35).



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24 October 2027

One concerto of the candidate's choice from the following list:

Niccolò Paganini:

- Concerto n. 1 in D major M.S. 21
- Concerto n. 2 in B minor M.S. 48
- Concerto n. 3 in E major M.S. 50
- Concerto n. 4 in D minor M.S. 60
- Concerto n. 5 in A minor M.S. 78
- Grande Concerto in E minor M.S. 75 (posthumous work)

The concertos must be performed by memory by the competitors.

6. INTERNATIONAL JURY

The Jury, appointed by the President of the Premio Paganini, is composed of internationally renowned violinists and musicians, in an odd number of members, not fewer than seven and not more than nine in total. Two members may be appointed to take part exclusively in the Final Round of the Competition.

The Jury may, at its discretion, decide to have only part of the required programme performed and shall be entitled to interrupt a candidate's performance at any time it deems appropriate, or whenever the performance cannot proceed regularly. The President of the Jury shall decide on any issues arising during the course of the Competition that are not expressly covered by these Regulations and/or the Competition Rules.

The Jury's decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Should members of the Jury be related to one or more candidates, or have had, or currently have, public and/or private teaching relationships with them within the two years preceding the 59th edition of the Competition, they shall abstain from voting on those candidates.

Should such a situation arise during the Final, the members concerned must abstain from voting in its entirety.

Candidates are strictly prohibited from contacting members of the Jury for the entire duration of their participation in the Competition.



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The Artistic Director, as well as the General Secretary and any representatives of the Premio Paganini Secretariat with minute-taking duties, may attend the Jury sessions.

7. AWARDS

The Premio Paganini is indivisible and may, at the discretion of the Jury, not be awarded. All other prizes and awards for the finalists shall be assigned according to a specific ranking and may be awarded ex aequo. In such cases, the prize shall be divided among the finalists ranked equally.

Premio Paganini: €30,000.00 (thirty thousand euros/00)

Second Prize: €20,000.00 (twenty thousand euros/00)

Third Prize: €10,000.00 (ten thousand euros/00)

The winner of the Premio Paganini may be offered the opportunity to perform on the “Cannone” or the “Sivori” violins, both formerly owned by Niccolò Paganini, subject to the overriding requirements of their preservation and conservation.

The Jury shall also express its opinion regarding the awarding of “Special Prizes”, offered by entities other than the Municipality of Genoa – Premio Paganini, which shall bear no responsibility for the procedures or methods of disbursement of such prizes:

- **“Fondazione Stauffer Prize”**, offered by the Foundation of the same name, consisting of the donation of a contemporary-made violin to the Competition winner;
- **“Eugene Sarbu Memorial Prize”**, offered by Mrs Carmina Sarbu in memory of her late brother, winner of the 1978 edition of the Competition, awarded for the best performance of “Nel cor più non mi sento”: € 5,000.00;
- **“Hotel Bristol Palace – Duetorrihotels Collection Special Prize”** awarded for the best chamber music performance: € 5,000.00;
- **“Jeunesses Musicales d’Italia Special Prize”**, offered by the Foundation of the same name, awarded for the best performance of the contemporary work commissioned for the Competition: € 4,000.00. In addition, the winner of the International Paganini Competition shall be offered a minimum of six recitals over the 2027/2029 biennium, to be held at Jeunesses Musicales d’Italia venues;



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- **“Mario Ruminelli Memorial Prize”**, offered by the “Associazione culturale Mario Ruminelli” (Domodossola), awarded to the finalist who receives the highest audience recognition in the Final: € 3,000.00;
- **“Dr Enrico Costa Memorial Prize”**, offered by the Costa family, awarded to the youngest finalist: € 2,000.00;
- **“Associazione Amici di Paganini Prize”** awarded for the best performance of a Paganini work in the Second Round: € 2,000.00;
- **“Renato and Mariangiola De Barbieri Memorial Prize”**, offered by the cultural and charitable association of the same name, awarded for the best interpretation of Paganini’s Capricci, with particular attention to fidelity to the original text: € 1,000.00.

Additional special prizes may be established at a later stage following agreements with institutions and/or partners of the Competition concluded after the publication of these Regulations. Any such prizes shall be duly announced through an official update on the Competition website.

8. PRIZE CONCERTS AND INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS – BIENNIUM 2028/2029

Following specific agreements with the Premio Paganini, prestigious musical institutions may offer the winner or prize recipients additional concert prizes at national and international level.

The list of musical institutions willing to offer prize concerts will be published and periodically updated on the Premio Paganini website.

Prize winners of the 59th edition of the Competition may be requested to make themselves available, on a priority basis, for additional concert engagements on the occasion of institutional events organized by the Premio Paganini in Italy and abroad, in collaboration with Institutions, Embassies, Cultural Institutes worldwide, major museums, and other highly prestige socio-cultural centers.



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9. RESERVATIONS

In the event of force majeure, including but not limited to natural disasters, war, epidemics, or other external factors beyond the control of the Organisation, the Competition may be subject to changes in its entirety or in any of its individual stages.

The Municipality of Genoa – Premio Paganini also reserves the right to modify, suspend, interrupt, postpone, cancel, or reschedule the Competition without any entitlement for participants to claim compensation or indemnity of any kind.