

4th international PIANO competition 2026

COMPETITION RULES

ARTICLE 1

The town Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux, a cultural centre situated in the Provence part of Southern Drôme, is organizing its 4th international piano competition from Monday 13th April to Saturday 18th of April 2026, to promote musical culture, encourage and reward pianists and single out the most talented among them.

ARTICLE 2

The competition is open to pianists of all nationalities.

There are two categories:

- Masters (less than 36 years old)
- Challengers (less than 26 years old)

The pianists who are less than 26 years old can compete in both categories - Masters and Challengers.

ARTICLE 3

PRIZES

Masters category

- First prize : € 5 000 and three paid recitals :
 - Opening concert of the 2027 Piano competition, paid by the city of Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux
 - Concert at the Prayssas Auditorium, paid by Marc de Ranse institute
 - Concert at the Petit Palais de Chaillot, paid by Musiques Transportées association
- Second prize : € 2 500 and a paid recital :
 - Concert at the Petit Palais de Chaillot, paid by Musiques Transportées association
- Third prize : € 1 500 and a paid recital :
 - Concert at the Petit Palais de Chaillot, paid by Musiques Transportées association

- Audience prize : € 500

The first prize in the Masters category is indivisible.

The other prizes can be awarded ex-aequo by dividing the reward.

Challengers category

- First Prize : € 800 and participation in the gala concert 2026*
- Second Prize : € 500 and participation in the gala concert 2026*
- Third Prize : € 200 and participation in the gala concert 2026*

The first prize in the Masters category is indivisible.

The other prizes can be awarded ex-aequo by dividing the reward.

The delivery of all prizes will officially take place during the gala concert 2026*.

* Saturday 18th April 2026 at 20h

ARTICLE 4

PROGRAMS

The candidates will perform their whole programme from memory. Whenever possible, repeat signs will be ignored. However, for reasons of musical unity and structure of the works performed, the candidates will make the final decision whether or not to play the repeats, within the allotted time. The jury reserves the right to interrupt a candidate if they deem it necessary to do so and he will take account of the pieces chosen by the candidates.

The candidates will not make any changes to their choice of pieces as stated in their entry form.

The candidates must have a copy of the scores they will play, and present them to the jury if required.

In the Masters category, the candidates must not play pieces that have already been performed in previous round.

Masters category

Candidates who have already won a prize in another international competition are exempt from the video selection process and are directly selected for the Semi-Final in Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux.

They must send proof of their prize when registering for the competition.

Candidates who have already won a prize in Final of Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux International Piano Competition are not eligible to compete in the competition.

1. First round : submission of a video of no more than 15 minutes* (details below)
2. Semi-Final : free programme, maximum 20 minutes
3. Final Recital : free programme, maximum 50 minutes
4. Finale with orchestra accompaniment : a concerto selected from the following :
 - Mozart : Concerto n.21 in C major K 467
 - Mozart : Concerto n.23 in A major K488
 - Beethoven : Concerto n.1 in C major op.15
 - Beethoven : Concerto n.2 in B flat major op.19

- Beethoven : Concerto n.3 in C minor op.37
- Beethoven : Concerto n.4 in G major op.58
- Beethoven : Concerto n.5 in E flat major op.73
- Chopin : Concerto n.1 in E minor op.11
- Chopin : Concerto n.2 in F minor op.21
- Schumann : Concerto in A minor op.54
- Grieg : Concerto in A minor op.16
- Liszt : Concerto n.1 in E flat major S124
- Liszt : Concerto n.2 in A major S125
- Tchaikowsky : Concerto n.1 in B flat minor op.23
- Brahms : Concerto n.1 in D minor op.15
- Brahms : Concerto n°2 in B flat major op.83
- Saint-Saëns : Concerto n°2 in G minor op.22
- Saint-Saëns : Concerto n°5 in F major op.103
- Rachmaninoff : Concerto n°1 in F# minor op.1
- Rachmaninoff : Concerto n°2 in D minor op.18
- Rachmaninoff : Concerto n°3 in D minor op.30
- Ravel : Concerto in G major
- Prokofiev : Concerto in C major op.26

* About the video : the program must consist of at least two works of different characters. The video must be submitted via one or several links (WeTransfer or YouTube). The video must be recent (less than 6 months from the submission date by the candidate).

Only the pianists' skills will be judged. The quality of the piano will not be taken into account by the jury, but the piano must be acoustic. Ensure the camera framing allows the hands to be seen, and the background noise should be low enough so as not to interfere with the quality of the sound.

Registration deadline for Masters category : March 1st, 2026

Challengers category

Free programme, maximum 20 minutes, with works of different characters.

Registration deadline for Challengers category : March 15th, 2026

ARTICLE 5

REGISTRATIONS FEES

- Masters category : € 150*
- Challengers category: € 80

Entry fees will not be refunded, unless the competition, or one of the categories, were to be cancelled.

* For the Masters category, in the event of failure in the first round (not selected for the semi-final), the city of Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux will reimburse the candidate € 75.

ARTICLE 6

The Semi-final and Finals of the Masters category, as well as the contest of the Challengers category, will take place in Salle Fontaine (concert theatre in Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux).

Kawai and Shigeru Kawai are partners of the competition. All candidates will play on the piano Shigeru Kawai SK-EX. All competitions will be held in public.

The Finale of the competition in the Masters category (Gala concert) will be performed with orchestra.

ARTICLE 7

The winner of the 2025 competition will play in opening night concert of the competition on Monday 13th of April 2026.

ARTICLE 8

Provisional schedule of events*

* The provisional schedule may vary according to the numbers of contestants

2026	MASTERS	CHALLENGERS
SUNDAY 1ST OF MARCH	Submission deadline for videos and applications	X
SUNDAY 8TH OF MARCH	1 st round results (video selection)	X
SUNDAY 15TH OF MARCH	X	Registration deadline
MONDAY 13TH OF APRIL	Information meeting	X
MONDAY 13TH OF APRIL	Bogdan Dugalić recital, 1 st Prize Masters category 2025	
TUESDAY 14TH OF APRIL	Semi-final	X
WEDNESDAY 15TH OF APRIL	Semi-final	X
THURSDAY 16TH OF APRIL	Final recital	X
FRIDAY 17TH OF APRIL	X	Contest
SATURDAY 18TH OF APRIL (daytime)	Rehearsals with orchestra	X
SATURDAY 18TH OF APRIL (evening)	Final with orchestra / gala concert / prize giving ceremony	Prize winners' participation in gala concert / prize giving ceremony

ARTICLE 9

All contestants will receive a notification mentioning the address of the competition. They must report to the offices of the competition on the day and time indicated on this notification, with a valid card of identification.

The appearance order of the applicants will be established by order of registration arrivals.

ARTICLE 10

The jury will consist of five internationally recognized pianists.

The jury will determine the results.

The results will be announced at the end of each contest. No appeal against the jury's decisions is receivable. No recourse is admitted.

The jury reserves the right not award a prize if they consider the standard to be inadequate.

ARTICLE 11

Each member of the jury will give a mark out of 20. The candidates' total mark from all five members of the jury will amount to a mark out of 100.

The jury's mark cannot be disputed. If one jury member were to be absent, the 100 points would be divided up between the four remaining members of the jury (25 points / judge).

ARTICLE 12

REGISTRATION

Masters category (less than 36 years old)

Registration deadline : Sunday 1st of March 2026

Complete the online form on the competition page and attach the following documents :

1. A copy of a document confirming the identity of the contestant (passport, identity card or family record book)
2. A short Curriculum Vitae indicating the conservatories and teachers
3. Recent color high resolution photograph
4. The proof of paiement (you have to pay online on the website Billetweb)
5. For candidates who have won an award in another international competition: proof of this award (exempting the candidate from the video selection process)
6. The form relating to image rights duly completed and signed (to download on the contest page)

Return the entry form and the other 5 documents to the following address : concourspianosp3c@gmail.com

The entry will only be confirmed on receipt of all the required documents.

Challengers category (less than 26 years old)

Registration deadline : Sunday 15 of March 2026

Complete the online form on the competition page and attach the following documents :

1. A copy of a document confirming the identity of the contestant (passport, identity card or family record book)
2. A short *Curriculum Vitae* indicating the conservatories and teachers
3. Recent color high resolution photograph
4. The proof of paiement (you have to pay online on the website Billetweb)
5. The form relating to image rights duly completed and signed (to download on the contest page)

Return the entry form and the other documents to the following address : concourspianosp3c@gmail.com

The entry will only be confirmed on receipt of all the required documents.

ARTICLE 13

ACCOMODATION

The competition offers free accommodation with local hosts. Pianists wishing to stay in a hotel will receive a list of possible accommodations. Minor candidates must be accompanied by a legal adult guardian for the entire duration of the competition. The competition organizers will arrange for low-cost meal options for the candidates.

ARTICLE 14

REHEARSALS

Pianos will be available for those wishing to practice at the Music School.
A rehearsal schedule will be organized, with equal time for each contestant.

ARTICLE 15

The candidates allow organizers to take photographs and videos, subject to French legislation regarding image rights.

ARTICLE 16

The organizers of the competition will not be help responsible for any risks and damages of any kind (theft etc...) during the competition. This clause is valid for homestay with local people.

ARTICLE 17

Entering the competition implies accepting the totality of the rules.
In case of dispute, the rules as published in French will apply.