

COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: MAY 13, 2026

1. The “Circolo della Musica di Bologna” organizes the 15th “**Andrea Baldi**” **International Piano Competition**, open to pianists of any nationality.

The Competition is divided into the following categories:

- Cat. C up to 13 years old - free Repertoire: maximum duration 10 minutes
- Cat. D up to 17 years old - free Repertoire: maximum duration 13 minutes
- Cat. E up to 23 years old - free Repertoire: maximum duration 18 minutes
- Cat. F up to 35 years old - free Repertoire: maximum duration 20 minutes*

** In Category F, the First Round programme must include, in addition to pieces of your choice, at least one étude by Chopin or Liszt (excluding Op. 1) and the first movement of an important Classical sonata. The first three competitors who obtain a score of 95/100 or higher will pass to the Second Round, where they will perform a freely chosen programme (maximum 25 minutes; overall total time: 45 minutes). If a competitor decides to perform an entire Classical sonata in the Second Round, it will be possible to repeat the first movement of the sonata performed in the First Round. Competitors who obtain a score of 80/100 or above will also receive an award.*

Winners of the First Absolute Prize of any category of previous editions of the competition are not allowed to apply to the same category.

Note: The age indicated in the competition rules corresponds to the candidate's chronological age, calculated on the closing date of the competition (June 7, 2026). For example, in Category C (up to 13 years old), anyone born in 2012 who has not yet turned fourteen on June 7, 2026 is eligible to participate.

2. The competition will take place at the Circolo della Musica, Via Valle Verde 33, Rastignano (Bologna), on June 5, 6 and 7, 2026. The schedule for each category will be published on the website circolodellamusica.it starting from May 21, 2026.

It is the responsibility of each candidate to remain informed about the date and time of their audition.

Attendance at the roll call for each category is compulsory and competitors must appear in person with a valid identity document. Latecomers with documented justification may be rescheduled at the end of the auditions for their category, subject to the time available.

Competitors may not freely practice on the Yamaha grand pianos before the roll call, but only after the roll call for their category. Two studio pianos will also be made available to competitors in the upcoming category after the roll call.

Prize Winners' Concert will be held on June 7, 2026 at the Oratorio San Rocco, Via Calari 4/2, Bologna, starting at 7:30 p.m.

3. Application to the competition must be sent no later than May 13, 2026. Registration must be completed using the online registration form (see “Modulo di Iscrizione Online” at www.circolodellamusica.it). A scanned copy of a valid identity document must also be sent by e-mail to concorsoandreabaldi@circolodellamusica.it, indicating the applicant's name and category in the subject line. For minors, written authorization and the identity document of a parent or legal guardian are also required. Applicants must attach proof of payment of the following non-refundable entry fees: €60.00 for Category C, €65.00 for Category D, €70.00 for Category E, and €100.00 for Category F.

The entry fee may be paid by non-transferable bank cheque made out to “Circolo della Musica di Bologna” or by bank transfer to the current account of “Circolo della Musica di Bologna”, no. 100.550.192, at the UniCredit Rastignano branch; IBAN: IT 03 0 02008 37001 000100550192; SWIFT: UNCRITM1NS0 (the last character is a zero). The registration fee will be refunded only if the competition does not take place.

4. Performances will be evaluated on a scale of 100 points (First Prize: 95 to 100; Second Prize: 90 to 94; Third Prize: 80 to 89). The jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

The final score will be calculated as the average of the judges' scores, excluding the highest and lowest scores if the jury is composed of at least four members. The jury reserves the right to interrupt a performance if the maximum duration is exceeded and may shorten the performance time for the entire category. Performing from memory is not compulsory. The jury also reserves the right not to award prizes if the artistic level is considered inadequate. All auditions are public. Two copies of the scores of the pieces performed must be presented to the jury at the beginning of the audition. In the event that the winners do not take part in the Prize Winners' Concert on June 7, 2026, they will forfeit their cash prize.

The 2026 jury will include internationally renowned piano masters such as Boris Bekhterev (President), Edoardo Bruni, Luigi Caselli, Luca Rasca and record producer Alberto Spano.

The organization reserves the right to replace members of the jury for any unforeseen reason and to make any changes necessary for the proper running of the competition.

5. If a candidate has a family relationship with any member of the jury, or has attended masterclasses or taken private lessons with any jury member during the previous two years, that jury member must declare the conflict and abstain from discussion and evaluation.

6. The organization accepts no responsibility for any risk, injury or damage that competitors may incur during the competition.

7. Competitors may not claim any fee or remuneration for their performances at the Prize Winners' Concert, even if the concert is broadcast on radio and/or television.

8. Prize Money

The following scholarships will be awarded to the winners of the Absolute First Prize:

Cat. C € 200

Cat. D € 300 (including a prize concert shared with the second-place winner in Category E)

Cat. E € 400 total, including a prize concert. Second-place winner: €200 total, including a prize concert shared with the overall winner of Category D.

Cat. F* € 1200 total, including the four prize concerts.

Second place: two prize concerts (€400 total)

Third place: one prize concert (€200 total)

*The winner of Category F will have the opportunity to record an album/CD with the Tactus label.
(The programme will be agreed directly with the artistic director of Tactus.)*

Concerts for prize winners - (€200 is paid for each concert)

4 prize concerts for the absolute first prize in Category F offered by:

Concerto di "Saluto al nuovo anno" (Pro Loco Ozzano dell'Emilia (BO) – January 1, 2027)

Emilia Romagna Festival (2027)

Circolo della Musica di Bologna (2027)

Circolo Culturale Lirico Bolognese (second Sunday of October 2027)

2 prize concerts for the second best classified in Category F offered by:

Festival Musica in bianco e nero (Pro Loco Monzuno (Bologna), October 3, 2026, 8:30 p.m.)

Circolo della Musica di Bologna (2027)

1 prize concert for the third best classified in Category F

Circolo della Musica di Bologna (2027)

1 prize concert for the absolute first prize in Category E

Circolo della Musica di Bologna (2027)

1 shared prize concert for the overall winner of Category D and the second-place winner in Category E

Circolo della Musica di Bologna (2027)

9. Participation in the competition implies full and unconditional acceptance of these Regulations. In the event of any dispute, the only legally valid text is the original Italian version. Jurisdiction lies with the Court of Bologna.

USEFUL INFORMATION

The Circolo della Musica di Bologna, where the competition takes place, is located 5 km from the centre of Bologna (Via Valle Verde 33, Rastignano), 400 metres from Rastignano railway station (Bologna–Prato line), and 500 metres from bus stops 96 and 13a towards Pianoro.

To reach Rastignano: motorway exit Bologna San Lazzaro (A14), then follow the signs to Futa (Florence).

The Oratorio San Rocco, venue of the Prize Winners' Concert, is located in the centre of Bologna, Via Calari 4/2.

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www.circolodellamusica.it