



COMUNE DI GENOVA



PREMIO  
PAGANINI

## “PREMIO PAGANINI”

### 58<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION REGULATIONS

(Genoa, 14 - 26 October 2025)

#### 1. APPLICATION

##### Deadline and application procedure

The deadline for this call is 11 February 2025 at 1:00 PM (Italian time – 1PM CEST).

Applications received from the date of publication of this announcement will be accepted until the deadline, as indicated above.

Application takes place online only, through the website [www.premiopaganini.it](http://www.premiopaganini.it).

##### Requirements

Violinists of any nationality can participate in the Competition, provided that:

- they have turned fifteen by the announcement expiry date (including 11 February 2025);
- as of 25 October 2025, they have not yet reached the age of thirty-one (born after 25 October 1994).

##### Application form and documents to be attached

The application process is made by filling out the online form. The following must be attached to the application:

- “FORM/MOD A” registration form;
- “FORM/MOD B” online curriculum vitae form (certificates of diplomas and competitions carried out must be sent in Italian or English);
- copy of a valid identity document;
- recent photograph in colour;
- receipt of payment of the €150.00 registration fee (one hundred and fifty/00 euros).

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 details for the transfer of the registration fee:

bank account no. 000100880807 at Banca UNICREDIT S.p.A.

payable to: MUNICIPALITY OF GENOVA (VAT Number and Tax Code: 00856930102)

IBAN IT 08 T 02008 01459000100880807

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



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Any expenses from either the sending bank or the receiving bank must be in addition to this transfer amount.

The payment reference must include: "SURNAME and FIRST NAME of the candidate, Application to the 58<sup>th</sup> International Violin Competition Premio Paganini".

### **General rules**

The application documentation will not be returned.

The review of the documentation submitted for admission to the Competition is entrusted to an examining commission, appointed by the President of the Premio and chaired by the Secretary General.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Applying for the Competition implies the implicit acceptance of the following:

- the current Regulations of the "Premio Paganini" International Violin Competition approved by resolution of the Genoa City Council no. 23/2024 of 21/05/2024 and published on the website [www.premiopaganini.it](http://www.premiopaganini.it);
- the judgement and rulings of the "Premio Paganini" Committee, of the International Jury, the Artistic Director, the Preselection Commission and the Examining Commission. Such decisions are final.

The registration fee is non-refundable, even in the event of exclusion, withdrawal from the Competition, or incorrect payment of the fee. In the event of a lack of payment, it will be necessary to pay the difference to make up the €150.00 registration fee, under penalty of exclusion from the Competition.

It is mandatory to clearly write the first name and surname of the competitor on the payment receipt.

Those who no longer intend to participate in the Competition once they have registered are required to notify the Competition Secretariat in writing at [competition@premiopaganini.it](mailto:competition@premiopaganini.it).

Candidates will not be able to undertake any professional commitments during the Competition.

Those who, after the conclusion of the Competition, falsely claim results not corresponding to the official ranking will be excluded from future editions, and their names will be reported to the World Federation of International Music Competitions in Geneva for further possible sanctions.

In the event of complaints and disputes, the Competition announcement text in Italian will be valid.



### **Special regulations**

Subject to compliance with the registration procedures, the required qualifications, and the general rules, those who have declared in their Curriculum that they are winners of first, second, or third prize in the latest edition of one of the violin competitions affiliated with the World Federation of International Music Competitions will be directly admitted to the elimination rounds of the Competition, without preselection. In this case, it is required to attach a copy of the relevant certificate to FORM/MOD B, along with a translation in English. The Prize Secretariat reserves the right to conduct any necessary verification.

## **2. PRESELECTION STAGE**

The list of those admitted to the Preselection Stage, organised according to the number and location of the registered candidates, will be published on the website [www.premiopaganini.it](http://www.premiopaganini.it) by 25 February 2025.

The Preselections will be held in the months of April and May 2025.

Those admitted must present themselves at one of the following locations, which may be subject to change:

- Genoa, “Niccolò Paganini” Music Conservatory;
- New York, Italian Cultural Institute;
- Berlin, Italian Cultural Institute;
- Seoul, Italian Cultural Institute;
- Guangzhou, Pearl River - Kayserburg Concert Hall.

When completing the online registration form “FORM/MOD A”, two options must be included in order of preference from the locations listed above.

Depending on logistical and organisational requirements, as well as the geographical distribution of the countries of origin, the Premio reserves the final and binding choice of the Preselection locations. The exact list of the dates for the Preselections will be published on the website at [www.premiopaganini.it](http://www.premiopaganini.it).

The order of performance will be determined based on the letter drawn at the end of the administrative verification conducted by the examining commission.

Admitted candidates will receive, with adequate notice, information regarding the location, date, and time of the auditions.

### **Preselection program**

Each candidate will have to perform:

- Niccolò Paganini: two Caprices chosen by the competitor, from the 24 Caprices op. 1 (Urtext edition - G. Henle edition);
- Johann Sebastian Bach: one movement chosen from the Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin BWV 1001-1006;
- Franz Schubert: first movement from the Violin Sonata in A Major, D. 574 "Grand Duo".



## **Procedure**

Admitted candidates must appear at the assigned preselection location on the indicated day and time, carrying a valid identification document (passport or identity card). Absence at the time of roll call, not justified by force majeure, will result in exclusion from the Competition. Any changes, which may only occur in exceptional cases, will be evaluated by the examining commission, in consultation with the Preselection commission, and communicated to the candidate.

Travel, food, and accommodation expenses for this phase of the Competition are entirely the responsibility of the candidates, as well as all the necessary arrangements to reach the location where the Preselection will take place on the specified day and time. During the Preselection, the first movement of Schubert's Sonata must be performed exclusively with the pianist provided by the Competition, with whom each candidate will have the opportunity to rehearse for about 5 minutes before their performance. Therefore, it will not be possible to participate with a personal pianist.

In compliance with the Competition Regulations, which are directed at "violinists, duly registered, of any nationality, religion, ethnic group, or gender," who meet the requirements established by this announcement, the "Premio Paganini" Committee will evaluate, at its sole discretion, the possibility of admitting candidates who, due to serious and objective impediments (excluding strictly personal issues such as economic hardship), not dependent on their will, can be assessed by the Preselection commission (in Genoa) through the submission of an audio-video recording that meets the specified technical requirements, performing the same musical program.

In the event of a negative evaluation by the Committee, the registration fee will not be refunded under any circumstances. The Preselection auditions will not be public.

## **Preselection Commission**

The admitted candidates will be evaluated by a Preselection Commission appointed by the President of the Premio, consisting of the Artistic Director of the Premio acting as Chairman, and two internationally renowned violinists and musicians.

## **Admission to the subsequent stages**

A total of no more than 24 (twenty-four) competitors will be admitted to the Preliminary Stage.

The list of those admitted to the first round of the Preliminary Stage will be published on the website [www.premiopaganini.it](http://www.premiopaganini.it) by 7 July 2025; the relevant communication will be sent to the email address indicated at the time of registration.

The score of the piece specifically commissioned by the Competition to composer Daniela Terranova will be forwarded by 18 July 2025.

This work may under no circumstances be sold, loaned or performed by the candidate prior to its world premiere to mark the Preliminary Round of the Competition.



### **3. COMPETITION STAGES (ELIMINATION, SEMIFINAL AND FINAL)**

#### **Hospitality**

Starting from the day before the roll call and throughout the Competition, candidates will enjoy free accommodation at the facilities designated by the Competition Secretariat and will receive a daily meal voucher. Expenses for the Preselections are not covered. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the candidate. Accommodation expenses for any accompanying persons, as well as pianists, are entirely the responsibility of the candidate.

Those who need to obtain a visa to enter Italy must indicate this on the registration form (FORM/MOD A); the Competition office will send them an invitation letter for this purpose. The procedures and related expenses for obtaining the visa will be the responsibility of the candidate and any accompanying persons. In any case, the Prize office is not responsible for the failure to obtain the visa.

#### **Roll call and Drawing**

Competitors admitted to the first round of the Preliminary Stage must present themselves, with a valid identity document, at the roll call set on 14 October 2025 at 10 am in the Salone di Rappresentanza in Palazzo Tursi, the Municipality of Genoa headquarters (Via Garibaldi 9).

The order of performance will be scheduled on the basis of the letter drawn during the call and will be valid for all the rounds.

If a candidate is absent when called up, for any reason other than force majeure, they will be excluded from the Competition.

#### **Rounds**

The Competition rounds will take place from 15 to 25 October 2025 and will be public.

The Preliminary Stage is divided into two rounds: the first, with a program for solo violin, to which no more than 24 (twenty-four) competitors will be admitted, will take place on 15 and 16 October 2025 in the Salone di Rappresentanza of Palazzo Tursi.

The Jury will select no more than 12 (twelve) candidates to move on to the second round, which will be in the form of a Recital, scheduled for Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 October at the "Teatro Carlo Felice" Theatre in Genoa.

The Semifinal Stage, scheduled for Wednesday 22 October at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, will have no more than 6 (six) competitors chosen by the Jury.

The Final Stage, to which no more than 3 (three) competitors chosen by the Jury will be admitted, will take place on Saturday 25 October 2025 at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa.

For the musical accompaniment during the second round of the Preliminary Stage, the competitors will have access to a piano accompanist free of charge.



Each candidate will be guaranteed a rehearsal session before performing in the Competition. Competitors can still decide to perform with their own pianist - provided that they cover all the costs.

It is the responsibility of the candidates to have their own copy of the scores to be used during all the Competition rounds.

By participating in the Competition, competitors authorise audio and video recordings, radio, television and internet broadcasting, live streaming of the Competition and the awarding ceremony, as well as any other event related to the Premio.

All rights relating to recordings and images (including broadcasting rights), as well as any rights to reproduction, including photo, audio-video or web rights relating to the Competition, belong to the Municipality of Genoa, which may use them without any obligation to pay any compensation to others.

#### 4. CALENDAR

The following table shows the information on the Competition stages.

<b>Roll Call and Drawing</b>	<b>14 October 2025</b>	<b>Palazzo Tursi</b>
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<b>Competition stages</b>	<b>Candidates allowed</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>
Preliminary (First Round)	twenty-four (24)	15-16 October 2025	Palazzo Tursi
Preliminary (Second Round)	twelve (12)	18-19 October 2025	Teatro Carlo Felice
Semifinal	six (6)	22 October 2025	Teatro Carlo Felice
Final	three (3)	25 October 2025	Teatro Carlo Felice

<b>Gala Concert</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>26 October 2025</b>	<b>Teatro Carlo Felice</b>
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#### 5. PROGRAM

The program to be performed in the various stages of the Competition is shown below.



## Preliminary Stage

### First round: solo violin (24 candidates)

1. Johann Sebastian Bach: a Sonata or a Partita, to be performed without repeats. It is to be excluded the one from which the movement presented for the Preselection is taken;
2. Niccolò Paganini: two Caprices (Urtext edition – G. Henle) drawn at random by the international Jury from the four presented by the candidate. The two Caprices presented by the candidate for the Preselection round cannot be among these four.
3. Daniela Terranova: world premiere piece commissioned by the Competition.

### Second round: recital (12 candidates)

Free Recital program lasting a minimum of 65 minutes and a maximum of 75 minutes, including:

1. a presentation in English of the chosen program, explaining its origin and artistic message (maximum duration 5 minutes).
2. Niccolò Paganini: one composition choosing from:
  - a. Variations on “Di tanti palpiti” M.S. 77 (Peters or Ricordi edition);
  - b. Variations on “Mosè” M.S. 23 (“Sonata a preghiera”) (Schott edition, with the G tuned to B flat);
  - c. Variations on “Non più mesta” M.S. 22 (Ricordi edition);
  - d. Variations on “Le streghe” M.S. 19 (Peters edition).
3. Robert Schumann: Sonata in D minor op. 121 (Urtext edition – G. Henle).
4. One or more pieces of the candidate's choice. Original pieces and transcriptions of all genres and from all periods are admitted.

The order of the pieces can be chosen by the candidate, as is the moment dedicated to the presentation of the program: candidates must send a digital copy of all the scores of the pieces chosen for the recital to the Secretariat by 25 July.

### Semifinal Stage (6 candidates)

The contestants, performing within established ensembles, will play the following pieces from the chamber music repertoire and, at their choice, one of the two works for solo violin by Niccolò Paganini:

1. Franz Joseph Haydn: Quartet op.20 no.5 in F minor (movements I and III) - 1<sup>st</sup> violin (Urtext edition – G. Henle);
2. Igor Stravinsky: Three Pieces for String Quartet (1914-1918) - 2<sup>nd</sup> violin (Boosey & Hawkes edition);
3. Niccolò Paganini: Variations on “God save the King” M.S. 56 (Lemoine edition), or Variations on “Nel cor più non mi sento” M.S. 44 (IMC edition);
4. Robert Schumann: Piano Quintet op. 44 in E flat major - 1<sup>st</sup> violin (Urtext edition – G. Henle).



## Final Stage (3 candidates)

Each of the three candidates, accompanied by the Orchestra of the Teatro Carlo Felice, will perform:

1. a Paganini concerto, of their choice;
2. a concerto of their choice, from the following list:
  - Robert Schumann (WoO 1)
  - Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (op. 64);
  - Ludwig van Beethoven (op. 61);
  - Johannes Brahms (op. 77);
  - Antonin Dvorak (op. 53);
  - Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (op. 35);
  - Jean Sibelius (op. 47).

The concertos must be performed by heart by the competitors.

## 6. INTERNATIONAL JURY

The International Jury is composed of an odd number of members, no fewer than seven and no more than nine, including the President.

Two additional members may be designated by the President to participate solely in the evaluation of the final round of the Competition.

When the Jury is constituted, each member will issue a declaration certifying any fourth-degree kinship relationships with the competitors and affirming that they have not had any educational, public, or private relationships with them in the last two years.

If any Jury members have a kinship relationship or have had, or currently have, any public or private educational relationships with one or more competitors in the last two years, they must refrain from participating in the discussion and from expressing their vote regarding those competitors. This abstention will be explicitly noted in the minutes.

No more than twelve candidates will be admitted to the second round of the Preliminary Stage, after which a maximum of six candidates will advance to the Semifinal Stage, and a maximum of three candidates will proceed to the Final Stage. The final ranking for the Competition will be established by the Jury through a final decision, pronounced by an absolute majority and through an open vote.

At its discretion, the Jury may decide to listen only a portion of the compositions outlined in the performed program and reserves the right to interrupt the competitor's performance at any time it deems appropriate.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the round, the Jury has the right to interrupt the competitor's performance at any time if, for technical reasons or other reasons not attributable to the competitor, the round cannot continue as normal.

In any case, it is up to the President of the Jury to decide on any issues that arise during the Competition that are not explicitly addressed in this announcement and/or in the Premio regulations.





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While they are in the Competition, it is strictly forbidden for competitors to contact members of the Jury.

At the end of each Round of the Preliminary and Semifinal Stage the Jury meets to evaluate each contestant and draw up a list of those admitted to the next round.

Those who are not admitted have the right to request a meeting with the Jury to receive comments regarding their performance.

The Artistic Director may participate in the Jury meetings, along with a possible representative from the Premio Secretariat responsible for taking the minutes.

## 7. AWARDS

The Premio Paganini cannot be divided and, at the discretion of the Jury, may not be awarded.

All the other prizes and recognitions for the finalists are assigned according to a specific ranking and may be awarded jointly.

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

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

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

The winner of the Premio Paganini may be offered the opportunity to play the "Cannone", or the "Sivori", that belonged to Niccolò Paganini, in accordance with the priority requirements for protection and conservation.

The Jury will also express its judgement for the assignment of the special prizes.

## 8. SPECIAL PRIZES

The following Special Prizes will also be awarded, offered by entities other than the Municipality of Genoa, which remains therefore unrelated to the methods and procedures for the disbursement of these prizes:

- "Prize in memory of Maestro Mario Ruminelli" provided by the "Mario Ruminelli Cultural Association" of Domodossola to the competitor who obtains the highest recognition from the public in the final €3,000.00 (three thousand euro/00);
- "Pallavicino Foundation Prize", offered by Prince Domenico Pallavicino, for the best performance of the Concerto for Violin and Orchestra by Niccolò Paganini: €3,000.00 (three thousand euro/00);
- "Special Prize Hotel Bristol Palace-Duetorrihotels Collection" for the best Chamber Music performance: € 5,000.00 (five thousand euro/00).
- "Prize in memory of Dr. Enrico Costa", offered by the Costa family to the youngest competitor admitted to the final €2,000.00 (two thousand euro/00);
- Prize of the Associazione Amici di Paganini for the best performance of the contemporary piece in the Preliminary Stage: €2,000.00 (two thousand euro/00);



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- “Prize in memory of Mr. Renato and Ms. Mariangiola De Barbieri”, offered by the association of the same name, awarded to the Italian finalist for the best interpretation of Paganini's Caprices: € 1,000.00 (one thousand euro/00)

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

Additional special prizes may be awarded by any Partners of the Premio.

## **9. GALA AND AWARD CONCERTS FOR THE WINNER OF THE PREMIO PAGANINI**

The winner of the 58<sup>th</sup> International Violin Competition “Premio Paganini” will perform, for the first time, in a Gala concert at the Teatro Carlo Felice on 26 October 2025.

The organisers of the Premio may activate the procedure to allow the “Cannone” or the “Sivori” to be used during the concert.

The program includes the performance of one of the concertos presented in the Final Stage, accompanied by the Orchestra of the Teatro Carlo Felice.

Based on the preliminary agreements already reached by the organizers of the Premio Paganini, the following musical institutions may offer the winner of the Competition a Prize concert to be held in the years 2026/2027:

- 1 Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Roma
- 2 Teatro la Fenice, Venezia
- 3 Teatro Carlo Felice, Genova
- 4 Teatro Comunale, Bologna
- 5 Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana, Palermo
- 6 Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini, Parma
- 7 Orchestra da Camera di Mantova - Festival Trame Sonore
- 8 Orchestra di Padova e del Veneto
- 9 Accademia Filarmonica Romana
- 10 Società del Quartetto Milano
- 11 LAC Lugano
- 12 Perugia Musica Classica
- 13 Bologna Festival
- 14 Giovine Orchestra Genovese – G.O.G.
- 15 Società dei Concerti Trieste
- 16 Ferrara Musica
- 17 New York, National Italian American Foundation (N.I.A.F.)
- 18 Philadelphia, National Italian American Foundation (N.I.A.F.)



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- 19 Chicago, National Italian American Foundation (N.I.A.F.)
- 20 Liceu Barcelona
- 21 Royal Opera House, Muscat
- 22 Dubai Opera
- 23 Opera Nazionale Lettone, Riga
- 24 Festival di Musica y Danza, Granada
- 25 Fondazione Durini LacMus
- 26 Opera di Tirana
- 27 Società Filarmonica di Trento
- 28 Festival Elba Isola Musicale d'Europa
- 29 Associazione Scarlatti di Napoli

Subsequent additions to the above list will be published on the website [www.premiopaganini.it](http://www.premiopaganini.it).

The office of the Premio will be available to facilitate, provided there are no obstacles and within their competencies, a harmonious scheduling of the concert engagements of the winner at the aforementioned institutions.