

PRAGUE SPRING

80th International Music Festival

COMPETITION OBOE CELLO

6. 5. – 14. 5. 2025

76th International Music Competition

festival.cz/en/competition

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The 76th Prague Spring International Music Competition, a member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions in Geneva, will take place in Prague on **6 – 14 May 2025** in the categories **OBOE** and **CELLO**.

The Competition is intended for artists of all nationalities who:

- a) satisfy the age limit – 30 years (i.e. those who are born after 6 May 1995 inclusive)
- b) have not already won 1st prize in the relevant category at the Prague Spring International Music Competition

APPLICATION DEADLINE – 2nd December 2024.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION

Persons interested in participating in the Competition shall apply online at the Competition's website, where they shall complete and confirm an online application form and attach the following attachments:

- a) **A copy of the applicant's birth certificate or proof of identity**
- b) **A portrait photo suitable for reproduction** (without copyright) – min. 1 MB and 300 dpi
- c) **An unedited VIDEO recording** of the compositions listed in the "Competition Repertoire" section of this General Provisions (find the technical requirements below)
- d) **A statement from a professor or other person of artistic standing** (e.g. a sound engineer) guaranteeing the authenticity and quality of the recording – a form can be downloaded on the Competition's website
- e) **Proof of payment of the registration fee in the amount of EUR 50** (for costs associated with registration and the preliminary round) – always state the full name of the competitor in the comment
 - payment to the Prague Spring account no. 3633372/0800 held at the Česká spořitelna bank, IBAN CZ64 0800 0000 0000 03633372, B.I.C. GIBACZPX (all fees must be transferred „free of bank charges for the recipient“)
 - payment via PayPal service (platbaPP@festival.cz)

Application deadline – 2nd December 2024

(The date of the submission of the electronic application is decisive.)

Only complete applications will be accepted.

By 20th January 2025, the candidates admitted to the Competition (i.e. those successful in the preliminary round) shall be notified about their admission by an e-mail. After the

receipt of the admission confirmation, the **participation fee 100 EUR must be transferred to the Competition account (or paid via PayPal) by 15th February 2025 at the latest.** The accepted candidates shall be sent a letter with complete information concerning the organisation of the Competition, as well as the sheet music for the commissioned piece.

Neither the registration nor the participation fee can be refunded.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RECORDING

The selection of candidates to take part in the Competition in Prague shall be based on this recording, shall be anonymous and in random order. The video recording must fulfil the following parameters:

- Pieces must be recorded in their entirety and without any cuts or editing;
- Individual parts of the pieces (movements) must be recorded separately or indexed;
- Microphones should be positioned at a distance allowing to obtain a good sound quality;
- The video should be filmed from a fixed camera angle; musician's hands and face must be entirely visible all the time;
- It is highly recommended to ensure a good sound quality of the recording, to provide the jury with the best possible conditions for judging in the preliminary round;
- Public recordings are accepted if they meet the recording conditions stated above (especially no cuts);
- **Upload your recording (recordings) to a cloud server such as Dropbox, iCloud, Google Drive, etc. (not YouTube) and include the link in your application – always set the access to the video as public.**

Technical requirements

- Video quality – 720p or 1080i or 1080p
- Audio quality – PCM, flac, mp3 min. 256kbps or aac min. 192kbps
- Microphone of adequate quality
- File format – mp4, mov, avi, mpg or mkv

CONSENT TO THE COMPETITION CONDITIONS AND TO THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

By submitting the Competition application, the competitor gives his/her consent to the processing of personal data in accordance with the following information on their processing and confirms that he/she has read and accepted the Competition Conditions before registering for the Competition, and that he/she agrees with the fact that not granting or revoking this consent excludes his/her participation in the Competition.

By submitting the application, the Competitor gives his/her consent to the Organiser to process the following personal data as a controller, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such

data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (hereinafter only the “Regulation”), and Act No. 110/2019 Coll. on the processing of personal data, as amended:

- Name and surname
- Date of birth
- E-mail
- Telephone number
- Address

The Organiser processes the personal data provided only based on the consent given by the Competitor and for the purpose of fulfilling the contract - ensuring the Competitor’s participation in the Competition. These data will be processed by the controller for the duration of the contractual relationship.

The provision of personal data is voluntary. Consent can be revoked at any time, for example by sending an e-mail or letter to the contact details of the Organiser.

Personal data is processed by the Organiser as the controller, but personal data may also be processed for the Organiser by processors acting on behalf of the Organiser. In this case, the Organiser undertakes to ensure that the processor fulfils its obligations under the Regulation.

Under the Regulation, the Competitor has:

- the right to withdraw his/her consent at any time;
- the right to request information as to which personal data are processed and to obtain a copy of such data;
- the right to request access to such data and to have it updated or corrected or to request processing restrictions;
- the right to request the deletion of such personal data;
- the right to request explanations;
- the right to data portability (in case of automated processing);
- the right to lodge a complaint with the Office for the Protection of Personal Data if there are doubts as to compliance with the obligations relating to the processing of personal data.

Personal data provided by the Competitors shall not be provided to third countries.

COURSE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition shall be held in three rounds and the number of candidates is limited. For both instruments, the maximum number of Round I candidates is 45, a maximum of 12 candidates shall advance to Round II. 3 candidates shall advance to the finals in both categories.

All rounds of competition performances are public.

SCHEDULE

OBOE

Acoustics rehearsals	6 May	Vzlet
Opening and drawing	6 May	Vzlet
Round I	7 and 8 May	Vzlet
Feedback sessions	9 May	Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Round II	10 May	Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Finals and prize giving ceremony (as a part of the festival)	13 May	Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall

CELLO

Acoustics rehearsals	7 May	Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Opening and drawing	7 May	Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Round I	8 and 9 May	Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Feedback sessions	10 May	Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Round II	11 May	Academy of Performing Arts in Prague
Finals and prize giving ceremony (as a part of the festival)	14 May	Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall

The feedback sessions are intended for those competitors who do not advance to Round II.

The organiser reserves the right to make changes to this schedule.

PRESENCE DURING THE COMPETITION

Each participant is obliged to register at the Competition secretariat (for the oboe category – Vzlet, for the cello category – Academy of Performing Arts) at a fixed time, which he/she has received in the letter of invitation. The participant will identify him/herself with passport, identity card or birth certificate. Immediately after registration, an acoustic rehearsal will take place in the hall.

All participants must be present in person at the opening ceremony of the Competition and at the announcement of the results after all rounds.

Each participant accepts the obligation to remain free of all professional obligations or concerts throughout the duration of the Competition.

Competitors will be expected to receive their awards in person.

ACCOMMODATION

All travel and accommodation expenses for the duration of Round I shall be paid by the candidates themselves.

Starting from Round II, all candidates who do not have their permanent residence in Prague or live more than 100 km from Prague shall receive a contribution of 70 EUR/day. The contribution shall be provided for the duration of their active participation in the Competition. The accommodation for the prize-winners shall be covered until the day

when the prizes are presented to them. This does not apply to piano accompanists or other accompanying persons.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

By submitting a registration form, participants give consent to the recording of any audio-visual materials from their participation in the competition and its publication, typically in the news coverage of the competition or by media partners of the competition. Owners of such materials shall be the Organising Body or its media partners as the producer of such materials. If participants of the competition receive such audio-visual materials, they shall be obliged to use them only for personal, educational, non-commercial and non-public purposes.

Any radio or television broadcasts and recordings of competition performances shall be at the disposal of the Prague Spring Festival and shall serve for the promotion of the competition. Any commercial use of these recordings shall be the subject of future negotiations.

JURIES

The following artists have promised to sit on the juries:

OBOE

Chairwoman

Nancy Ambrose King – USA

Members

Clara Dent-Bogányi – Germany

Johannes Grosso – France

Kalev Kuljus – Estonia

Jan Souček – Czech Republic

Fabien Thouand – France

Vilém Veverka – Czech Republic

CELLO

Chairman

Raphael Wallfisch – United Kingdom

Members

Natalie Clein – United Kingdom

Marc Coppey – France

Tomáš Jamník – Czech Republic

Michal Kaňka – Czech Republic

Ludovít Kanta – Slovakia

Maria Kliegel – Germany

Student of a jury member

If a jury member's student is among the competitors, that jury member may not evaluate him/her.

Jury members must not teach their students during the competition itself, otherwise the contestant will be excluded from the competition. A student is a competitor who studies with a member of the jury long-term and continuously as part of regular studies or private lessons, or whose studies were completed on or after 1st January 2024.

The provision does not apply to participation in the masterclass.

REPERTOIRE

The competition repertoire stated by the candidate in the application shall be binding and cannot be changed. Later changes or failure to comply with the mandatory repertoire shall form the grounds for disqualification. Candidates must bring printed music with them and present it on demand.

The commissioned piece for the 2025 Prague Spring International Music Competition by a Czech composer shall be sent to the candidates together with instructions on the course of the Competition. The composition may not be publicly performed prior to the Competition.

For competition performances, the jury has the right to determine the order of compositions or of individual parts of compositions.

Using illegal photocopies of sheet music for public performance is a violation of the copyright and the commercial rights of the publisher and the performers shall bear all liability for any legal sanctions.

OBOE

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#): Concerto for Oboe K. 314 – 1st movement
2. [Robert Schumann](#): Three Romances Op. 94 – 1st Romance

ROUND I (one piece must be played from memory)

1. [Georg Philipp Telemann](#): 12 Fantasias TWV 40:2-13 Fantasy No. 9 (with repetitions)
2. [Robert Schumann](#) – Adagio and Allegro for Oboe and Piano Op..

ROUND II

1. [Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart](#): Oboe Quartet in F major K. 370/368b (in cooperation with Zemlinsky Quartet)
2. One of the following compositions
 - a. [Klement Slavický](#): Suite for Oboe and Piano
 - b. [Andre Jolivet](#): Serenade for Oboe and Piano
 - c. [Charles Koechlin](#): Sonata for Oboe and Piano Op. 58 (movements II, III and IV)
3. [Jan Klusák](#): Solo composition up to 8 minutes commissioned for the IMC Prague Spring 2025

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

Official piano accompanists are available at no charge on request in the application form. Participants may bring along their personal accompanist at their own expense.

FINALS

In cooperation with Prague Philharmonia, conducted by Robert Kružík

1. Jiří Gemrot: Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra
2. One of the following concertos
 - a. Bohuslav Martinů: Concerto for Oboe and Small Orchestra H 353
 - b. Bernd Alois Zimmermann: Concerto for Oboe and Small Orchestra

CELLO

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Joseph Haydn: Concerto in C major Hob.VIIIb:1 (1st movement without cadenza)
2. David Popper: Elfentanz Op. 39

ROUND I (to be memorized)

1. Ludwig van Beethoven: First movement from one of following sonatas
 - a. in A major Op. 69
 - b. in C major Op. 102 No. 1
 - c. in D major Op. 102
2. Antonín Dvořák: Rondo in G minor Op. 94
3. Carlo Alfredo Piatti: 12 Capricci Op. 25 – one Caprice (except Caprice No. 1)

ROUND II

(pieces can be played from sheet music or from memory as the candidate chooses)

1. First movement from one of following sonatas:
 - a. Johannes Brahms: Sonata in F major Op. 99
 - b. Franz Schubert: Sonata Arpeggione
 - c. Fryderyk Chopin: Sonata in G minor Op. 65
2. One of the following compositions:
 - a. Mieczysław Weinberg: Sonata for Cello Solo Op. 72 (2nd and 3rd movement)
 - b. Krzysztof Penderecki: Divertimento per Cello Solo (1994)
 - c. György Ligetti: Sonata for Cello Solo
 - d. Elliott Carter: Figment for Cello Solo
3. One full sonata from 20th century
 - a. Bohuslav Martinů: Sonata No. 2 H 286
 - b. Sergej Prokofjev: Sonata in C major Op. 119
 - c. Francis Poulenc: Sonata FP 143
 - d. Miloslav Kabeláč: Sonata Op. 9 (Bärenreiter Praha)
4. Pavel Zemek-Novák: Solo composition up to 8 minutes commissioned for the IMC Prague Spring 2025

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

Official piano accompanists are available at no charge on request in the application form. Participants may bring along their personal accompanist at their own expense.

FINALS (to be memorized)

In cooperation with Prague Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jiří Harant

1. Johann Sebastian Bach: Preludium, Sarabande, Gigue from one of Suites
 - a. E flat major BWV 1010

- b. D major BWV 1012
- 2. **Antonín Dvořák**: Concerto for Cello and Orchestra in B minor Op. 104

PRIZES

In each category of the 76th annual Prague Spring International Music Competition, the following prizes are offered:

MAIN PRIZES

1st prize	CZK 250,000
2nd prize	CZK 150,000
3rd prize	CZK 100,000

These amounts are gross amounts, i.e. they are subject to tax and other fees under applicable Czech legislation and regulations.

If the performances of the candidates do not reach the required quality standard, the jury shall decide whether to award all of the prizes. The jury may choose not to award any of them, if it rules that the performances of the candidates do not meet the usual artistic standards of the competition for the awarding of prizes. If candidates' performances are of equal quality, the jury may award multiple prizes on the same level, in which case the prize money shall be added together and then divided equally to prizes of the same level. In doing so, it is necessary to make sure that the amounts of the prizes are in line with the final order of the competitors and that the amounts of prize money do not exceed the amounts offered for individual prizes.

Only one 1st prize may be awarded.

Winners of these main prizes shall also receive the Competition Laureate title.

OTHER PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY

Honourable Mention of the Jury of the First Grade may be awarded to some of the finalists who do not receive any of the main prizes – CZK 10,000

Honourable Mention of the Jury may be awarded to some outstanding candidates in Round II who do not advance to the finals

Bohuslav Martinů Foundation Prize for the best performance of the composition by Bohuslav Martinů – CZK 50,000

Czech Music Fund Foundation Prize for the best performance of works composed for the 2025 Prague Spring International Music Competition – CZK 20,000

Prize of the City of Prague for the most successful laureate

Czech Radio Prize a free studio recording and presentation of the best laureate to be broadcasted by Czech Radio

Bärenreiter Prize a gift voucher for a selection of sheet music published by Bärenreiter Praha and Bärenreiter-Verlag Kassel for the most successful laureate

PRIZE FOR THE CELLO CATEGORY

Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžičková Prize for the most successful laureate – USD 1,500. The Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžičková Endowment Fund and the Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžičková Foundation Washington will further support concerts given by the winner of this prize with up to USD 8,500 if they include an essential work by Viktor Kalabis. Detailed conditions of the prize are to be found on the competition's website.

PRIZES OFFERED JOINTLY FOR BOTH CATEGORIES

Oleg Podgorný Prize for the most successful youngest Czech participant in the entire competition (must have participated at least in Round II) – CZK 25,000 granted by the ARTIST'S LIFE FOUNDATION.

Czech Centres Prize a one-week residence at one of the Czech Centres in Europe for the best Czech participant in the entire competition

Gideon Klein Foundation Prize for the most successful Czech participant in the entire competition – CZK 20,000

Mercedes Benz Prize for the most successful Czech participant in the entire competition (must have participated at least in the finals or have earned an Honourable Mention) – the company will provide a car for mutually agreed events in the 2024 concert season

These prizes shall also be gross amounts.

Winners of these additional prizes are not entitled to use the Competition Laureate title.

PAID CONCERT PERFORMANCES

A performance at the 81st annual Prague Spring International Music Festival in 2026 for the winner of the 1st prizes.

More prizes and concert engagements are under negotiation, and they will be published on the <https://festival.cz/en/competition/> website and in the competition catalogue.

These competition provisions have been announced in compliance with the Competition Rules of the Prague Spring International Music Competition dated 25 November 2019. The competition provisions are issued in the Czech and English languages. In case of any discrepancy, the Czech text shall be regarded as authentic.

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