

# PRAGUE SPRING

77th International Music Competition

**FLUTE PIANO**

6. 5. – 14. 5. 2026

## COMPETITION CONDITIONS

# GENERAL PROVISIONS

The 77th 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 2026** in the categories **FLUTE** and **PIANO**.

**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 1996 inclusive)
- b) have not already won 1st prize in the relevant category at the Prague Spring International Music Competition

**APPLICATION DEADLINE – 1st December 2025.**

## 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 credit / debit card

### Application deadline – 1st December 2025

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

Only complete applications will be accepted.

By 20th January 2026, 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 credit / debit card by 15th February 2026 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 uploaded 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);
- We accept official recordings from other WFIMC members;
- **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. A maximum of 45 candidates in the flute category and 40 candidates in the piano category will be accepted into the first round. A maximum of 12 candidates shall advance to Round II in flute category, a maximum of 10 candidates shall advance to Round II in piano category. 3 candidates shall advance to the Finals in both categories.

All rounds of competition performances are public.

## SCHEDULE

### FLUTE

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
Round II	10 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Finals and prize giving ceremony (as a part of the festival)		
	13 May	Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall
Mentoring for finalists	14 May	TBA

### PIANO

Acoustics rehearsals	7 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Opening and drawing	7 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Round I	8 and 9 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Feedback sessions	10 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Round II	11 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Finals and prize giving ceremony (as a part of the festival)		
	14 May	Rudolfinum, Dvořák Hall
Mentoring for finalists	15 May	TBA

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 flute category – Vzlet, for the piano 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:

### FLUTE

#### Members

Philippe Bernold – France  
Emily Beynon – Great Britain  
Christina Fassbender – Germany  
Barthold Kuijken – Belgium  
Václav Kunt – Czech Republic  
Jan Ostrý – Czech Republic  
Karl-Heinz Schütz – Austria

### PIANO

#### Members

Joonas Ahonen – Finland  
Daniel Browell – Great Britain  
Dina Yoffe – Latvia / Germany  
Ivo Kahánek – Czech Republic  
Martin Kasík – Czech Republic  
Leonel Morales – Spain  
Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń – Poland

#### 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 2025.

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 2026 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.

## FLUTE

### PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. **Joseph Bodin de Boismortier**: Suite No. 5 in B minor for flute solo (only this movements without repetitions: Prélude: lentement, Rondeau: gracieusement and Fantaisie: vivement) *Edition Schott FTR 15*
2. **Benjamin Godard**: Suite de trois morceaux op. 116 (part III. Valse)

### ROUND I

1. **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**: Flute Quartet in D major K. 285 (version for flute and piano)
2. **Guillaume Connesson**: Sonata for flute and piano (2022/23) 1. Andante, rubato and 4. Molto vivace e giocoso (*Edition Billaudot G 10442B*)

### ROUND II

1. **Jean-Marie Leclair**: one of following sonatas for flute and a basso continuo:
  - a. Sonata in C major « Second Livre de Sonates » (1743) (*Amadeus BP 970*)
  - b. Sonata E minor « Second Livre de Sonates » (1743) (*Amadeus BP 970*)
  - c. Sonata G major op. 4/7 « Quatrième Livre de Sonates » (1743) *Amadeus BP 1574*)
2. One of following sonatas
  - a. **Bohuslav Martinů**: Sonata for flute and piano
  - b. **Ludwig van Beethoven**: Serenade for flute and piano Op. 41 (*Henle Verlag*)
  - c. **Carl Maria von Weber**: Sonata for flute and piano in A flat major op. 58 (*Edition Kunzelmann*)
3. **Petr Popelka**: Composition up to 8 minutes commissioned for the IMC Prague Spring 2026

## 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 Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Kaspar Zehnder

1. **Johann Sebastian Bach**: Partita for flute solo BWV 1013 (**memorized**)
2. **Jindřich Feld**: Concerto for flute nad orchestra (1954) (*Bärenreiter*)

# PIANO

## PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. **Johann Sebastian Bach**: one of the preludes and fugues from the Well-Tempered Clavier BWV 846–893 of the candidate's choice
2. **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**: quick movement from one of piano sonatas of the candidate's choice (without repetitions)
3. **Fryderyk Chopin**: one of following mazurkas
  - a. Mazurka Op. 17, No. 4
  - b. Mazurka Op. 24 No. 4
  - c. Mazurka Op. 59 No. 1
4. **Fryderyk Chopin**: one of the following etudes
  - a. Etude Op. 10 No. 1 in C major
  - b. Etude Op. 10 No. 2 in A minor
  - c. Etude Op. 10 No. 4 in C sharp minor
  - d. Etude Op. 10 No. 7 in C major
  - e. Etude Op. 10 No. 8 in F major
  - f. Etude Op. 25 No. 6 in G sharp minor
  - g. Etude Op. 25 No. 8 in D flat major
  - h. Etude Op. 25 No 11 in A minor

## ROUND I

1. **Johann Sebastian Bach**: one of the preludes and fugues from the Well-Tempered Clavier BWV 846–893 of the candidate's choice
2. **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**: one piano sonata of the candidate's choice (without repetitions)
3. **Fryderyk Chopin**: one of the following etudes
  - a. Etude Op. 10 No. 1 in C major
  - b. Etude Op. 10 No. 2 in A minor
  - c. Etude Op. 10 No. 4 in C sharp minor
  - d. Etude Op. 10 No. 7 in C major
  - e. Etude Op. 10 No. 8 in F major
  - f. Etude Op. 25 No. 6 in G sharp minor
  - g. Etude Op. 25 No. 8 in D flat major
  - h. Etude Op. 25 No 11 in A minor
4. **Sergei Rachmaninov**: one of the following etudes
  - a. Etude Op. 39 No. 1 in C minor
  - b. Etude Op. 39 No. 5 in E flat minor
  - c. Etude Op. 39 No. 9 in D major

**The candidate can include compositions already performed by him/her in the preliminary round.**

## ROUND II

The candidate shall put together an interesting recital lasting 50–55 minutes.

The recital must include:

1. Composition commissioned for the IMC Prague Spring 2026 by Kryštof Mařatka (cca 8 min)
2. The seminal work of Romanticism or the 20th century
3. Compositions from at least two stylistic periods

**The candidate **MUST NOT** include compositions already performed by him/her in Round I.**

## FINALS

In cooperation with Prague Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Petr Altrichter

One of the following concertos

1. [Johannes Brahms](#): Concerto No. 1 in D minor Op. 15
2. [Antonín Dvořák](#): Concerto in G minor Op. 33
3. [Fryderyk Chopin](#): Concerto in E minor Op. 11
4. [Sergei Rachmaninov](#): Concerto No. 3 in D minor Op. 30

**Playing from memory is mandatory in all rounds except for newly composed piece.**

## PRIZES

In each category of the 77th 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 2026 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 PIANO CATEGORY

**Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžicková Prize** for the most successful laureate – USD 1,500. The Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžicková Endowment Fund and the Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžicková 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 2026 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 82nd annual Prague Spring International Music Festival in 2027 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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