



# Press Release

## 77th Prague Spring International Music Competition Begins

Prague, 7 May 2026 | Yesterday, 6 May, the 77th Prague Spring International Music Competition commenced with the draw for the first round in the flute category. Ultimately, 47 flautists from 14 countries have been accredited in Prague for the first round. While the piano competitors are still awaiting their draw, the first round of the flute competition will get fully underway on Thursday, 7 May at 10 a.m.

“I expect a very high standard, because I had a really hard time choosing from the 239 flutists who applied. I was completely amazed, especially at the beginning. I listened to number one – perfect; number two – perfect; the same for three and four... It made me uneasy because we couldn’t accept everyone; we had a cap. Among those more than two hundred applicants were very strong candidates, so I believe the standard will be truly high,” says the Chairman of the flute jury, **Philippe Bernold**. The twelve competitors advancing to the second round, which will take place on 10 May from 10 a.m. in the Martinů Hall at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts (HAMU), will be announced on the evening of 8 May. The final round will be held on Wednesday, 13 May, in the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum, accompanied by the **Hradec Králové Philharmonic Orchestra** and conductor **Kaspar Zehnder**. Works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Jindřich Feld will be performed. It should be noted that this year’s compulsory piece for the second round of the flute competition was composed by **Petr Popelka**, conductor of the Prague Spring 2026 opening concert.

The piano competition will begin this evening with the draw. The first rounds will take place on 8 and 9 May in the Martinů Hall at HAMU, the second round in the same venue on 11 May, and the final round in the Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum on 14 May. Accompanied by the **Prague Symphony Orchestra (FOK)** and conductor **Petr Altrichter**, the finalists will perform, according to their choice, one of the piano concertos by Fryderyk Chopin, Johannes Brahms or Sergei Rachmaninov.

All rounds of the Prague Spring Competition are open to the public. Tickets for the first and second rounds, priced at CZK 200 (a single ticket for the first round is valid for both days), are available online at [festival.cz](https://festival.cz) or can be purchased on site. For the final rounds, tickets for the flute final on 13 May are still available. The second and final rounds will, as is customary, be streamed live on the Prague Spring YouTube channel [@PragueSpringFestival](https://www.youtube.com/@PragueSpringFestival). The full competition schedule is available here.

Partners of the Prague Spring International Music Competition 2026 are the **Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic**, the **City of Prague** and the **ČEZ Foundation**.

Pražské jaro / Prague Spring  
Mezinárodní hudební festival  
International Music Festival



📷 Photographs from the flute category draw: <https://bit.ly/4cWGDne>

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**Press contact**

Iva Nevoralová

+420 608 028 054

[nevoralova@festival.cz](mailto:nevoralova@festival.cz)

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