

Competition Rules

I. General Conditions

Article 1: The 3rd edition of Kreutzer International Music Competition will take place from 4th to 8th of August 2026 in Miry concert hall and Ghent Royal Conservatory; it is open to young violinists and chamber music groups from all around the world.

Article 2: The chamber music groups consist of strings only or strings with piano.

Article 3: There are 3 age categories for Violin and no age limit for Chamber Music.

Violin

Category A – Candidates of maximum 12 years old and less at the time of competition

Category B – Candidates of maximum 17 years old and less at the time of competition

Category C – Candidates of maximum 33 years old and less at the time of competition

II. Schedule

Article 4:

1st April 2026 – Deadline for application (The first-round videos must be sent together with the application form).

15th April 2026 – Announcement of the candidates selected for the second round.

4th – 8th August 2026 – Second and final rounds.

8th August 2026 – Prize giving ceremony and Gala Concert of prize winners.

III. Rounds

Article 5:

Violin

Category A – First round/Preselection (video) > Final round (Public)

Category B – First round/Preselection (video) > Second round (Public) > Final round (Public)

Category C – First round/Preselection (video) > Second round (Public) > Final round (Public)

Chamber music

First round/Preselection (video) > Final round (Public)

Article 6: The first round/preselection will be judged by the organizers of the competition and a part of the jury. The second and final rounds will be judged by the jury board of internationally recognized musicians.

Article 7: The 2nd and final rounds will take place in Miry Concert Hall in Ghent and are open to the public.

Article 8: For the public rounds, the candidates will perform in the order established by the drawing of lots.

Article 9: Preselection – viewing of the videos

- The preselection videos must be sent together with the application form.

- Each piece must be recorded entirely without cuts or editing.
- The video should be sent via www.wetransfer.com or as a YouTube link.
- The link should be unlisted – when uploading the video choose the unlisted settings.
- Please write in the title of the videos your name and the title of the piece.
- The performers must be clearly seen on the video.
- There must be only one camera, and its angle must be fixed.
- Participants must ensure that the video and sound are of a good quality.
- Any cuts or editing will disqualify the performer/performers immediately.

Article 10: Candidates will be informed individually of the results of the preselection by 15th April 2026 at the latest. The results will be also published on the website of the competition.

IV. Program

Article 11:

Violin

Category A:

First round – Pre-selection by video

1. One etude or caprice by one of the following composers: Kreutzer, Mazas or Dont
2. One piece of choice for solo violin or with piano accompaniment

Final round

1. The first movement of a Concerto of choice
2. One piece of choice for solo violin or with piano accompaniment (different from the 1st round)

Category B:

First round – Pre-selection by video

1. Bach - one slow and one fast movement from a Sonata or Partita for violin solo of choice (except Ciaccona)
2. One etude or caprice by one of the following composers: Rode, Wieniawski or Paganini

Second round

1. Mozart - the first movement with cadenza from one of the following Concertos:

Concerto no.3 G major K.216

Concerto no.4 D major K.218

Concerto no.5 A major K.219

2. One virtuoso piece by one of the following composers: Sarasate, Saint-Saëns, Wieniawski, Vieuxtemps, Chausson, Ravel, Ernst, Paganini, Tchaikovsky

Final round

1. The first movement of a Concerto by one of the following composers: Khachaturian, Vieuxtemps (no.2, no.4), Wieniawski, Lalo, Saint-Saëns (no.3), Mendelssohn, Bruch, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Beethoven, Sibelius, Paganini, Prokofiev

2. One of the following pieces for violin and piano:

Bloch - Nigun

Bartók - Romanian Folk Dances, Sz.56

Szymanowski - Nocturne and Tarantella, Op.28

Prokofiev - Waltz from the ballet "Cinderella", Op.87 (arr. for violin and piano by Mikhail Fichtenholz)

Category C:

First round – Pre-selection by video

1. Bach - 2 movements from a Sonata for violin solo of choice:

Adagio and Fuga from the Sonata no.1 BWV 1001

Grave and Fuga from the Sonata no.2 BWV 1003

Adagio and Fuga from the Sonata no.3 BWV 1005

or

Ciaccona from the Partita no.2 BWV 1004

2. Paganini One caprice of choice

Second round

1. Beethoven - the first movement from one of the following sonatas for violin and piano:

Sonata No. 7 in C minor, op. 30

Sonata No. 8 in G major, op. 30

Sonata No. 9 in A major « Kreutzer » op. 47

2. One virtuoso piece by one of the following composers: Sarasate, Saint-Saëns, Wieniawski, Chausson, Ravel, Ernst, Waxman, Paganini, Tchaikovsky

Final round

1. The first movement of a Concerto by one of the following composers: Khachaturian, Wieniawski (no.1), Lalo, Saint-Saëns (no.3), Mendelssohn, Bruch, Dvorak, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Beethoven, Korngold, Sibelius, Paganini, Prokofiev

2. An imposed piece specially written for the 2026 Competition (will be sent to the candidates on 1 June 2026)

3. Ysaye - a Sonata for solo violin of choice

*For the violin categories, all pieces must be performed from memory, with the exception of the sonatas for violin and piano and the specially written imposed piece.

Chamber music

First round – Pre-selection by video

Works from Baroque or Classical period (up to 20 minutes)

Final Round

Works from romantic or contemporary period (up to 30 minutes)

*All pieces in chamber music categories have to be original. No arrangements are allowed.

Article 12: For the violin categories, all pieces must be performed from memory, with the exception of the sonatas for violin and piano and the specially written imposed piece.

V. Applications

Article 13: Registration must be done via the competition website

www.kreutzercompetition.com

The candidates must provide the following:

- the online application form completed in English
- their scanned birth certificate(s), passport, or ID card
- biography
- a recent photo (artistic photo)
- video recordings of the first round/preselection
- the proof of transfer of the participation fee

Article 14: When submitting the application form please provide the following information concerning the pieces you will be playing:

- title of the piece
- name of the composer
- duration of the piece

VI. Participation Fees

Article 15:

Violin

Category A – 100 euros

Category B – 120 euros

Category C – 130 euros

Chamber music

Category B - 90 euros per member of the group

Article 16: Piano accompaniment is required for the public rounds of violin categories. The participants may bring their own accompanist. If participants wish to be accompanied by the official pianists of the Kreutzer Competition, an additional accompaniment fee will apply:

Category A - 80 euros

Categories B & C - 100 euros

Payment must be completed after the announcement of the first-round results and by the 1st of May 2026 at the latest. No accompaniment can be organized after this date.

Article 17: The fees must be paid on the bank account of Ars Nova (ASBL).

Bank transfer details

Pay to: ARS NOVA ASBL

Name of Bank - ING

IBAN: BE92 3632 0818 9423

Swift code: BBRUBEBB

Message: Full name + date of birth of the candidate

(Regarding chamber music, please write the name of the ensemble in the message)

Address: Rue du Brouck 28, 4300 Waremmme, Belgium

Article 18: All the costs related to money transfer must be paid by the participant(s).

Attention for non-European candidates:

For countries outside the SEPA zone, please add €14.52 to cover bank charges. The SEPA zone includes the 28 EU member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

VII. Prizes

Article 19:

Violin

Category A

- 1st prize - bow in the value of 800 euros
- 2nd prize - violin case value of 500 euros
- 3rd prize - strings in the value of 300 euros

Category B

- 1st prize - 1000 euros
- 2nd prize - 700 euros
- 3rd prize - 400 euros

Category C

- 1st prize - 1500 euros
- 2nd prize - 1000 euros
- 3rd prize - 600 euros

Chamber music

- 1st prize - 1000 euros
- 2nd prize - 700 euros
- 3rd prize - 400 euros

VII. Other Conditions

Article 20: The jury board is composed of internationally recognized musicians. All jury decisions are final and irrevocable.

Article 21: By participating in this competition, candidates automatically renounce the right to any financial remuneration regarding eventual publication, distribution of video recordings of public round performances on DVD, CD and Internet.

Article 22: The jury can decide to share the prize. In such a case the cash prize will be shared between the relevant contestants, and each will receive a diploma.

Article 23: The jury can decide not to award a prize if the level is considered insufficiently high.

Article 24: All winners will have their photos and biography posted on the website of the Kreutzer International competition.

Article 25: No refund of participation or accompaniment fees will be made in case of absence or withdrawal of the participant.

Article 26: If the competition is cancelled due to force majeure, the organizing committee will refund the registration fees paid respectively by the participant(s).

Article 27: By applying to the competition, participants automatically accept all the rules and conditions of the Kreutzer International Music Competition.