

3rd Milan International String Competition

Milan Final Rounds

Date:

January 22 – 27, 2026

I. Purpose and Principles

Purpose:

This competition aims to discover and support outstanding young string performers, and to promote international musical and cultural exchange.

Principles:

The competition adheres to the principles of fairness, impartiality, and transparency, ensuring that every participant has an equal opportunity to demonstrate their artistic talent.

II. Organization

Organizer: Associazione Il Classico APS

Executive Committee: Responsible for the overall planning, execution, and supervision of the competition.

The Committee reserves the right to adjust the competition schedule or details, and any changes will be officially announced on the official website or through formal notices.

III. Jury

Dmitry Sitkovetsky
(president of Jury)

Violin:

Dmitry Sitkovetsky
Massimo Quarta
MingEn Zhou

Viola:

Giuseppe Russo Rossi
Danusha Waskiewicz

Cello:

Robert Cohen
Asier Polo
Jun Lyu

(Additional biographical information and photos will be published separately.)

IV. Competition Format and Schedule

Winners from the China Regional Finals will be directly invited to the Final round.

Grand Finals (Milan, Italy):

Each finalist must perform **two pieces**:

1. **First piece (choose one):** an etude, caprice, virtuoso work, *or* one movement from a Bach solo piece.
2. **Second piece:** the first or third movement of a concerto, to be performed with piano accompaniment.

The **total performance time** must not exceed **20 minutes** (including both works).

Rehearsal times and locations with the official pianist will be arranged by the organizer.

V. Eligibility and Application

Open to young string players of **all nationalities**.

Candidates who have not participated in the China Regional Finals must apply through the European preliminary round.

All application materials and fees must be submitted within the specified period; late submissions will not be accepted.

All submitted materials must be authentic and accurate; falsification will result in immediate disqualification.

VI. Jury and Results

The jury consists of internationally renowned musicians and educators, who will evaluate based on: technical proficiency, musical expression, stage presence, and overall artistry.

Scores are determined independently by each juror. Final results are confirmed collectively by the jury committee and officially announced by the organizer.

The **Associazione Il Classico APS** reserves the right of final interpretation and decision on all matters related to the competition. Results are final and not subject to appeal or negotiation.

VII. Accompaniment and Rehearsal

The organizer provides an official piano accompanist and rehearsal facilities.

Associated costs are borne by participants.

Those wishing to bring their own accompanist must submit relevant information in advance for approval.

VIII. Copyright and Media

All selected works must comply with copyright laws. Participants are solely responsible for any copyright issues.

By registering, participants authorize the organizer and designated media to film, record, and broadcast the event and to use related photos, videos, and audio for promotional, publishing, or educational purposes without additional compensation.

IX. Participant Conduct

Participants must respect all schedules, venue rules, staff, jurors, and fellow contestants.

Withdrawal after registration will not result in a refund.

Serious misconduct or disruption may result in disqualification and legal action if necessary.

X. Final Provisions

Any unmentioned matters shall be interpreted and supplemented by the organizing committee of Associazione Il Classico Milano.

Updates and revisions will be announced on the official website www.ilclassico.it and take effect upon publication.

XI. Competition Dates

January 22 – 27, 2026

- **Jan 22:** Viola Final
- **Jan 23:** Violin Final
- **Jan 27:** Cello Final

Masterclass Dates:

- **Jan 24–26:** Violin & Viola Masterclasses
- **Jan 28–29:** Cello Masterclasses
(Masterclasses require separate registration.)

XII. Age Categories

- **Group A:** Under 12
- **Group B:** 13–18
- **Group C:** 19–22
- **Group D:** 23–35

Each category will have up to **five finalists** selected based on performance level.

XIII. Qualifications and Application Procedure

Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the age requirements of their respective category.

Open to violin, viola, and cello soloists.

Each participant may apply for only one category.

Application Procedure:

- Winners of the China Regional Finals must confirm participation within 7 business days of notification and will receive an official invitation.
- Applicants who have not participated in the China Regional may apply for the **European Preliminary Round (online)** following the application process.

XIV. Preliminary Round (Online Video)

Video Requirements:

- Upload to YouTube as *unlisted*; audio must be clear with no background noise. •

Both hands and face must be clearly visible throughout.

- No editing, cutting, or sound effects allowed.

Repertoire:

According to the official repertoire list.

Evaluation:

Judges will assess technical ability, tone quality, musical interpretation, and stage presence.

XV. European Preliminary Round Repertoire

Group A: A piece of your choice.

Groups B, C, D: Choose one from the following three categories:

I. **Etude / Caprice** – one complete work from reknown repertoire.

II. **Bach Solo Work** – one complete movement, unaccompanied.

III. **Concerto or Sonata** – one piece with piano accompaniment.

The video must be unedited, you are allowed to do three different takes and then put them together in one.

XVI. Grand Finals (Milan, Italy)

Date: January 22–27, 2026

- **Jan 22:** Viola Final
- **Jan 23:** Violin Final
- **Jan 27:** Cello Final

Venue: Centro Ambrosianeum (Via delle Ore 3, Milan, Italy)

Rehearsal Venues:

- Associazione il Classico (Via Giuseppe Meda 45)
- MaMu (Magazzino Musica, Via Soave 3)

Piano Rehearsals:

The Competition will arrange rehearsal times and venues with the official pianist.

The rehearsal timetable will be communicated via e-mail to all selected candidates within the first week of January 2026.

Participants must arrive in advance to ensure sufficient rehearsal time.

Participants must submit their **piano scores at least 30 days before** the competition and arrive **at least one day prior** to rehearse.

Performance Requirements:

- Two pieces, total duration not exceeding 20 minutes.
- The first piece may be the same as the preliminary round repertoire.
- The second piece must be the first or third movement of a concerto.
- Repertoire must be confirmed upon registration.

XVII. Registration Method

Registration is conducted online.

1. **The participation fee is € 80.** It must be payed via Bank transfer to:

Associazione Il Classico APS

Via Giuseppe Meda,45 - 20141 Milano (Italy)

Bank: Intesa San Paolo, Milano

IBAN: IT26K0306909606100000404210

BIC/Swift: BCITITMMXXX

Description: Milano International String Competition

2. **To apply, please send a email** at: info@ilclassico.it with:

- NAME
- SURNAME (Parents name also required in case of age <18 participants)
- INSTRUMENT (Violin, Viola, Cello)
- CATEGORY (A,B,C,D)
- REPERTOIRE (FOR PRE-SELECTION AND FINAL ROUND)
- UPLOAD LINK FOR PRE-SELECTION VIDEO
- RECEIPT OF PAYEMENT IN ATTACHMENT

3. **You'll receive e-mail confirming your application.**

4. Within **7 business days** after deadline, the competition team will contact you to give all details and infos.

5. **If you wish to use the piano accompaniment of the Competition, additional 20 € for the rehearsal with pianist shall be transferred after receiving notification of selection for the Final Round.**