

INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

AT THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS IN BRATISLAVA

September 4 – 10, 2026, Bratislava

COMPETITION CONDITIONS AND REPERTOIRE



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September 4 – 10, 2026
Bratislava, Slovakia

Competition president:

prof. Mgr. art. Irina Čierniková, ArtD.

Dean of the Music and Dance Faculty at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava

Jury Chairman:

Daniel Buranovský – Slovakia

Jury Members:

Dávid Báll – Hungary

Jan Jiraský – Czechia

Shoko Kawasaki – Japan

Zuzana Niederdorfer – Slovakia/Austria

Mariusz Sielski – Poland

Gottlieb Wallisch – Germany

Contact:

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International Piano Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava September 4 – 10, 2026 Bratislava, Slovakia

ORGANIZER

The main organizer of the **International Cello Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts** in Bratislava is the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava.

Deadline for submitting application forms: **May 15, 2026.**

CATEGORIES

Category I – up to the age of 21 / two rounds

participants born after September 11, 2004

Category II – up to the age of 30 / three rounds

participants born after September 11, 1995

- There is no minimum age limit for either of the categories.
- Contestants born after September 11, 2004 may compete in both categories. However, no composition of the competition repertoire of one category may be used in the other.
- A contestant under the age of 18 is entered into the competition by their legal representative.

COURSE OF THE COMPETITION

- The piano competition in Category I (up to the age of 21) is held in two rounds and in Category II (up to the age of 30) in three rounds.
- Usually 12 contestants proceed to the second round in each Category.
- Three contestants proceed to the third round in Category II (up to the age of 30).
- The contest is preceded by a preliminary selection round evaluated on the basis of submitted recordings.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Category I – up to the age of 21

September 6	Opening ceremony, Competition round I
September 7	Competition round I
September 9	Competition round II, announcing the winners
September 10	Piano Masterclass, feedback session with jury

Category II – up to the age of 30

September 4	Opening ceremony, Competition round I
September 5	Competition round I
September 8	Competition round II
September 9	Rehearsal with orchestra for round III
September 10	Competition round III with orchestra, announcing the winners, awards ceremony

- Rounds I and II for both categories take place in DVORANA concert hall at the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts. Round III takes place in one of the concert halls in Bratislava.
- The organizer reserves the right to make any changes in the above-stated schedule.
- More detailed schedule will be sent to contestants not later than two weeks before the competition.
- Competition performances are public.

FINANCIAL PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded in both categories of the International Piano Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts:

Category I – up to the age of 21

1st prize – 1.500 EUR
2nd prize – 1.000 EUR
3rd prize – 500 EUR

Category II – up to the age of 30

1st prize – 3.000 EUR
2nd prize – 2.000 EUR
3rd prize – 1.000 EUR

1. The jury reserves the right not to award individual prizes if interpretation performances fail to reach the required level.
2. If the level of contestants is equal, the jury may award more prizes of the same degree, dividing the financial reward according to places and points awarded.
3. All winners of main prizes in Category I – up to the age of 21 (first, second, third prize) will be awarded a certificate with their name and place.

4. All winners of main prizes in Category II – up to the age of 30 (first, second, third prize) will be awarded title “Laureate of the International Piano Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava” and a certificate with their name, title and place.
5. Holders of honorary certificates and other awards will also be awarded certificates but they are not entitled to the Competition Laureate title.
6. A prize will also be awarded for best interpretation of a Slovak compositions.
7. Such financial prizes will be taxed in accordance with the legal regulations valid in the Slovak Republic.
8. No contestant has a legal right to the financial prize.
9. The decisions of the jury are final, cannot be appealed and cannot be reviewed by a court or any other body.

COMPETITION REPERTOIRE

Category I – up to the age of 21

Preliminary Round (Video Recording)

1. **One concert etude** by one of the following composers:
Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt, Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Alexander Scriabin, Béla Bartók, Claude Debussy, Sergei Prokofiev
2. **One movement from a Classical sonata** in sonata form by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Conditions:

- The preliminary round program may be identical to the pieces performed in the first round.
- The video must be recorded in a single, continuous take, without interruptions or edits.
- During the performance, the contestant's full body and the entire piano must remain visible in the frame.

1st ROUND

Program Duration: up to 15 minutes of net playing time

1. **One sonata** by Domenico Scarlatti
2. **One concert etude** by one of the following composers:
Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt, Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Alexander Scriabin, Béla Bartók, Claude Debussy, Sergei Prokofiev
3. **One movement from a Classical sonata** in sonata form by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

2nd ROUND

Program Duration: up to 25 minutes of net playing time

1. **Peter Javorka – compulsory competition piece**, maximum 3 minutes
2. **Repertoire of the contestant's choice**, including works from the **19th and 20th centuries**

Conditions:

- Pieces performed in the second round must not be identical to those played in the first round.

- All performances in all rounds must be played from memory.
- The program of each round must be performed in its entirety without leaving the stage.
- Original, non-composed works and transcriptions are not permitted.
- The contestant may determine the order of pieces.
- The organizers reserve the right to request the sheet music of the works performed from the contestant.

Category II – up to the age of 30

Preliminary Round (Video Recording)

1. **One concert etude** by one of the following composers:
Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Alexander Scriabin, Béla Bartók, Claude Debussy, Sergei Prokofiev
2. **One movement in sonata** form from a Classical sonata by Ludwig van Beethoven

Conditions:

- The program of the preliminary round may be identical to the pieces performed in the First Round.
- The video recording must be made in one continuous take, without interruption or editing.
- During the performance, the pianist's full figure and the entire piano must be clearly visible.

1st ROUND

Program Duration: up to 20 minutes of net performance time

1. **A Prelude and Fugue** by Johann Sebastian Bach from The Well-Tempered Clavier or a Prelude and Fugue by Dmitri Shostakovich
2. **One concert etude** by one of the following composers:
Frédéric Chopin, Franz Liszt, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Alexander Scriabin, Béla Bartók, Claude Debussy, Sergei Prokofiev
3. **One movement in sonata form** a Classical sonata by Ludwig van Beethoven

2nd ROUND

Program Duration: up to 40 minutes of net performance time

1. **Evgeny Irshai – Compulsory piece** of the competition (maximum duration 6 minutes)
2. **Repertoire of the competitor's own choice**, including works from the **19th and 20th centuries**

Conditions:

- The pieces performed in the Second Round must differ from those presented in the First Round.
- Performance from memory is required in all rounds.
- Each round's program must be performed in full, without leaving the stage.
- Original compositions or transcriptions not written by the competitor are not permitted.
- The order of pieces is determined by the competitor.
- The organizer reserves the right to request the scores of the performed works.

3rd ROUND

One of the following piano concertos with orchestra:

- **Frédéric Chopin** – *Piano Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11*
- **Robert Schumann** – *Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54*
- **Edvard Grieg** – *Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 16*

Performance from memory is required.

The Third Round will take place in cooperation with an orchestra as part of the final gala concert, after which the competition results will be formally announced. In this case, a separate laureates' concert will not be held.

APPLICATION FORM

International Piano Competition is open for musicians of all nationalities.

Candidates must complete the online application form available on the organizer's website and attach the following:

- current portrait photograph (no copyright, 300dpi)
- short artistic bio (.doc format)
- link to a non-edited video recording of the preliminary round repertoire
- consent to the processing of personal data
- consent to the production and use of photographs, audio and audio-visual recordings of the competition performances and concerts of the laureates.

Deadline for submitting application forms: May 15, 2026

The application form will be available until May 15, 2026, 23:59 p.m. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be accepted.

Candidates accepted to the competition will receive a confirmation email by June 1, 2026. Each accepted candidate must confirm their participation and pay the participation fee by June 15, 2026, to the competition account number provided to them.

Participation fee

Participation fee for Category I (up to the age of 21) is EUR 100 and for Category II (up to the age of 30) EUR 120. The participation fee is non-refundable.

Recording specification:

- The performance must be recorded in a single, continuous take, without interruptions, cuts, edits, or post-production modifications.
- The contestant's full body and the entire piano must remain fully visible in the frame throughout the performance.
- The video must be uploaded to YouTube as an unlisted video, accessible only to the competition organizers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Travel and accommodation costs

Participants are responsible for arranging and paying for their own transport, accommodation, and meals.

Mandatory compositions

Mandatory competition pieces will be announced on the organizer's website on February 1, 2026.

Competition repertoire

The competition repertoire may be changed until July 1, 2026.

Audio-visual materials and recordings

The organizer (Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava) reserves the right to create an audio-visual recording of competition performances. Such performances may be recorded and broadcast on radio and television or streamed on social networks and on the organizer's website for promotional purposes.

Competition statute

Competition conditions are specified in accordance with the competition statute in Slovak and in English language. In the event of any discrepancy, the authentic, i. e. Slovak version prevails.

Contact:

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