

# International Music Competition

Middle Schools  
High Schools  
UNDER 18  
Soloists & Ensembles  
Orchestras & Choirs

Founded  in 2004



# GM

# NEXT



## ED. 2026

AUDITIONS  
Choose your  
preferred place  
and date!!

TUSCANIA VT  
27/29 April

ROMA  
4/7 May

GRAND FINAL  
ROMA 9 May



0 12345 67890 1

## Art. 1 – Eligibility

The Competition is open to:

- Italian students enrolled in **italian State Lower Secondary Schools with a Musical Curriculum (SMIM)** and **Music High Schools** (including the 5th and final year);
- **International young musicians**, resident in Italy or abroad, **up to 18 years of age**, with flexibility for students who **turn 19 during the academic year**.
- **choirs and orchestral ensembles** from public or private schools or organised within Associations.

## Art. 2 – Categories

The Competition is divided into the following categories and instrumental sections.

### A) SMIM Soloists

Sections: piano, guitar, string instruments, wind instruments, percussion. The evaluation of SMIM soloists will take into account both the **school grade attended** and the **instrumental discipline**, in order to ensure a fair comparison among participants with different levels of preparation. Depending on the number and characteristics of the participants, the Jury may assign **specific scores by school grade and instrumental family**.

### B) SMIM Chamber Music Ensembles

From **duo upwards, without conductor**. For larger ensembles, the initial cue of the piece may be given by the responsible teacher.

### C) Under 18 Soloists – Italian and International

(with flexibility for students who turn 19 during the academic year)

Sections: voice, piano, string instruments, wind instruments, plucked instruments, percussion.

### D) Under 18 Chamber Music Ensembles – Italian and International

(with flexibility for students who turn 19 during the academic year)

From **2 to 10 performers, without conductor**.

#### O1) SMIM Orchestral Ensembles

Minimum **10 performers, with conductor**.

#### O2) Orchestral Ensembles from Music High Schools, other Educational Institutions, Associations

Minimum **10 performers, with conductor**.

### K) Choirs

Minimum **8 singers, with conductor**.

**Note** – In Categories **C, D and O2**, students attending the final year of a Music High School are admitted even if they have already turned nineteen.

## Art. 3 – Structure and Auditions by Category

### CATEGORY A – SMIM SOLOISTS

**Live auditions** (on one of the dates and at one of the venues indicated in Art. 5).

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum total duration 8 minutes**, with accompanist where required.

The use of **pre-recorded backing tracks is not permitted**.

Candidates requiring an instrumental accompanist (piano or other) must attend the Semi-finals and Final with their own accompanist; alternatively, they may request one from the Organisation (on the application form), which will provide an accompanist subject to a reimbursement, as specified in these Regulations.

**Soloists Final** – 9 May 2026, Rome

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum duration to be agreed with the Organisation**, with accompanist where required.

**Note** – In all rounds, the same repertoire may be performed, or it may be modified for the Final, provided that prior notice is given.

### CATEGORY B – SMIM CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES

**Live auditions** (on one of the indicated dates and venues).

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum total duration 10 minutes**.

**Chamber Music Final** – 9 May 2026, Rome

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum duration to be agreed with the**

## **Organisation.**

**Note** – In all rounds, the same repertoire may be performed, or it may be modified for the Final, provided that prior notice is given.

### **CATEGORY C – UNDER 18 SOLOISTS**

**Online preliminary round by video**, according to the technical parameters and procedures indicated, to be submitted **no later than 25 March 2026**.

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum total duration 10 minutes**, with accompanist where required.

For the **Voice section only**, pieces from the pop repertoire are allowed.

By **30 March 2026**, the candidates selected for the subsequent live phase will be announced.

The selected candidates' videos will be published on **The Arts Crossroad YouTube Channel** and may be publicly voted, contributing to the assignment of the **Audience Award** for those admitted to the Soloists Final.

**Live Semi-final Auditions** (on one of the dates and venues indicated in Art. 5).

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum total duration 10 minutes**, with accompanist where required.

Rules regarding instrumental accompaniment (own accompanist or request from the Organisation with reimbursement) are the same as those provided for Category A.

**Soloists Final** – 9 May 2026, Rome

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum duration to be agreed with the**

**Organisation**, with accompanist where required.

**Note** – In all rounds, the same repertoire may be performed, or it may be modified for the Semi-final and Final, provided that prior notice is given.

### **CATEGORY D – UNDER 18 CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLES**

**Online preliminary round by video**, according to the indicated technical parameters and procedures, to be submitted **no later than 25 March 2026**.

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum total duration 10 minutes**.

By **30 March 2026**, the candidates selected for the subsequent live phase will be announced.

The selected candidates' videos will be published on **The Arts Crossroad YouTube Channel** and may be publicly voted, contributing to the assignment of the **Audience Award** for those admitted to the Chamber Music Final.

**Live Semi-final Auditions** (on one of the dates and venues indicated in Art. 5).

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum total duration 10 minutes**.

**Chamber Music Final** – 9 May 2026, Rome

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum duration to be agreed with the Organisation**.

**Note** – In all rounds, the same repertoire may be performed, or it may be modified for the Semi-final and Final, provided that prior notice is given.

### **CATEGORIES O1, O2, K – ORCHESTRAL AND CHORAL ENSEMBLES**

**Single live audition** (on one of the dates and venues indicated in Art. 5).

Free repertoire, original or arranged, **maximum duration strictly limited to 15 minutes**.

For all categories, the use of **pre-recorded backing tracks is not permitted**.

A copy of the scores must be attached to the application form.

All performances will be **live streamed on the GM NEXT Facebook page** and published on **The Arts Crossroad YouTube Channel**.

At the end of each audition day, the scores will be announced and the relevant diplomas awarded.

Once all audition days have been completed, the ensembles will be contacted by the Organisation; the official proclamation and award ceremony will take place on **9 May 2026 in Rome**, during the Final Award Ceremony.

## **Art. 4 – Application and Registration Procedures**

### **ALL CATEGORIES**

Applicants must complete the **online registration form** on

**[www.theartscrossroad.com](http://www.theartscrossroad.com)**; alternatively, the application form (available in the Downloads section) may be sent by email to **[theartscrossroad@gmail.com](mailto:theartscrossroad@gmail.com)**.

The application must include a **release form for audio/video recording and online broadcasting**, signed by the parent/guardian and, in the case of chamber, choral and orchestral ensembles, by the school principal or the responsible representa-

tive.

#### **Categories C and D (Under 18)**

Participation in the **online preliminary round is free of charge.**

By **20 March 2026**, applicants must send an **original video** to **thearts-crossroad@gmail.com**, fully complying with the instructions provided in the relevant article of these Regulations.

#### **Categories A, B, O1, O2, K**

A **school certificate** must be attached:

- individual certificate for Categories A and B;
- collective certificate for Categories O1, O2, K, certifying the grade attended and any musical course followed during the current academic year.

Participants may apply to **one or more categories**; in such cases, **separate applications and payments** are required.

It is not permitted to apply to both **Category A and Category C** (soloists), nor to both **Category O1 and Category O2** (orchestras).

Ensembles applying to Categories B, D, O1, O2, K must submit a **single application form**, listing all members (also as an attached list indicating each instrument), any conductor, and **one single payment receipt**.

At live auditions, all participants must present a **valid photo ID**.

The schedule for the live phases will be established by the Organisation and communicated in due time.

If necessary, participants may indicate preferred days in the application form or contact the Secretariat starting from **1 April**. **Note – Piano Accompanist**  
Applicants requiring a piano accompanist must indicate this at the time of registration and submit the scores.

Upon payment of a **€50.00 reimbursement**, the Organisation will provide an accompanist; the fee must be paid together with the registration.

A **30-minute rehearsal** is guaranteed on the audition day.

If the candidate is admitted to the Soloists Final, the same accompanist will be provided **at no additional cost**.

#### **DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS**

- **20 March 2026** – Categories C and D
- **31 March 2026** – Categories A, B, O1, O2, K

#### **PARTICIPATION FEES**

Payment must be made by bank transfer to:

**BPER Banca BIC: BEMOIT2XXX IBAN: IT91N0538703224000004298646**

Account holder: The Arts Crossroad APS

- Category A: **€ 40.00**
- Category B: **€ 25.00** per member
- Category C: Online round free – Subsequent phases **€ 50.00**
- Category D: Online round free – Subsequent phases **€ 30.00** per member
- Categories O1 / O2 / K: **€150.00**

Complete documentation must be sent by email to **theartscrossroad@gmail.com**; original documents must be presented on the audition day.

Late applications may be rejected at the sole discretion of the Artistic Direction.

### **Art. 5 – Dates and Venues (Live Phases)**

#### **FIRST LIVE AUDITION / SINGLE AUDITION**

Participants may choose one of the following options:

- **27–28–29 April 2026 – Tuscania (VT)** Accademia delle Arti – Palazzo Giannotti, former Santa Croce Church, Teatro Rivellino. School groups wishing to combine participation in GM NEXT with an Educational Trip may be assisted by local tour operators through the Organisation.
- **4–5–6–7 May 2026 – Rome** I.C. Piazza Filattiera 84 – Arturo Toscanini, Via Flavio Andò 15.
- **9 May 2026, 9:00–13:00 – Rome** Teatro Vignoli, Via Bartolomeo D'Alviano 1. Only for Categories C and D candidates coming from abroad or residing more than 800 km from Rome.

## SOLOISTS & CHAMBER MUSIC FINALS AND AWARD CEREMONY

- **9 May 2026, 16:00-21:00 – Rome** Teatro Vignoli, Via Bartolomeo D’Alviano 1.

### **Art. 6 – Video Parameters (Preliminary Round) – Categories C, D**

The video must comply with the following requirements:

- fixed shot, with no audio/video cuts throughout the performance;
- horizontal format 16:9, minimum resolution 720p;
- framing must include the performer(s), hands, instrument, and **mandatory display of the Competition logo with the candidate’s name** (provided by the Organisation upon registration), placed on the music stand or in a clearly visible position;
- the performer(s) must announce the **composer and title** of each piece before performing.

The video file must be named as follows:

**GM NEXT 2026 – NAME SURNAME (soloist) or ENSEMBLE NAME – CATEGORY**

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in **disqualification**.

Videos must be sent via **WeTransfer** (or similar services) to **thearts-crossroad@gmail.com**.

### **Art. 7 – Juries and Voting Systems**

The composition of the Juries will be published by **25 March**.

#### **Online Preliminary Rounds (Categories C, D)**

A Jury of **three high-profile artists**, appointed by the Organisation.

By **30 March**, the list of candidates admitted to the next phase will be announced.

#### **Live Semi-finals – Categories A, C (Soloists) / B, D (Chamber Music)**

A Jury of **five internationally recognised musicians**, including SMIM teachers, with expertise in:

Strings, Winds, Plucked Instruments, Piano/Percussion, Voice.

At the end of each Semi-final session (Tuscania – 29 April; Rome – 7 May and 9 May morning), the Jury will designate the Finalists for each category and section.

#### **Finals – 9 May (afternoon)**

The same Jury, with the addition of **two further jurors** (total of seven members), will assign the **GM NEXT Prizes** and additional awards.

#### **Audience Jury**

Audience Special Prizes will be awarded during the Soloists and Chamber Music Finals:

- Categories C and D: 50% online public vote + 50% live audience vote;
- Categories A and B: live audience vote only.

#### **Categories O1, O2, K**

A Jury of **five internationally recognised musicians**, including SMIM teachers, will:

- announce the scores at the end of each audition day;
- designate the **First Prize winners** (score above 95/100) on **7 May 2026**, assigning the GM NEXT Prizes.

#### **General Criteria**

The Juries will be chaired by a President of recognised standing and composed of up to six expert musicians.

The final score is the average (out of 100) of individual scores.

Jurors with family or teaching relationships with a candidate must declare it and abstain from voting.

A brief written evaluation may be requested after the Competition.

The Jury’s decisions are **final and not subject to appeal**.

### **Art. 8 – Scores and Rankings**

The final rankings for all categories will be published online on **10 May 2026** and announced during the Award Ceremony on **9 May 2026**.

### Awards:

- **Gold Diploma:**  $\geq 95/100$
- **Silver Diploma:**  $88/100 - 94/100$
- **Bronze Diploma:**  $80/100 - 87/100$

### Categories A, B, C, D

Among Gold Diploma winners, candidates scoring  $\geq 98/100$  will be designated as Finalists.

Final performance videos will be published on The Arts Crossroad YouTube Channel and GM NEXT Facebook page.

Four **GM NEXT Prize Winners** and four **Audience Special Prize Winners** will be designated.

### Categories O1, O2, K

Among Gold Diploma winners, the **Absolute Winners** will be those with the highest score.

## **Art. 9 – Prizes and Benefits**

The final events will take place on **Saturday, 9 May 2026**, at Teatro Vignoli in Rome, open to the public.

From **16:00**, the Finals of Categories A, B, C, D will take place, followed by:

- the Concert of the Absolute Winning Orchestral and Choral Ensembles (Categories O1, O2, K);
- the Award Ceremony for all participants.

### Prize Concerts, Recordings, Media and Streaming

GM NEXT Prize Winners may be awarded:

- prize concerts in **Italy and abroad** (Belgium, Bulgaria, Romania, Spain);
- solo concerts with orchestra;
- concerts within the following festivals and series: Tuscania Summer Festival, Tuscania in Musica, Rome Concert Series, Three for Free (Rome), Guitarrerria (Rome), GM NEXT 2027.

Scholarships may be awarded in the form of free attendance at **advanced master-classes and workshops**.

The Final Day will be live streamed and made available on demand on the Organisation's Facebook and YouTube channels.

A television feature with interviews will be produced.

Professional videos of the GM NEXT Prize Winners will be permanently available in the newly established **Digital Hall of Fame**.

Prize Winners may also be guests on **RAI** and **Vatican Radio** programmes and recommended to concert societies and broadcasters.

### Prizes

#### **Cat. A – SMIM Soloists**

GM NEXT Prize of €300.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

1 prize concert within the *Three for Free* series (Rome)

1 prize concert within the *Tuscania Summer Festival* (Tuscania, VT)

Audience Special Prize of €100.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

#### **Cat. B – SMIM Chamber Groups**

GM NEXT Prize of €400.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

1 prize concert within the *Three for Free* series (Rome) or another event

Audience Special Prize of €100.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

#### **Cat. C – Under-18 Soloists**

GM NEXT Prize of €500.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

2 recitals abroad (Belgium, Bulgaria, Romania, Spain)

2 prize concerts in Rome and Tuscania (VT) within events organized by *The Arts Crossroad APS*

Audience Special Prize of €150.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

#### **Cat. D – Under-18 Chamber Groups**

GM NEXT Prize of €600.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

1 recital abroad (Belgium, Bulgaria, Romania, Spain)

1 prize concert in Rome or Tuscania (VT) within events organized by *The Arts*

### *Crossroad APS*

Audience Special Prize of €150.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

#### **Cat. 01 – SMIM Orchestras**

GM NEXT Prize for the Overall Winner of €300.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

1 prize concert within the events of *The Arts Crossroad APS*

#### **Cat. 02 – Orchestras (Music High Schools / other Institutions / Associations)**

GM NEXT Prize for the Overall Winner of €300.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

1 prize concert within the events of *The Arts Crossroad APS*

#### **Cat. K – Choirs**

GM NEXT Prize for the Overall Winner of €300.00 (cash or shopping vouchers)

1 prize concert within the events of *The Arts Crossroad APS*

**Note:** In the event of a tie (*ex aequo*), the corresponding prize will be shared equally among the winners. All non-prize-winning Finalists will receive a shopping voucher for musical goods and sheet music.

### **Diplomas and Certificates**

**All categories:** a Certificate of Merit will be awarded to all winners (Gold, Silver, and Bronze Diplomas). All non-winning participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

### **Plaques and Medals**

**Categories 01, 02, K:** the winners of the GM NEXT Prizes will receive a commemorative Plaque for the group and a Medal for each participant.

A Plaque will be awarded to the School with the highest number of participating students (across all categories).

A Plaque will be awarded to each Teacher who prepared the Finalists in Category A.

## **Art. 10 – Final Provisions**

Participation in the Competition implies **full and unconditional acceptance** of these Regulations. Any dispute shall fall under the **jurisdiction of the Court of Rome**.



## **AN EDUCATIONAL TRIP IN THE TUSCIA**

Participation in **GM NEXT – International Music Competition** may be combined with an **Educational Trip** in the **Tuscia (Viterbo area) and Southern Etruria**, a region of outstanding historical, archaeological and landscape value.

An ancient land of the **Etruscans**, the Tuscia offers an ideal setting for an educational experience combining **music, history and cultural heritage**, fully consistent with the educational paths of SMIM schools and Music High Schools.

Main destinations include:

- the Romanesque Basilicas of **San Pietro and Santa Maria Maggiore in Tuscania**;
- the **Etruscan Necropolises of Tuscania**;
- the **Archaeological Park of Vulci**;
- the **Banditaccia Necropolis in Cerveteri (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**;
- **Lake Bolsena** and the surrounding historic towns.

Through local tour operators, the Organisation may support school groups in designing a structured cultural programme, turning participation in GM NEXT into a **complete educational experience**.

# GM NEXT

International  
Music Competition  
Under 18

Founded  
in 2004



## 2026

Tuscania VT  
27-29 April

Roma  
4-9 May



THE ARTS  
CROSSROAD

Italy Rome  
Japan Tokyo  
USA Oakland

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**GM NEXT** is the evolution of a project founded in 2004, created to discover and nurture musical talent at its earliest stage. Over the years, thanks to Juries of unquestionable artistic integrity, the competition has identified young musicians who are now internationally recognized – such as Ettore Pagano, Misia Iannoni, Sebastianini, Gian Marco Ciampa, Bianca Fiorito, just to name a few. GM NEXT places young people at the center, with sections dedicated to Middle Schools with a Music Curriculum, genuine attention to the work of teachers, and an educational pathway that is serious, stimulating, and inclusive. Alongside this, in 2026 the competition decisively opens to an international dimension, welcoming under-18 participants from all over the world.

High-profile juries will be joined by a Popular Jury, fostering a meaningful dialogue between artistic quality and audience participation. The prizes are not symbolic: GM NEXT builds a real concert network in Italy and abroad, thanks to prestigious collaborations with Music Academy Forte, Tune Your Mind, TYM Festival, and international partners in Belgium, Bulgaria, Spain, Romania, Slovacchia.

For the first time, the competition takes place between Tuscania and Rome: two iconic locations, with Rome – the historical home of the project – hosting the International Grand Final. GM NEXT wishes to thank IC Piazza Filattiera "Arturo Toscanini", the Municipal and District Administrations, RAI and Vatican Radio for their support and attention in accompanying the competition.

**GM NEXT: deep roots,  
a global vision, real music.**



Tuscania  
Turismo



Tuscania  
SUMMER FESTIVAL

