

Young Talent Competition

Paganini Guitar Festival 2025

RULES

Art. 1 Competition enrollment

The competition is part of the Paganini Guitar Festival and is open to all musicians of all nationalities. The competition will be taking place in Parma (Italy) from **May 30th to June 1st, 2025** at the Parma Lirica Cultural Association, Viale Gorizia, 2.

Art. 2 Sections and categories

All rounds will be open to the public. Sections and categories will be arranged as following:

- **Middle School (Solo competition, guitar)**

June 1st, 2025:

- A Category: first year class – 6th grade
- B Category: second year class – 7th grade

May 31st and/or June 1st, 2025:

- C Category: third year class – 8th grade

- **Solo competition (guitar)**

May 31st, 2025

- D Category: born from 2013 (born in the years 2013, 2014, 2015 onwards)
- E Category: born from 2009 to 2012

May 30th, 2025 and/or May 31st, 2025

- F Category: born from 2005 to 2008

- **Chamber music competition**

June 1st, 2025

- G Category: groups from 2 to 5 musicians with at least one guitar (average age under 18)
- H Category: Middle school guitar ensembles from 6 to 30 musicians
- I Category: High school guitar ensembles from 6 to 30 musicians

In the solo competition D,E,F categories participants are allowed to enter a higher age category.

In H and I categories, apart from the guitar players, only two other players with different instruments will be allowed in each ensemble between 6 and 16 participants; four players with different instruments in ensembles between 17 and 30 participants.

Neither the outright winners of a previous edition in solo competition nor first prize winning groups in the chamber music competition can enroll with the same ensemble or for the same category.

It's not possible to apply for both Young Talents and International Competition

Art. 3 Registration fees

- Middle school (Solo competition, guitar): A, B, C Category: € 25
- Solo competition (Guitar) D, E, F Category: € 50
- Chamber music competition, G-H-I Category: € 25 for each member*

**A 50% discount on H and I Category registration fees will be granted to students participating to the Paganini Youth Guitar Orchestra (information on www.paganinifestival.com)*

Refund of fees will only be granted if the event is cancelled.

Art. 4 Jury

The Jury consist of conservatory professors, music schools teachers and preeminent musicians.

Art. 5 Programs

- Middle school (Solo competition, guitar), in one round*:
 - A Category: free program – maximum duration: 4 minutes
 - B Category: free program – maximum duration: 6 minutes
 - C Category: free program – maximum duration: 8 minutes

- Solo competition (guitar), in one round*:

D Category: free program – maximum duration: 6 minutes

E Category: free program – maximum duration: 8 minutes

F Category: free program, including at least one Ghiribizzo by N.Paganini, from “43 Ghiribizzi”
M.S.43 – maximum duration of the round: 12 minutes

- Chamber music competition, in one round*:

G-H-I Category: free program: maximum duration 10 minutes

** Only as free program transcriptions will be admitted.*

Art. 6 Scores

The point system is expressed in cents. Participants with a score not less than 95/100 will be assigned the 1st prize. Participants with a score not less than 90/100 will be assigned the 2nd prize. Participants with a score not less than 85/100 will be assigned the 3rd prize. The outright winner will be the participant with the highest score not less than 98/100 within first prizes. The decision of the Jury is not subject to appeal.

Prizes may not be awarded at the Jury’s discretion.

Outright winner’s prizes cannot be shared. First, second and third prizes could be assigned to one or more participant at the Jury’s discretion.

Results will be announced daily at the end of the auditions or during the award giving ceremonies.

Art. 7 Certificates, diplomas and prizes

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Solo competition, guitar)

- A Category

First prize: Certificate of merit, strings or music accessories, book selection

Second prize: Certificate of merit, book selection

Third prize: Certificate of merit

- B Category

First prize: Certificate of merit, strings or music accessories, book selection

Second prize: Certificate of merit, book selection

Third prize: Certificate of merit

- C Category

First prize: Certificate of merit, strings music accessories, book selection

Second prize: Certificate of merit, book selection

Third prize: Certificate of merit

SOLO COMPETITION (Guitar)

- D Category

Outright winner prize: Certificate of merit, music accessories and string sets offered by D'Addario Foundation

First prize: Certificate of merit, strings or music accessories, book

Second prize: Certificate of merit, book selection

Third prize: Certificate of merit.

- E Category

Outright winner prize:

- Certificate of merit

- An Altamira Guitar N400 worth €900, offered by Altamira Guitars

- Strings or music accessories

First prize: Certificate of merit, strings or music accessories, book

Second prize: Certificate of merit, book selection

Third prize: Certificate of merit, book selection

- F Category

Outright winner prize:

- Certificate of merit

- “Marta Storci” grant worth €300

- An Altamira Guitar N500 worth €1.200, offered by Altamira Guitars

- Strings or music accessories

First prize: Certificate of merit, strings or music accessories, book selection

Second prize: Certificate of merit, book selection

Third prize: Certificate of merit, book selection

CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

- G-H-I Category

First prize: Certificate of merit, strings or music accessories or book selection

Second prize: Certificate of merit, music accessories or book selection

Third prize: Certificate of merit.

“Niccolò Paganini” special prize (Among D-E-F categories)

for the best execution of Niccolò Paganini’s original solo music piece.

A certificate of attendance will be provided to all participants.

Prizes may not be awarded at the Jury’s discretion.

Outright winner’s prizes cannot be shared. First, second and third prizes could be assigned to one or more participant at the Jury’s discretion.

The award giving ceremony for D-E-F categories will take place on **Saturday May 31st, 2025.**

The award giving ceremony for A-B-C-G-H-I categories will take place on **Sunday June 1st, 2025.**

Prize winners must be present at the ceremony: failing to do so will result in the loss of the prize.

Art. 8 Auditions

Prior to the audition all participants will have to submit to the Jury a copy of the scores of their program and an ID card or passport.

The Artistic Direction may reserve the right to modify the timetables of the auditions, due to force majeure. Participants will receive timely communication around the updates.

The auditions’ schedule, the time and the location of the roll call will be on-line starting from **May 14th, 2025.**

Auditions’ schedule will allow to participate to the Paganini Youth Guitar Orchestra.

The Jury is allowed to stop the performance in case it will exceed the time limit.

Those members of the Jury who have family relationship or ongoing teaching relationships with participants must declare it and will be abstained from judging them.

Online rules on May 3rd, 2025 will be taken as authentic for any dispute.

Art. 9 Enrollment

Application form is available online on this page.

Applicants must fill it in all the parts and submit strictly no later than midnight on **May 3 rd, 2025**.

Along with the applications each applicant must upload or send by email to concorso@paganinifestival.com the payment receipt of individual registration fees to be paid by bank transfer to “Società dei Concerti di Parma”.

Bank name: BPER BANCA

International account number: IT 81 V 05387 12702 0000 0330 2963

BIC (codice Swift) BPMOIT22XXX

Description: Young Talents Competitions enrollment fees – Group or participant full name

Information:

Società dei Concerti – Paganini Guitar Festival

Mail concorso@paganinifestival.com

<https://www.paganinifestival.com/>