



**International Competition**  
**Paganini Guitar Festival 2026**  
**Chamber Music Competition**

**RULES**

**Art. 1 Schedule**

The competition is open to musicians of all nationalities. It consists of two stages:

ELIMINATORY ROUND (live and open to public)

FINAL ROUND (live and open to public).

**Registration by April 23rd, 2026.**

**CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION:**

Eliminatory round: **May 30th, 2026** (Casa della musica, Piazzale San Francesco 1, Parma)

Final round: **May 31st, 2026** (Conservatorio di Musica “Arrigo Boito”, Auditorium del Carmine, Via Eleonora Duse, Parma)

**Art. 2 Sections**

The competition is open to chamber music ensembles of **2 to 5 members**, featuring at least one guitar. No age limit applies.

Ensembles that have previously been awarded First Prize in the Chamber Music section may not re-enter the competition in the same category.

### **Art. 3 Registration fees**

Chamber music competition: € 60 for each member

Application fees will be refunded exclusively in the event of the competition's cancellation.

### **Art. 4 Jury**

The Jury consists of preeminent musicians and professors. Judgment will be final, unquestionable and not open to appeal.

### **Art. 5 Programs <sup>1</sup>**

#### **A – Eliminary round**

Chamber music competition:

Free-choice program with a maximum total duration of 15 minutes, including at least one original composition by Niccolò Paganini or another 19th-century composer. (Single movements may also be performed)<sup>2</sup>.

#### **B – Final round <sup>3</sup>**

Chamber music competition:

Free-choice program with a maximum duration of 20 minutes, without repetition of pieces already presented in the Eliminary Round

<sup>1</sup> *The duration of the performance will be measured from the beginning of the first composition to the completion of the final piece, inclusive of all breaks and tuning.*

<sup>2</sup> *In the absence of original works by Paganini or 19th-century repertoire for this specific ensemble, transcriptions are permitted.*

<sup>3</sup> *No more than five (5) performances (chamber groups) will be admitted to the Final round.*

## Art. 6 Certificates, diplomas and prizes

### CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

#### First prize

- Certificate of first prize
- €1,000 gross fee for a performance in the “*Società dei Concerti di Parma*” 2026/2027 concert season
- Performance in the “*I Colori di Settembre*” 2026 concert season, Bollengo (Turin), organized by “Il Timbro ETS”
- Performance within the 2026/2027 concert seasons of the “*Luigi Bon*” Foundation, Colugna (Udine)
- Music book selection by “*Ut Orpheus*” worth €100 to download online on the publisher’s website
- Strings and accessories provided by D’Addario Foundation, Aquila Corde Armoniche Srl and Knobloch Strings.

#### Second prize

- Certificate of second prize
- €500 gross fee for a performance in the “*Società dei Concerti di Parma*” 2026/2027 concert season
- Music book selection by “*Ut Orpheus*” worth € 100 to download online on the publisher’s website
- Music accessories by D’Addario Foundation, Aquila Corde Armoniche Srl and Knobloch Strings

#### Third prize

- Certificate of third prize
- Music accessories by D’Addario Foundation, Aquila Corde Armoniche Srl and Knobloch Strings

### SPECIAL PRIZES

#### Special prize “*Curci edizioni musicali*”

For the best performance of a work from the Spanish repertoire:

- Music book selection offered by “*Curci Edizioni Musicali*”

A certificate of attendance will be provided to all participants.

Additional prizes, grants, and concert opportunities may be announced and will be published on the official website upon confirmation.

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

First Prizes cannot be shared.

The award ceremony will take place on Sunday, **May 31st, 2026**. Attendance at the ceremony is mandatory for the confirmation and collection of the prize.

### **Art. 7 Auditions**

Prior to the Eliminary round and Final round auditions all participants must 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 Eliminary round auditions schedule, the time and the location of the roll call will be on-line starting from **May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

The Jury is allowed to stop the performance in case it exceeds 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.

For any dispute, the rules published online at [www.paganinifestival.com](http://www.paganinifestival.com) as of **April 23rd, 2026**, shall prevail.

## **Art. 8 Enrollment**

Application form is available online on this page.

Applicants must fill in all the parts and submit strictly no later than **April 23rd, 2026**, under penalty of disqualification from the competition.

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

Bank name: BPER Banca

IBAN: IT 81 V 05387 12702 0000 0330 2963

BIC (Swift code): BPMOIT22XXX

Description: Paganini International Award enrollment fees – Chamber music section – full name of group and individual member

Information:

“N. Paganini” Competition

Mail [concorso@paganinifestival.com](mailto:concorso@paganinifestival.com)