

**International Competition**  
**Paganini Guitar Festival 2026**  
**Romantic Guitar Solo 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 30th, 2026.**

*SOLOISTS - Romantic Guitar:*

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**

Soloists - *Romantic Guitar*: open to performers using period instruments (19th-century originals or authentic replicas). No age limit applies.

Past First Prize winners in the Romantic Guitar Soloists section may not re-enter the competition in this category.

**Art. 3 Registration fees**

Soloists - *Romantic Guitar*: €80

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

#### **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**

Soloists - *Romantic Guitar*:

Free-choice original program from the Classical or Romantic period (19th century), including one Sonata from “37 Sonatas” M.S. 84 by Niccolò Paganini – maximum duration of the round: 15 minutes.

##### **B – Final round <sup>2</sup>**

Soloists - *Romantic Guitar*:

Free-choice original program from the Classical or Romantic period (19th century) with a maximum duration of 20 minutes, without repetition of pieces already presented in the Eliminary Round, including at least one composition by Niccolò Paganini.

<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> *A maximum of four (4) participants will be admitted to the Final round in the Romantic guitar solo competition.*

## **Art. 6 Certificates, diplomas and prizes**

### *SOLOISTS - Romantic Guitar*

#### First prize

- Certificate of first prize
- *Original romantic guitar from the first half of the 19th century, restored and donated by master luthier Gabriele Lodi*
- Prize-winner Concert Series of 2026/2027 Season<sup>3</sup>:
  - Concert at Associazione “*Cultura & Musica*” San Torpete (Genova – Italy)
  - Concert at “*BorGuitar Festival*” (Borgo Val di Taro – Italy)
  - Concert to be held during the 2027 edition of the Paganini Guitar Festival.
- Music book selection by “*Curci Edizioni Musicali*”
- Strings and accessories provided by D’Addario Foundation, Aquila Corde Armoniche Srl, and Knobloch Strings.

#### Second prize

- Certificate of second prize
- *An Altamira romantic guitar worth €3.000, offered by Altamira Guitars*
- Music book selection by “*Curci Edizioni Musicali*”
- Strings and accessories provided by D’Addario Foundation, Aquila Corde Armoniche Srl, and Knobloch Strings.

#### Third prize

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

#### Special Prize “Knobloch Strings”

- The Jury will indicate among the finalists the soloist who will record a dedicated video for the “*Knobloch Strings Channel*” and a pack of the new nylon Knobloch Strings for romantic guitar.

<sup>3</sup> *Only explicitly stated gross appearance fees will be guaranteed. Otherwise, performers will be granted a reimbursement of expenses, according to the organizers’ agreements. Prize concerts could change due to new availability and due to extenuating circumstances.*

A certificate of attendance will be provided to all participants.

Other prizes, grants and concerts could be added and would be published online as soon as possible

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

First Prizes cannot be shared.

The award giving ceremony for the Romantic guitar competition will be taking place on Sunday **May 31st, 2026**. Prize winners must be present at the ceremony: failing to do so will result in the loss of the prize.

### **Art. 7 Auditions**

Prior to the Eliminary and Final round's auditions 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 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 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.

For any dispute, the online rules published on **April 30th, 2026**, at [www.paganinifestival.com](http://www.paganinifestival.com) shall prevail.

### **Art. 8 Enrollment**

Application form is available online on this page.

Applicants must fill in all parts and submit the application strictly no later than midnight on **April 30th, 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 – Soloists - *Romantic Guitar* - full name of the contest participant

Information:

“N. Paganini” Competition

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