

## **International Competition**

### **Paganini Guitar Festival 2026**

#### **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 23rd, 2026.**

SOLO COMPETITION – *Guitar*

Eliminatory round: **May 28th-29th, 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**

Solo competition – *Guitar* – no age limit

First prize winners in the Soloists section from previous editions may no longer compete in the same section of the competition.

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

Solo competition – *Guitar* – no age limit: € 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**

Solo competition – *Guitar* – no age limit:

Free-choice program, including one Sonata from “37 Sonatas” M.S. 84 by Niccolò Paganini – maximum duration of the round: 15 minutes <sup>2</sup>.

##### **B – Final round <sup>3</sup>**

Solo competition – *Guitar* – no age limit:

Free-choice program with a maximum total duration of 20 minutes; repetition of pieces already performed in the Preliminary Round is not permitted. The program must include at least one composition by a Spanish composer.<sup>2</sup>

<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> *Transcriptions will be admitted only as free program.*

<sup>3</sup> *No more than eight (8) performances (soloists) will be admitted to the Final round.*

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

### SOLO COMPETITION – *Guitar*

#### First Prize

- Certificate of first prize
- Scholarship worth €2.000.
- An Altamira Concert Guitar “*Torres 1888*” worth €4.000, offered by Altamira Guitars
- One carbon guitar case worth €1.000 offered by Leona Case
- Professional guitar microphone “*Dyn GP p48*” offered by Schertler, with a commercial value of €535
- Prize-winner Concert Series of 2026/2027 Season <sup>4</sup>:
  - Concert in the Festival “*Forum Gitarre Wien*” (Vienna)
  - Concert for the “*Istituto Italiano di Cultura*” in Dublin (Ireland)
  - Concert in “*Paganini Guitar Festival*” next edition (Parma, Italy)
  - Concert for the Associazione “*Amici di Paganini*” (Genova, Italy)
  - Concert at *Barco Teatro* (Padova, Italy)
- 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
- Online distributed album (.mp3 format) on the most important international music stores (iTunes, Amazon, Spotify, eMusc, Fnac, etc) offered by *DotGuitar* for the DotGuitar/CD/Winner’s label <sup>5</sup>

#### Second prize

- Certificate of second prize
- “*Vincenzo Raffaele Segreto*” study grant worth €500.
- 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

### “D’Addario” Special Prize

- The Jury will indicate among the finalists the soloist who will become *D’Addario-Artist* for one year.

### “Niccolò Paganini” Special prize

- For the best execution of a Niccolò Paganini music piece: Music book selection offered by “*Ut Orpheus*” worth €200

### “Curci edizioni musicali” Special prize

- Best performance of a work by a Spanish composer: Selection of music scores provided by “*Curci edizioni musicali*”.

<sup>4</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.*

<sup>5</sup> *DotGuitar will support the complete expenses for publishing 1 (one) album on-line (transcoding, uploading tracks, covers composition, revenue management, etc.) for the winner of the Competition. For 5 years DotGuitar will hold the rights for that recording (this period could be renewed by mutual agreement) and any profit and revenue from the sale of the digital tracks on the stores will be divided at the 50% for the winner guitarist and 50 % for DotGuitar. The laureate (by him/herself, where he/she wants and at his/her own expenses) will record a master tape with a program of his/her choice, and send to DotGuitar the audio tracks in a digital format (it could be a regular audio CD or .wav format tracks sent via Dropbox, Wetransfer or similar cloud services). The organizers of the Paganini Guitar Competition and DotGuitar must receive the recordings within one year from the date of the competition. The organizers of the Paganini Guitar Competition and DotGuitar will reserve the right to judge if the quality of the recording is suitable for publication.*

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 they are confirmed.

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 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 reserves the right to stop any performance that exceeds the established time limit. Jury members with family ties or ongoing teaching relationships with any participant must declare such a conflict of interest and shall abstain from evaluating those candidates.

Online rules on **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026** will be taken as authentic for any dispute.

### **Art. 8 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 **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 – Soloist section - full name of the contest participant

Information:

"N. Paganini" Competition

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