

Competition Rules & Regulations 2026

The 23rd International Competition for Piano Chamber Ensembles “Premio Trio di Trieste” will take place in Trieste in two phases: **June 2026** and **September 2026**. For the first selection, the Jury will gather on June 27th, 2026. The selection will be carried out through video recordings, sent by applicants together with the application form. The admitted groups to the second round will perform live in Trieste from 12th to 16th of September, 2026, for the second round, the semifinal and final round. The first prize winner shall also participate freely in the Final Concert.

Eligibility

1. The 2026 Edition shall be reserved only to the following categories:
 - Piano and violin **Duo** (category A)
 - Piano and viola **Duo** (category B)
 - Piano and cello **Duo** (category C)
 - Piano, violin and cello **Trio** (category D)
 - Piano, violin, viola and cello **Quartet** (category E)
2. The competition is open to musicians of all nationalities. The average age of ensemble members must not exceed 32,00 as of December 31, 2026.

Application process

3. Applications for admission must be filled out by hand in block letters or digitally using the editable PDF form in the download area and must include the following elements:

- Online application form;
- Attachments:
 - **proof of date of birth of each member** (e.g. copy of valid passport, ID, or birth certificate)
 - **a professional quality color photograph of the ensemble** (to be published on the Competition program) in high-resolution PNG, JPG or TIFF format, at least 300 DPI
 - **brief resume** of the ensemble
 - **a video recording*** containing a complete work by L. v. Beethoven (for the cat. D op.1, or op.70, or op.97), or R. Schumann, or J. Brahms recorded by a fixed camera

**The video-recording must be of professional quality, shot by a single fixed camera in real time, and must not be edited or altered in any way. Recordings must resemble a concert environment. Therefore, no interruptions or cuts between movements are allowed. The Competition Committee reserves the right to disqualify studio enhanced or modified recordings, or recordings which are not of professional quality.*

- Non-refundable application fee of € 120,00, for ensemble, made by bank transfer to:
Associazione Chamber Music Aps, via XXX Ottobre 17 - 34122 Trieste
ZKB - Banca di Credito Cooperativo del Carso
Via San Spiridione 7 - Trieste
IBAN: IT 05 Q 08928 02204 010000030380 **BIC / SWIFT:** CCRTIT2TV00

Online applications, together with all required supporting documents and the application fee, must be received by JUNE 11th, 2026 (23:59 CET). All materials must be submitted online, sent by e-mail to info@acmtrioditrieste.it or posted by mail Associazione Chamber Music Aps via XXX Ottobre 17 - 34122 TRIESTE - Italy.

The **RESULT** of the **FIRST** preliminary round will be published on July 3rd, 2026 on the website www.acmtrioditrieste.it and on the Facebook and Instagram pages of the ACM - Associazione Chamber Music Trieste.

The ensembles admitted to the second round will, in any case, be contacted by the Competition Secretariat. ***Two ensembles, selected by the Artistic Direction and previously finalists in the ARD Munich, Melbourne, and Osaka Competitions, are exempt from submitting the video and are automatically admitted to the live rounds starting on September 12th, 2026.***

The **ROLL CALL** in Trieste - at the Chamber Music Association, via XXX Ottobre 17 (1st floor) - of the ensembles admitted to the **SECOND ROUND** will be held on **September 11th at 5:00 PM** (ensembles can accredit for the competition starting from 4 pm).

Candidates must present themselves for the call of the roll with an identification document. Absence at the time of the roll call, unless justified by unforeseeable circumstances, will result in exclusion from the Competition.

Each ensemble is required to submit to the Competition secretariat **2 copies** of the scores that will be performed in each live rehearsal (***PLEASE NOTE: only photocopies of the scores will be accepted. No books are allowed.***).

The second round will be held at the "Giuseppe Tartini" Conservatory of Music in Trieste (September 12th and 13th), while the semi-final, the final round and the winners' Concert will take place at Teatro Miela (September 14th, 15th, and 16th). The Concert Hall is equipped with an acoustic box, designed by Suono Vivo-Padova, that guarantees a perfect acoustic to the hall. Moreover, the hall is provided with a "gran coda" Steinway Piano.

Competition Rounds and Proceedings

4. The Competition consist of the following: **a preliminary round, three public selection rounds, and a Winners' Concert:**

1. first preliminary round, based on a video recording submitted together with the application form;
2. second preliminary round, with an estimated duration of 60 minutes, which will be held on September 12th and 13th, 2026 in Trieste;
3. semi-final, with an estimated duration of 50 minutes, which will be held on September 14th, 2026 in Trieste;
4. final round, for the top three awarded ensembles: a complete work of their choice, which will be held on September 15th, 2026 in Trieste;
5. winners' Concert, which will be held on September 16th, 2026 in Trieste.

5. The pieces performed by applicants shall follow a criterion of chamber-music balancing between the various instruments, with the consequent exclusion of the pages or transcriptions (unless made by the author himself) in which the piano is a mere accompaniment. In this respect, the Artistic Direction of the Competition reserves the right to accept or reject the programs proposed and to give applicants timely notice of it.

6. Any changes to the submitted program must be communicated to the Competition Secretariat within 10 days of the deadline and are subject to the decision of the Artistic Direction.
7. Every score must be presented in full on the musical program: no single movements are accepted. It will be up to the Jury to decide on the choices of the movements to play during live rounds.
8. The Jury reserves the right to interrupt performances at any time.

First Preliminary Round Process

9. All categories shall present a **complete score** by L. van **Beethoven** (for category D **op. 1**, or **op.70**, or **op.97**), or R. **Schumann**, or J. **Brahms** to be submitted as a video recording together with the application form, **not later than June 11th, 2026**. The recordings must be made as if in a concert setting, with no interruptions between the different movements.
10. The Jury members will review the submitted video recordings on June 27th, 2026. The results of the first preliminary round will be published on July 3th, 2026 on our web site www.acmtrioditrieste.it, on Facebook: ACM - Associazione Chamber Music Trieste or Instagram: acmtrieste.
11. The groups admitted to the second round will be contacted by phone or email.
12. The groups admitted to the second round are required to be in Trieste from September 11th, 2026. The three finalists are required to stay in Trieste until September 16th, 2026 for the final round and the winners' Concert.

Second Round Process

13. The groups admitted to the second round are convened for the call of the roll, on September 11th, 2026 at 5 pm. **PLEASE NOTE:** applicants can check-in starting from 4 pm at our office, via XXX Ottobre 17.
14. Applicants are required to carry their identification documents. In case of failure to turn up on convening - unless previously justified by documented reasons - the ensemble shall be excluded from the Competition.
15. On the occasion of the call of the roll (September 11th, 2026, 5 pm), all ensembles must handle to the Secretariat 2 copies of the scores that will be performed for each round. **PLEASE NOTE:** only photocopies of the scores will be accepted.
16. For the **SECOND round (maximum duration: 60 minutes)**, all categories shall perform three pieces as follows:
 - for category A, D, E a work by F. J. **Haydn** or W. A. **Mozart**; for category B and C a work of **Brahms**;
 - a work by L. van **Beethoven** or R. **Schumann**. This piece must be different from the one recorded and sent for the first preliminary round; for category B, op. 70 and op. 73 are also permitted.
 - a pre-1960 repertoire work by a **Czech, Polish or Hungarian composer**.

Semi-final Round

17. For the **semi-final round** all categories will have to present a concert program of their own choice (**approximate duration: 50 minutes**), including a score composed from 1980 onwards and published.

18. The repetition of pieces played in previous rounds isn't accepted. Each score must be presented in full.

19. Two ensembles, winners of important international chamber music competitions, will be granted direct access to the second round. For the 2026 edition, the selected Competitions are ARD Munich, Melbourne, and Osaka.

Final Round

20. **Three ensembles** will be admitted to the final round.

21. For the **FINAL round (approximate duration: 30 minutes)**, all categories shall submit a complete work of their choice, also one already performed in one of the previous rounds.

Prizes

22. The following prizes shall be awarded:

1st Prize "Premio Trio di Trieste" 16.000 €, of which

€ 10.000,00 offered by Samer&Co. Shipping in memory of **Dario Samer**;

"Anna Maria e Giorgio Ribotta" Special Prize: € 6.000,00;

– **18 important concerts** coordinated by an Artistic Secretary appointed by the Competition's Artistic Direction (Accademia Musicale Chigina - Siena, Società dei Concerti di Milano, Unione Musicale di Torino, Ferrara Musica, I Virtuosi Italiani di Verona, Bologna Festival, Concerti del Quirinale - Roma, Fondazione Sincronia - Roma, Amici della Musica di Modena, Circolo Culturale di Bellunese, Società Filarmonica di Trento, Amici della Musica - Foligno, Stagione Concertistica - Ivrea, Società del Quartetto - Bergamo, Ente Concerti di Pesaro, I Concerti della Casa della Musica di Parma, Quinta Giusta FVG, Associazione Chamber Music - Trieste);

– **A live recording** during one of the concerts, to be arranged with the winning ensemble, will be made available online.

2nd Prize

€ 6.000,00 offered by the **Fondazione Ernesto Illy**.

3rd Prize

€ 4.000,00 offered by the **Fondazioni Casali**.

23. The following **special prizes** shall be awarded:

- “**Dario De Rosa**” **Special Prize**: € 3.000,00 offered by Nicoletta De Rosa, in memory of her father, to the best performance of a Schubert Trio (op. 99 or op. 100);
- “**Fernanda Selvaggio**” **Special Prize**: € 4.000,00 offered by the Selvaggio family in memory of the violinist Fernanda Selvaggio, awarded to the best finalist Quartet;
- “**Renato Zanettovich**” **Special Prize**: €2.600,00 offered by 26 former students for the best semifinalist Duo, in memory of the Maestro;
- **C.E.I. Special Prize**: € 3.000,00 to the best finalist ensemble coming from one of the 17 countries of C.E.I.

24. All prizes are indivisible.

25. The winners of the First, Second, and Third Prizes are required to participate freely in the final Concert (to be held on **September 16th, 2026 at 8.30 pm** at Teatro Miela in Trieste) with a program to be defined by the Jury.

Jury

26. The Jury will consist of **seven** voting members:

- **Pavel Berman**, *violin* (Italy) – in agreement with the Conservatory of Trieste
- **Simone Gramaglia**, *viola* (Italy)
- **Márta Gulyás**, *piano* (Hungary)
- **Johannes Meissl**, *violin* (Austria)
- **Miloš Mlejnik**, *cello* (Slovenia)
- **Dirk Mommertz**, *piano* (Germany)
- **Danusha Waskiewicz**, *viola* (Germany) – in agreement with the Accademia Chigiana of Siena

27. Members of the Jury could be replaced in case of necessity.

28. When taking office, each member of the Jury shall declare possible teaching or family relations with any of the ensembles participating to the competition. In the case of family relations or private teaching relations happened during the two years before the beginning date of the competition, the member of the Jury shall be dismissed, whereas in the case of public teaching relations at the time of or two years before the beginning date of the competition, the member of the Jury shall abstain from voting (O.J. on December 5th, 1994, No.10, art. 15/2 c).

29. The voting procedures will be communicated to applicants before the start of the Competition. The results will be notified at the end of each round.

30. The Jury reserves the right not to award one or more prizes, should the requirements deemed necessary fail to be satisfied.

31. The Jury's decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

Practical Information

32. The Artistic Direction of the Competition reserves the right to make or allow the making of any type of audio and video recording during each phase of the Competition, subject to the authorization signed by the competitors at the time of registration, made pursuant to articles 13 of the GDPR 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation) and 13 of the D.Lgs 196/2003 and without these making an economic request.

33. Premio Trio di Trieste Competition will provide the following:

- Rehearsal rooms
- Shared accommodation (two or three persons per room) to all groups admitted to the second round in Trieste, from September 6th, 2024 up to the end of their actual presence in the Competition. The Competition Secretariat will be in charge of booking the rooms.
- Only finalists shall be entitled to a 50% refund of their travel expenses, up to a maximum of € 800,00 per ensemble, subject to prior application and presentation of the travel documents.

34. Only the Italian text shall apply, should any decision be challenged. Any case of dispute shall lie within the jurisdiction of the Court of Trieste.

In the event of disputes, only the Italian text will be considered valid and, for any dispute the Court of Trieste will be competent.

Domanda di iscrizione / Entry Form

Denominazione del complesso / Name of ensemble

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Nome/Name Cognome/Surname Nazionalità/Nationality

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Luogo di nascita/Place of birth Data di nascita/Date of birth

Tel./Mobile e-mail

Indirizzo/Address Strumento/Instrumental

Nome/Name Cognome/Surname Nazionalità/Nationality

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Luogo di nascita/Place of birth Data di nascita/Date of birth

Tel./Mobile e-mail

Indirizzo/Address Strumento/Instrumental

Nome/Name Cognome/Surname Nazionalità/Nationality

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Nome/Name Cognome/Surname Nazionalità/Nationality

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Luogo di nascita/Place of birth Data di nascita/Date of birth

Tel./Mobile e-mail

Indirizzo/Address Strumento/Instrumental

I sottoscritti dichiarano di aver preso visione del bando di concorso e di rispettarlo in ogni sua parte. / *The participants declare to have taken note of the announcement of the competition and fully comply with it.*

I concorrenti acconsentono che i dati personali contenuti nella scheda di iscrizione siano conservati con la massima riservatezza ed utilizzati esclusivamente ai soli fini degli adempimenti di legge, come specificato nell'informativa ai sensi degli artt. 13-14 del GDPR 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation). / *The competitors agree that the personal data contained in the registration form are kept in strict confidence and used exclusively for the purposes of legal obligations, as specified in the information pursuant to arts. 13-14 of the GDPR 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation).*

Firma di ogni componente / Signature of each player

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AUTORIZZO

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Prima prova eliminatoria
Preliminary elimination session

Autore/Composer

Opera/Work

Durata/Duration

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Seconda prova eliminatoria
Second elimination session

Autore/Composer

Opera/Work

Durata/Duration

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Prova semifinale
Semifinal session

Autore/Composer

Opera/Work

Durata/Duration

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Prova finale
Final session

Autore/Composer

Opera/Work

Durata/Duration

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Data/Date

Da compilare a macchina o in stampatello
Please, type or print in block letters

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