

RULES

THE 1ST EDITION

2026

INTERNATIONAL
PIANO CONCERTO
COMPETITION



Paolo Spagnolo





1. PRESENTATION

The first edition of the "PAOLO SPAGNOLO" International Piano Concerto Competition promises to be a new and prestigious event on the international music scene, dedicated to showcasing pianistic talent. The competition is open to pianists of all nationalities and without age restrictions. It will take place from June 11-14, 2026, in the enchanting setting of PRAIA a MARE, offering participants a high-level artistic experience in close contact with the orchestra.

2. APPLICATION

2.1 Registration Procedure

Candidates are invited to submit the registration application, completed in its entirety, using the specific form on the web page www.concorsopaolospagnolo.com.

Applications must be submitted to concorsopaolospagnolo@gmail.com no later than April 8, 2026; the date of submission of the email will be considered valid.

The following documents must be attached to the application form:

- copy of a valid identity document
- passport-sized digital photograph.

2.2 Registration contribution

The application to participate must be accompanied by proof of payment of the non-refundable registration contribution, equal to €120.00 (one hundred and twenty/00).

Payment must be made by bank transfer.

Beneficiary: MEDITERRANEAN MEETINGS CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Bank: INTESA SAN PAOLO SPA

Address: ORTE SCALO

IBAN: IT05D0306973220100000001755

- **Codice SWIFT/BIC: BPPIITRRXXX**

Reference: International Piano Concerto Competition Paolo Spagnolo 2026

Name and surname of the applicant





3. PRELIMINARY ROUND (VIDEO)

3.1 Presentation

The preliminary test will take place through the sending of a performance video. The candidate must upload the streaming video to YouTube or similar (Vimeo, Dropbox, etc.) and insert the link in the appropriate space on the registration form. The video recording must be no older than January 1, 2024.

3.2 Repertoire

The video must contain the performance of one or more free-program compositions (for piano solo or for piano and orchestra) with a maximum duration of 12 minutes.

3.3 Technical specifications

The recording must be of good quality, continuous and free from any audio/video modification or editing and cannot use A.I.

The pianist must be filmed in such a way that his/her face and hands are clearly visible.

4. ADMISSION TO THE SEMI-FINALS

4.1 Announcement

The names of the candidates admitted to the semi-final will be published by April 30, 2026 on the official website of the Competition

www.concorsopaolospagnolo.com/announcements The Jury will select a maximum of 16 candidates.

4.2 General Rules

The decisions of the Jury are final and unappealable.

Jury members who have had teaching relationships or are related to a candidate must abstain from voting.





5. PHASES OF THE COMPETITION

5.1 The Competition will be divided into the following 3 phases:

I. Elimination phase: evaluation of the videos sent by the candidates (see Art. 3).

II. Semifinal (maximum 16 semi-finalist candidates): performance of the first movement of a concerto for piano and orchestra (which will be performed with the accompaniment of the second piano provided by the competition) chosen from the following:

- L. van Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3, Op. 37
- L. van Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5, Op. 73
- F. Chopin Piano Concerto No. 1, Op. 11
- F. Chopin Piano Concerto No. 2, Op. 21
- R. Schumann Piano Concerto Op.54
- F. Liszt Piano Concerto No.1, S.124
- E. Grieg Piano Concerto Op.16
- S. Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2, Op. 18
- G. Gershwin Piano Concerto in F
- G. Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue (completo)

III. Finale (maximum 8 finalist candidates): Live performance with orchestra of the complete work chosen from the following concerts:

J.S. Bach Piano Concerto BWV 1052

J. Haydn Piano Concerto No.11 (Hob. XVIII:11)

W.A. Mozart Piano Concerto K 414

W.A. Mozart Piano Concerto K488

5.2 Performing from memory is not mandatory for all stages of the competition.

5.3 All rehearsals and concerts are open to the public and admission is free.



6. PRIZES

- First Prize “Paolo Spagnolo”: €2500
- Second Prize “José Ángel Lepore”: €1500
- Third Prize “Leopold Godowsky III”: €1000

7. OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETITORS

7.1 By applying to participate, competitors grant the rights to use the images, audio, and videos of their performances for all promotional, dissemination, and documentary purposes of the Competition, by signing a specific release.

7.2 All contestants are required to attend the awards ceremony for the possible awarding of special prizes. Failure to attend will result in the forfeiture of such prizes, which may be reassigned.

8. WARNING

8.1 The organization is not responsible for any damage to persons or property that may occur during the competition, except in cases of willful misconduct or gross negligence.

8.2 Participants are responsible for any damage caused to third parties or property during their stay at the competition venue.

8.3 If the competition does not reach the minimum number of participants required to run, the organization reserves the right to modify or cancel the event. In this case, all participation fees already paid will be refunded in full.



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CONTACT



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