PRAGUE SPRING

78th International Music Competition

HARPSICHORD & CLARINET

6. 5. – 14. 5. 2027

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

festival.cz/en/competition

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The 78th Prague Spring International Music Competition, a member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions in Geneva, will take place in Prague **on 6 – 14 May 2027** in the categories **HARPSICHORD** and **CLARINET**.
The harpsichord competition is held in memory of the centennial of Zuzana Růžičková's birth.

The Competition is intended for artists of all nationalities who:

a) satisfy the age limit
   - 32 years (i.e. those who are born after 6 May 1995 inclusive) for harpsichord category
   - 30 years (i.e. those who are born after 6 May 1997 inclusive) for clarinet category

b) have not already won 1st prize in the relevant category at the Prague Spring International Music Competition

APPLICATION DEADLINE – 1st December 2026.

APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION

Persons interested in participating in the Competition shall apply online at the Competition´s website, where they shall complete and confirm an online application form and attach the following attachments:

a) **A copy of the applicant´s birth certificate** or **proof of identity**
b) **A portrait photo suitable for reproduction** (without copyright) – min. 1 MB and 300 dpi
c) **An unedited VIDEO recording** of the compositions listed in the "Competition Repertoire" section of this General Provisions (find the technical requirements below)
d) **A statement from a professor or other person of artistic standing** (e.g. a sound engineer) guaranteeing the authenticity and quality of the recording – a form can be downloaded on the Competition´s website
e) **Proof of payment of the registration fee in the amount of EUR 50** (for costs associated with registration and the preliminary round) – always state the full name of the competitor in the comment
   - payment to the Prague Spring account no. 3633372/0800 held at the Česká spořitelna bank, IBAN CZ64 0800 0000 0000 03633372, B.I.C. GIBACZPX (all fees must be transferred „free of bank charges for the recipient")
   - payment via credit / debit card

Application deadline – 1st December 2026
(The date of the submission of the electronic application is decisive.)
Only complete applications will be accepted.

During 20th January 2027, the candidates admitted to the Competition (i.e. those successful in the preliminary round) shall be notified about their admission by an e-mail. After the receipt of the admission confirmation, the **participation fee 100 EUR must be transferred to the Competition account credit / debit card by 15th February 2027 at the latest.** The accepted candidates shall be sent a letter with complete information concerning the organisation of the Competition, as well as the sheet music for the commissioned piece.

Neither the registration nor the participation fee can be refunded.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RECORDING

The selection of candidates to take part in the Competition in Prague shall be based on this recording, shall be anonymous and in random order. The video recording must fulfil the following parameters:

- Compositions must be recorded in their entirety;
- Individual parts of the pieces (movements) must be recorded without any cuts or editing;
- Microphones should be positioned at a distance allowing to obtain a good sound quality;
- The video should be filmed from a fixed camera angle in landscape mode, musician´s hands and face must be entirely visible all the time;
- It is highly recommended to ensure a good sound quality of the recording, to provide the jury with the best possible conditions for judging in the preliminary round;
- Public recordings are accepted if they meet the recording conditions stated above (especially no cuts);
- We accept official recordings from other WFIMC members;

Technical requirements

- Video quality – 720p or 1080i or 1080p
- Audio quality – PCM, flac, mp3 min. 256kbps or aac min. 192kbps
- Microphone of adequate quality
- File format – mp4, mov, avi, mpg or mkv
- **Upload your recording (recordings) to a cloud server such as Dropbox, iCloud, Google Drive, etc. (not YouTube) and include the link in your application – always set the access to the video as public.**
- **Individual parts of the pieces (movements) must be uploaded separately;**

CONSENT TO THE COMPETITION CONDITIONS AND TO THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

By submitting the Competition application, the competitor gives his/her consent to the processing of personal data in accordance with the following information on their processing and confirms that he/she has read and accepted the Competition Conditions before registering for the Competition, and that he/she agrees with the fact that not granting or revoking this consent excludes his/her participation in the Competition.

By submitting the application, the Competitor gives his/her consent to the Organiser to process the following personal data as a controller, in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (hereinafter only the "Regulation"), and Act No. 110/2019 Coll. on the processing of personal data, as amended:

- Name and surname
- Date of birth
- E-mail
- Telephone number
- Address

The Organiser processes the personal data provided only based on the consent given by the Competitor and for the purpose of fulfilling the contract - ensuring the Competitor's participation in the Competition. These data will be processed by the controller for the duration of the contractual relationship.

The provision of personal data is voluntary. Consent can be revoked at any time, for example by sending an e-mail or letter to the contact details of the Organiser.

Personal data is processed by the Organiser as the controller, but personal data may also be processed for the Organiser by processors acting on behalf of the Organiser. In this case, the Organiser undertakes to ensure that the processor fulfils its obligations under the Regulation.

Under the Regulation, the Competitor has:

- the right to withdraw his/her consent at any time;
- the right to request information as to which personal data are processed and to obtain a copy of such data;
- the right to request access to such data and to have it updated or corrected or to request processing restrictions;
- the right to request the deletion of such personal data;
- the right to request explanations;
- the right to data portability (in case of automated processing);
- the right to lodge a complaint with the Office for the Protection of Personal Data if there are doubts as to compliance with the obligations relating to the processing of personal data.

Personal data provided by the Competitors shall not be provided to third countries.

COURSE OF THE COMPETITION

The competition shall be held in three rounds, and the number of candidates is limited. A maximum of 45 candidates will be accepted into the Round I. A maximum of 12 candidates shall advance to Round II in cembalo category, a maximum of 10 candidates shall advance to Round II in clarinet category.
3 candidates shall advance to the Finals in both categories.

All rounds of competition performances are public.

SCHEDULE

HARPSICHORD

Acoustics rehearsals	6 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Opening and drawing	6 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Round I	7 and 8 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Feedback sessions	9 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Round II	10 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Finals and prize giving ceremony (as a part of the festival)		
	13 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Mentoring for Finalists	14 May	TBA

CLARINET

Acoustics rehearsals	7 May	House of the Professed of the Charles University
Opening and drawing	7 May	House of the Professed of the Charles University
Round I	8 and 9 May	House of the Professed of the Charles University
Feedback sessions	10 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Round II	11 May	Academy of Performing Arts
Finals and prize giving ceremony (as a part of the festival)		
	14 May	Rudolfinum
Mentoring for Finalists	15 May	TBA

The feedback sessions are intended for those competitors who do not advance to Round II.

The organiser reserves the right to make changes to this schedule.

PRESENCE DURING THE COMPETITION

Each participant is obliged to register at the Competition secretariat (for the cembalo category – Academy of Performing Arts, for the clarinet category – House of the Professed) at a fixed time, which he/she has received in the letter of invitation. The participant will identify him/herself with passport, identity card or birth certificate. Immediately after registration, an acoustic rehearsal will take place in the hall.

All participants must be present in person at the opening ceremony of the Competition and at the announcement of the results after all rounds.

Each participant accepts the obligation to remain free of all professional obligations or concerts throughout the duration of the Competition.

Competitors will be expected to receive their awards in person.

ACCOMMODATION

All travel and accommodation expenses for the duration of Round I shall be paid by the candidates themselves.
Starting from Round II, all candidates who do not have their permanent residence in Prague or live more than 100 km from Prague shall receive a contribution of 70 EUR/day.

The contribution shall be provided for the duration of their active participation in the Competition. The accommodation for the prize-winners shall be covered until the day when the prizes are presented to them. This does not apply to piano accompanists or other accompanying persons.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

By submitting a registration form, participants give consent to the recording of any audio-visual materials from their participation in the competition and its publication, typically in the news coverage of the competition or by media partners of the competition. Owners of such materials shall be the Organising Body or its media partners as the producer of such materials. If participants of the competition receive such audio-visual materials, they shall be obliged to use them only for personal, educational, non-commercial and non-public purposes.
Any radio or television broadcasts and recordings of competition performances shall be at the disposal of the Prague Spring Festival and shall serve for the promotion of the competition. Any commercial use of these recordings shall be the subject of future negotiations.

JURIES

The following artists have promised to sit on the juries:

HARPSICHORD

Marie Banaszkiewicz-Bryła – Poland
Fabio Bonizzoni – Italy
Francesco Corti – Italy
Monika Knoblochová – Czech Republic
Jacques Ogg – Netherlands
Barbara Maria Willi – Czech Republic
Aline Zylberajch – France

CLARINET

Nicolas Baldeyrou – France
Igor Františák – Czech Republic
Andrew Marriner – Great Britain
Harri Mäki – Finland
Sabine Meyer – Germany
Charles Neidich – USA
Irvin Venyš – Czech Republic

STUDENT OF A JURY MEMBER

If a jury member's student is among the competitors, that jury member may not evaluate him/her.
Jury members must not teach their students during the competition itself, otherwise the contestant will be excluded from the competition. A student is a competitor who studies with a member of the jury long-term and continuously as part of regular studies or private lessons, or whose studies were completed on or after 1st January 2026.
The provision does not apply to participation in the masterclass.

REPERTOIRE

The competition repertoire stated by the candidate in the application shall be binding and cannot be changed. Later changes or failure to comply with the mandatory repertoire shall form the grounds for disqualification. Candidates must bring printed music with them and present it on demand.

The commissioned piece for the 2027 Prague Spring International Music Competition by a Czech composer shall be sent to the candidates together with instructions on the course of the Competition. The composition may not be publicly performed prior to the Competition.

For competition performances, the jury has the right to determine the order of compositions or of individual parts of compositions.

Using illegal photocopies of sheet music for public performance is a violation of the copyright and the commercial rights of the publisher and the performers shall bear all liability for any legal sanctions.

HARPSICHORD – in memory of Zuzana Růžičková

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Johann Sebastian Bach: Ricercar a tre BWV 1079 *(Bärenreiter)*
2. William Byrd: The Bells MB 38 *(Musica Britannica/Stainer & Bell)*

ROUND I

1. Johann Sebastian Bach: Ricercar a tre BWV 1079 *(Bärenreiter)*
2. One of the following compositions
    a. Giles Farnaby: Woody-Cock FVB II/141 *(Musica Britannica)*
    b. Thomas Morley: Fantasia FVB II/124 *(Musica Britannica)*
    c. John Bull: Pavana XXXIV *(Musica Britannica)*
    d. John Bull: Pavana & Galliard of Lord Lumley FVB I/11 a I/41 (without repetitions) *(Musica Britannica)*
    e. William Byrd: Fantasy FVB 52 *(Musica Britannica / Bärenreiter)*
3. Johann Jakob Froberger: one of the following compositions *(Bärenreiter)*
    a. Lamentation faite sur la mort très douloureuse de Sa Majesté Impériale Ferdinand III FbWV 633
    b. Lamento sopra la dolorosa perdita della Real Maestà di Ferdinando IV, Re dei Romani FbWV 612
    c. Tombeau fait à Paris sur la mort de Monsieur Blancheroche FbWV 632
    d. Plainte faite à Londres pour passer la mélancolie FbWV 630

A copy of a Flemish instrument and a virginal without a short octave will be available for Round I.

ROUND II

1. Johann Sebastian Bach:
    a. Sonata in A minor BWV 965 *(Bärenreiter)*
    b. Sonata in D minor BWV 964 *(Bärenreiter)*
2. One of the following compositions
    a. Jacques Duphly: Chaconne en fa (Troisième Livre de Pièces de clavecin) *(Fuzeau / Heugel)*
    b. Johann Joseph Fux: Ciaconna in D *(Denkmäler der Tonkunst in Österreich)*
    c. François Couperin: selection from Vingt-deuxième à Vingt-cinquième ordre (Quatrième Livre de Pièces de clavecin) *(Bärenreiter/Heugel/Fuzeau)*
    d. Jean-Philippe Rameau: selection from Nouvelles suites de pièces de clavecin *(Bärenreiter/Heugel/Fuzeau)*
3. Matouš Hejl: a composition composed for the 2027 IMC Prague Spring with a duration of ca. 6 minutes
4. Viktor Kalabis: one of the following compositions

a. Akvarels for Harpsichord Op. 53 *(Bärenreiter / Prague Spring – link will be on the competition website)*
b. Preludium, Aria e Toccata for harpsichord (I Casi di Sisyphos) Op. 75 *(Schott / Panton)*
c. Six Two-Part Cancional Inventions Op. 20 (selection of three parts) *(Schott / Panton)*

The total performance time of Round II should be between 45 minutes and 50 minutes.

For the Round II a Flemish copy, a French copy a modern instrument by Goble will be available

FINALS

1. Johann Sebastian Bach: Concerto for Harpsichord and Strings in D minor BWV 1052 *(Bärenreiter)*
   In cooperation with Collegium 1704
2. Bohuslav Martinů: Concerto for Harpsichord and Small Orchestra H 246
   (In cooperation with Prague Philharmonia, conductor Vojtěch Spurný)

For the Finals a Flemish copy, a French copy a modern instrument by Goble will be available

Memorization is not required in all rounds.

CLARINET

PRELIMINARY ROUND

1. Jean Francaix: Theme and Variations for Clarinet and 11 Strings (with piano)
2. František Vincenc Krommer-Kramář: Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra in E flat major Op. 36 (3rd movement)

ROUND I

1. Bohuslav Martinů: Sonatina for Clarinet and Orchestra H 356
2. Carl Maria von Weber: Concertino in E flat major Op. 26 **(memorized)**

ROUND II

1. One of the following composition **(memorized)**
   a. Claude Debussy: Première rhapsodie L 116
   b. Francis Poulenc: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano FP 184
   c. Camille Saint-Saëns: Sonata for Clarinet and Piano in E flat major Op. 167
   d. Charles-Marie Widor: Introduction et Rondo Op.72
2. Petr Wajsar: a composition composed for the 2027 IMC Prague Spring with a duration of ca. 8 minutes
3. Johannes Brahms: Quintet in B minor for Clarinet and Strings Op. 115 (in cooperation with Bennewitz Quartet and Zemlinsky Quartet)

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

Official piano accompanists are available at no charge on request in the application form. Participants may bring along their personal accompanist at their own expense.

FINALS

(in cooperation with Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Pardubice, conductor Marko Ivanović)

1. Jean Francaix: Theme and Variations for Clarinet and 11 Strings
2. František Vincenc Krommer-Kramář: Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra in E flat major Op. 36 **(memorized)**

PRIZES

In each category of the 78th annual Prague Spring International Music Competition, the following prizes are offered:

MAIN PRIZES

1st prize CZK 250,000
2nd prize CZK 150,000
3rd prize CZK 100,000
These amounts are gross amounts, i.e. they are subject to tax and other fees under applicable Czech legislation and regulations.

If the performances of the candidates do not reach the required quality standard, the jury shall decide whether to award all of the prizes. The jury may choose not to award any of them, if it rules that the performances of the candidates do not meet the usual artistic standards of the competition for the awarding of prizes. If candidates' performances are of equal quality, the jury may award multiple prizes on the same level, in which case the prize money shall be added together and then divided equally to prizes of the same level. In doing so, it is necessary to make sure that the amounts of the prizes are in line with the final order of the competitors and that the amounts of prize money do not exceed the amounts offered for individual prizes.

Only one 1st prize may be awarded.

Winners of these main prizes shall also receive the Competition Laureate title.

OTHER PRIZES FOR EACH CATEGORY

Honourable Mention of the Jury of the First Grade may be awarded to some of the finalists who do not receive any of the main prizes – CZK 10,000
Honourable Mention of the Jury may be awarded to some outstanding candidates in Round II who do not advance to the finals
Audience Prize donated by Friends of Prague Spring – CZK 25,000
Bohuslav Martinů Foundation Prize for the best performance of the composition by Bohuslav Martinů – CZK 35,000 for the harpsichord category and CZK 15,000 for the clarinet category
Czech Music Fund Foundation Prize for the best performance of works composed for the 2027 Prague Spring International Music Competition – CZK 30,000
Prize of the City of Prague for the most successful laureate
Czech Radio Prize a free studio recording and presentation of the best laureate to be broadcasted by Czech Radio
Bärenreiter Prize a gift voucher for a selection of sheet music published by Bärenreiter Praha and Bärenreiter-Verlag Kassel for the most successful laureate

PRIZES FOR THE HARPSICHORD CATEGORY

Special Prize of the Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžičková Foundation for the best performance of the composition by Viktor Kalabis – 25 000 Kč
Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžičková Prize for the most successful laureate – USD 1,500. The Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžičková Endowment Fund and the Viktor Kalabis and Zuzana Růžičková Foundation Washington will further support concerts given by the winner of this prize with up to USD 8,500 if they include an essential work by Viktor Kalabis. Detailed conditions of the prize are to be found on the competition's website.

PRIZES OFFERED JOINTLY FOR BOTH CATEGORIES

Oleg Podgorný Prize for the most successful youngest Czech participant in the entire competition (must have participated at least in Round II) – CZK 25,000 granted by the ARTIST'S LIFE FOUNDATION.
Czech Centres Prize a one-week residence at one of the Czech Centres in Europe for the best Czech participant in the entire competition
Gideon Klein Foundation Prize for the most successful Czech participant in the entire competition – CZK 20,000

These prizes shall also be gross amounts.

Winners of these additional prizes are not entitled to use the Competition Laureate title.

PAID CONCERT PERFORMANCES

A performance at the 83rd annual Prague Spring International Music Festival in 2027 for the winner of the 1st prize of each category.

CONCERTS DURING THE 2027/2028 SEASON BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISERS

(the organiser reserves the right to choose a laureate from one category)

Prize of the Pro Harmonia Mundi Foundation, Switzerland – a performance at the festival Ticino Musica
International Classic
Pilsen Philharmonic
Czech Chamber Music Society
West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra of Mariánské Lázně
EuroArt Prague International Music Festival
Young Prague International Music Festival
Třeboň Nocturnes Festival
Klasika Viva Concerts
Antonín Dvořák Memorial in Vysoká u Příbrami

More prizes and concert engagements are under negotiation, and they will be published on the https://festival.cz/en/competition/ website and in the competition catalogue.

These competition provisions have been announced in compliance with the Competition Rules of the Prague Spring International Music Competition dated 25 November 2019. The competition provisions are issued in the Czech and English languages. In case of any discrepancy, the Czech text shall be regarded as authentic.

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