

Rules and Conditions

1. International Piano Competition **Merci, Maestro!** is open for young pianists from all around the world. The Competition will take place in **Brussels, Belgium, on April 12-16th 2023** after the pre-selection round on **March 6-10th, 2023** (preselection is based on video recordings).

2. There are 4 categories for the competition: A, B, C and D:

- **Category A:** for candidates younger than 10 years old (inclusive) at the time of the Competition
- **Category B:** for candidates from 11 to 14 years old (inclusive) at the time of the Competition
- **Category C:** for candidates from 15 to 20 years old (inclusive) for the time of the Competition
- **Category D:** for candidates from 21 to 25 years old (inclusive) for the time of the Competition

The **Gala concert of the winners** is currently planned for **Sunday, April 16th** Brussels Town Hall , Gothique hall (Brussel).

3. The Competition consists of:

For category A, B, C, D:

1. **Pre-selection round** (via video recording).

After registration, all candidates will be invited to a pre-selection round.

The number of participants in the pre-selection round is not limited.

During the pre-selection round (via video recording) **maximum 80 candidates** for all category will be accepted for the participation at the competition.

The list of participants who pass to the next rounds will be published on our website on **March 10th, 2023 (after 20:00)**.

2. **First round** (live performance in Brussels).

The number of participants for first round: maximum 80 candidates for all category

During the First round maximum 40 candidates for all category will be accepted for the participation at the second (final) round of the competition.

The list of the participants at the final round will be announced after the deliberation of each category at the end of the day.

3. **Second (Final) round** (live performance in Brussels).

The number of participants for final round: maximum 40 candidates for all category

The list of the laureates will be announced after the deliberation of each category at the end of the day.

The list of the winners will be announced during the GALA concert

The first and the final rounds are open to public for free.

4. Program requirements

Program duration:

The program at the pre-selection round and First round may be repeated.

The programs of the First and Final round may be repeated, but during the Final round one new piece should be presented that has not been performed on the First round.

ALL CATEGORIES – Pre-selection round

For all categories: **YouTube or any other video file download link** to one piece recently performed by the applicant. Recording can be from any performance, competition or homemade.

– PRESELECTION round:

Program for all categories: one virtuous study and works of a free choice

- **Category A:** maximum **5 min**
- **Category B:** maximum **10 min**
- **Category C:** maximum **15 min**
- **Category D:** maximum **20 min**

Category A ,B, C, D

– First round:

Category A : maximum 8 minutes

1. One of the pieces of J.S. Bach
2. One virtuous study (etude) by Czerny, Clementi, Chopin, Liszt
3. A work(s) of a free choice

Category B : maximum 10 minutes

1. One of the Prelude and Fugue from WTC or two- or three-part invention of J.S. Bach
2. One virtuous study (etude) by Czerny, Clementi, Chopin, Liszt
3. A work(s) of a free choice

Category C : maximum 15 minutes

1. One of the Prelude and Fugue of J.S. Bach from WTC
2. One virtuous study (etude): F.Chopin, F.Liszt, C.Saint-Saëns, C.Debussy, V.Kosenko Etude op.19 n 4 (Courante) ; V.Kosenko 11 etudes op.8 (n 1,3,5,6,9)
3. A work(s) of a free choice

Category D : maximum 30 minutes

1. One of the Prelude and Fugue of J.S. Bach from WTC
2. One virtuous study (etude) : F.Chopin, F.Liszt, C.Saint-Saëns, C.Debussy, B.Lyatoshynsky “Concert Etude-Rondo “, S.Bortkiewicz 10 etudes op.15 (n 1,3,5,9)
3. One movement of a classic sonata (tempo allegro) or variations: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven

– Second (Final) round:

Category A : maximum 10 min

1. One of the pieces of J.S. Bach
2. Few pieces of a free choice

Category B : maximum 15 min

1. One movement of a classic sonata (tempo allegro) or variations: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven
2. Few pieces of a free choice

Category C : maximum 20 min

1. One movement of a classic sonata (tempo allegro) or variations: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven
2. Few pieces of a free choice

Category D : Participants must play one of the following piano trios:

1. L.van Beethoven, Piano Trio Op.1 No.3 in C minor
2. L.van Beethoven, Piano Trio op.70 no.1 in D-Major, "Ghost" N 5

5. The order of pieces to perform:

First round:

1. One of the pieces of J.S. Bach
2. One virtuous study
3. A work(s) of a free choice

Second round:

1. Bach (Category A) / One movement of a classic sonata (tempo allegro) or variations : Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven (Categories B, C)
2. Few pieces of a free choice
3. The virtuous study at the pre-selection round and First round may be repeated

6. Prizes:

Prizes for the winners of the International Competition for Young Pianists «Merci, Maestro!»

Category A:

- First prize: 150 euro
- Second prize: 100 euro
- Third prize: 50 euro

Category B:

- First prize: 200 euro
- Second prize: 150 euro
- Third prize: 100 euro

Category C:

- First prize: 300 euro
- Second prize: 200 euro
- Third prize: 150 euro

Category D:

- First prize: 500 euro
- Second prize: 300 euro
- Third prize: 200 euro

Special Prizes:

- Prizes to youngest promising participant in each category
- Special diplomas

- Part of the sscholarships to take part in the festival & master classes International Music Academy “FORTE” (www.musicacademy.be) with famous musicians
- Special prizes: participation in several workshops, concerts and festivals in Europe

If several winners receive the same number of points, the prize is distributed among them in equal proportion.

All winners will **receive diplomas and prizes** in cash at the Gala concert.

In case of if the winners is not present at the GALA concert the prizes and diplomas will nor be delivered

All the finalists will receive **diplomas** for their presence at the secretary office of the competition.

Certificate of participation will be issued to participants, who were not selected to the final round, in the evening after the announcement of the first-round results at the secretary office of the competition.

7. Administration fees:

- A non-refundable registration fee **20 Euros** at the moment of the registration (credit card) together with a YouTube Link with a recent recording of the participant and all documents specified in the requirements for inscription **before March 1st, 2023**
- No extra documents, no changes of the program after submit to the participation are accepted.
- In case of the list of the documents is not completed administration are right don't accept the participation.
- Selected candidates will be informed by the administration of the competition by **March 10th 2023**. The rest to pay for selected candidates:
 - **Category A: 40 euros**
 - **Category B: 60 euros**
 - **Category C: 80 euros**
 - **Category D: 100 euros**

8. Registration has to be submitted before March 1st, 2023.

You can register **HERE**.

Changes in the repertoire will not be allowed after registration at the competition.

All video links, documents for visa application, photos of the participants, etc... have to be attached to the registration document. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

***Attention!** Foreign participants of the Competition, who need entry visa to Belgium, will receive an invitation letter confirming his/her participation in the Competition only after payment of the administration fees.

All supporting documents for visa applications will be sent by e-mail. IF origin documents are needed, the participant will cover 20 Euros of postal costs.

9. All travel and accommodation costs are at the candidate's expense.

The candidates may file a request for free accommodation in one of our carefully selected host families.

Each participant who desires to stay in the host family has to fill out the request for accommodation in a host family and send it to the organizers of the Competition. The number of available places in host families is limited.

He or she should also make a **deposit of 50 euros**. This deposit must be paid during the registration process for host family (with credit card).

The deposit of EUR 50 is refundable (under conditions of no damage to host family's properties) and only in cash after the Gala Concert on 16.04.2023.

In case of refusal of the candidate to stay in the host family, **the deposit will not be refunded.**

To consider the accommodation in host families the application should be submitted no later than **March 12, 2023** via ONLINE form.

The accommodation in host families is foreseen exclusively for the dates of competition:

- Check in: from April, 10.04.2023, 18h00-20h00
- Stay : till April 17.04.2023.
- Check out: 17.04.2023 , 08h00-10h00

Beyond these dates no accommodation in host families is possible. If a participant would like to stay in Belgium longer, he is kindly asked to take care of his accommodation himself.

Additional information: The host families only provide rooms for accommodation.

No other services are included. The participants should take care themselves about food, transportation and other needs related to their stay in host families.

Beyond these dates no accommodation in host families is possible. If a participant would like to stay in Belgium longer, he is kindly asked to take care of his accommodation himself.

10. Participants registration

Those who participate in person are kindly requested to register themselves upon arrival.

The registration will take place at:

Piano's MAENE BRUSSELS, Rue de l'Argonne 37, 1060 Bruxelles (Saint-Gilles)

- For Category D: Tuesday, April 11th 2023 (time to be confirm)

- For Category C: Wednesday, April 12st 2023 (time to be confirm)
- For Category A, B: Friday April 14st 2023 (time to be confirm)

11. Rehearsals (only for the participants of the competition)

Rehearsals at the competition's piano:

- CAT C, D Tuesday, April 11th 2023 (time to be confirm)
- CAT A, B Friday, April 14st 2023 (time to be confirm)

Rehearsals-trainings in the rooms with piano:

- CAT C, D April 11-15, 2023 : 09:00 – 18:00
- CAT A, B Thursday – April 14-15, 2023: 09:00 – 18:00

12. All works must be performed by heart without partitions and without repeats.

13. Changes in the repertoire will not be allowed after **registration** at the competition.

14. The prize-winners commit themselves to giving a benefit concert for the Competition.

15. All winners will **receive diplomas and prizes** in cash at the Gala concert.

In case of if the winners is not present at the GALA concert the prizes and diplomas will nor be delivered

16. The candidates need to be present minimum 30min before the performance.

17. If the candidate is a student of one of the jury's members this member cannot vote.

18. The candidate who already received one prize cannot participate one more time in the same category.

The public is prohibited from photographing or filming during the performances. The direction of the Competition has the right to do and reproduce pictures, video and audio recordings, as well as broadcasting on the radio and TV channels.

19. Members of the Jury are musicians and teachers with worldwide reputation.

20. Decisions of the jury are irrevocable. Only the members of the Jury shall be competent for any dispute. Their decisions are irrevocable and should not be justified. It Members of the jury can possibly decide not to give any prize in one category. If two candidates end up at the same place, the President of the Jury will decide about the winner.

21. The « Merci, Maestro! » competition reserves the right, without payment of fees, to record and distribute recordings for media and other purposes, including the Internet, and to televise, broadcast, film, record, videotape, photograph or live stream all stages of the competition, all prize performances and concerts.

22. The « Merci, Maestro! » competition reserves the right to change the conditions and rules in the interest of the competition.

23. In case of refusal of the candidate to participate in the competition, the registration fee will not be refunded.
24. All the pieces chosen by the candidates themselves must be accepted by the Jury and published in a repertoire.
25. The announcement of one category's finalists will take place after the appearance of all the candidates of the category (at the end of the day).
26. The passage of the candidates is organised in alphabetical order. Nevertheless, the direction of the Competition has the right to modify their order.
27. The direction of the Competition is not responsible for any physical or material damages that could result from the participation at the contest.
28. Each participant is responsible for personal medical insurance, risk and personal belongings insurance.
29. From the edition 2023: no music by Russian composers can be performed during the competition