

Third International Piano Competition 'WIENER KLASSIK' 2026

The International Vienna Piano Competition takes place once a year in the Ehrbarsaal and is organized by the Vienna Piano School.

The competition is open to participants of all nationalities.

The prize and competition categories for 2026 are as follows (the reference date is the day of the competition – July 18, 2026 for categories 1–3, July 19, 2026 for categories 4–5).

1. Categories

- Category 1: 7–9 years (born between July 19, 2016 and July 18, 2019)
- Category 2: 10–12 years (born between July 19, 2013 and July 18, 2016)
- Category 3: 13–15 years (born between July 19, 2010 and July 18, 2013)
- Category 4: 16–23 years (born between July 20, 2002 and July 19, 2010)
- Category 5: 24–32 years (born between July 20, 1993 and July 19, 2002)

First prize winners from previous competitions are excluded from participation.

2. Rounds

The competition consists of three rounds:

Round 1

The first round of the piano competition takes place via video submission. You may submit up to three freely chosen pieces. The maximum performance time is:

- Category 1: 5 minutes
- Category 2: 7 minutes
- Category 3: 10 minutes
- Categories 4–5: 15 minutes

Videos must be uploaded no later than February 28, 2026, 11:59 p.m. CET. The results of the first round will be announced by the end of April 2026.

Please note: if your video exceeds the maximum duration, only the given time will be considered.

Round 2

The second round of the piano competition will take place on July 18 and 19, 2026, at the Ehrbarsaal Vienna. The program must include one work by Mozart, Haydn, or Beethoven ('Viennese Classic'). If you choose a sonata, one movement is sufficient. The remaining piece(s) may be freely chosen.

- Category 1: 5 minutes

- Category 2: 7 minutes
- Category 3: 10 minutes
- Categories 4–5: 15 minutes

Round 2 will take place on July 18, 2026 for categories 1–3, and on July 19, 2026 for categories 4–5.

Round 3 / Prize Winners' Concert

The winners of each category will perform their second-round program on the evening of July 20, 2026, at the famous Musikverein Vienna (Magna Auditorium / Glass Hall). The top three of each group will receive cash prizes and perform in the Prize Winners' Concert. Additional special prizes will be awarded, including concerts in Vienna and a professional CD recording.

3. Prizes

The total value of prizes is €15,000.

Prizes for each category are as follows:

- Categories 1–3: 1st Prize €500, 2nd Prize €250, 3rd Prize €100
- Categories 4–5: 1st Prize €2500, 2nd Prize €1000, 3rd Prize €500

Additional prizes:

- Mozart Prize: A solo concert at the Mozarthaus Vienna (€1,500 value)
- Beethoven Prize: A solo concert at the Ehrbarsaal Vienna (€2,750 value)
- Haydn Prize: A professional CD recording at C-Arts Studio (€1,500 value)

4. Festival Pass

Participants and visitors of the second and third rounds must hold a Festival Pass to participate in the competition and to access all events of the Summer Festival.

Festival Pass prices:

- €75 for active participants (Category 1)
- €90 for active participants (Category 2)
- €120 for active participants (Category 3)
- €150 for active participants (Categories 4–5)
- €120 for passive participants / visitors
- €60 for minors (under 18) / passive participants

The Festival Pass grants access to the four core days of the Summer Festival, including the masterclass concert on July 17, the entire competition on July 18–19, the award ceremony and Prize Winners' Concert at the Musikverein Vienna on July 20, and all other concerts during the two-week festival.

Festival passes for participants and visitors are non-refundable.

5. Competition Rules

In categories 1–3 (Junior), the following evaluation system applies:

60–69 points: No prize

70–79 points: Bronze Award

80–89 points: Silver Award

90–100 points: Gold Award

In categories 4–5, placement is based on the highest scores. A first prize requires an average score above 90 points, a second prize above 80 points, and a third prize above 70 points.

The jury's decisions are final.

By participating in the second round, competitors agree that video and audio recordings of their performances in the second and third rounds may be streamed and published. The Vienna Piano School holds the rights to these recordings.

Instructions from the organizing team must be followed. Repeated violations or disruptions may lead to disqualification.

The Vienna Piano School provides rehearsal rooms equal to twice the performance time. Additional rooms can be booked hourly via www.musikquartier.at.

The jury reserves the right not to award prizes if no suitable candidate is found.

Vienna, November 1, 2025

Mag. Bernhard Jan, B.A., M.A.
Artistic Director