



## Third International Vienna Piano Competition 'WIENER KLASSIK' 2026

The International Vienna Piano Competition takes place once a year in the Ehrbarsaal and is organized by the the Association ProArte, ZVR 1561803945.

The competition is open to participants of all nationalities.

The prize and competition categories for 2026 are as follows (the reference date is July 18th, 2026).

### 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 19, 2002 and July 18, 2010)
- Category 5: 24–32 years (born between July 19, 1993 and July 18, 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. It is possible to send one video with the different pieces or single videos. Cutting or any modifications within the videos/during the playing are not allowed and lead to

immediate exclusion from the competition. The participants hands have to be seen throughout the whole performance.

The application fee in order to enter the first round is 75€.

### **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 ('Wiener Klassik'). 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 (€1,750 value)
- Haydn Prize: A professional CD recording at C-Arts Studio (€1,200 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: Merit Award

70–79 points: Bronze Award

80–89 points: Silver Award

90–100 points: Gold Award

In categories 4–5, the ranking is determined by the number of highest points awarded. The participant in first place receives a First Prize, the participant in second place a Second Prize, the participant in third place a Third Prize.

In addition, to receive a First Prize, a participant must achieve an average score of over 90 points; for a Second Prize, an average score of over 80 points is required; and for a Third Prize, an average score of over 70 points.

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](http://www.musikquartier.at).

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

The administration reserves the right to adjust the prize money according to the number of applications.

Vienna, November 1st, 2025

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mag. Bernhard Jan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mag." on the left, "Bernhard" in the middle, and "Jan" on the right. The "B" in "Bernhard" and the "J" in "Jan" are particularly prominent.