

International Competition of Young Pianists “Merci, Maestro!”

Jury rules and regulations

General Information about competition

The competition is organized among 3 categories of candidates:

- **CAT A:** for candidates younger than 10 years old (inclusive) at the time of the Competition;
- **CAT B:** for candidates from 11 to 14 years old (inclusive) at the time of the Competition;
- **CAT C:** for candidates from 15 to 21 years old (inclusive) for the time of the Competition.

The competition implies 2 phases:

1. Pre-selection phase: based in YouTube videos

In each category maximum 20 candidates will be chosen for the main phase of the competition

2. Main phase of the competition: performance in Brussels

2.1. First round of the competition

In each category maximum 10 candidates will be chosen for the second (final) round

2.2. Second (final) round of the competition

In each category maximum 6 finalists will receive the prizes (1st, 2nd, 3rd prize). Some finalists at each category will be able to obtain special diplomas (for example as the youngest promising pianist etc) ; Special prize: participation in several workshops, concerts and festivals in Europe

Jury rules and regulations

1. The management of the Competition will appoint the members of the jury at its sole discretion. There is no limit to their number. They are chosen for their international reputation in the world of music, without taking into account any racial, ideological, political or linguistic considerations. The composition of the jury may vary from one round to another.
2. The jury is chaired by a person appointed by the competition management.
3. Relatives or allies of a candidate may not vote for a candidate (up to the 4th degree of kinship).
4. Members of the jury may not vote for a candidate of whom they are or have been a professor. A "student" is defined as a candidate who has been taking courses on a regular basis within last 10 years preceding the competition with the member of the jury in question. Activities such as master classes, workshops, festivals are not considered as regular courses. In case of doubt, the interested parties will contact the management, which will determine the position to be taken. If a member of the selection board does not provide a mark for a candidate, the average of the points awarded to the candidate by the other members of the selection board, multiplied by the average of the points awarded to all candidates by the member of the selection board concerned, divided by the average of the points awarded to all candidates by all the other members of the selection board, is added to the sum of his points.
5. Candidates do not have the right to challenge a member of the jury.
6. The list of names of all candidates will be given to each member of the jury.
7. At the beginning of the session, the list of names of the jury members will be published on the competition website.
8. Each member of the jury will submit to the Competition secretariat a signed declaration (see the end of the document).
9. If it is shown that the declarations in Article 8 are not true, their signatory would be excluded from the jury and the Competition.

10. Throughout the session, the members of the jury will refrain from any direct or indirect contact with a candidate, and a fortiori from living under the same roof as him.
11. The number of finalists may vary each year and is specified by the rules of the Competition. For the 2020 competition a maximum of 10 finalists in each category will be selected.
12. The decisions of the jury are final. The Jury may decide not to award any prizes in either category. In the event of a tie, the chairman of the jury and the artistic director shall have the casting votes.
13. The jury will vote by secret ballot. Ballots may not be made public. The results will be presented for the jury without discovering the names of the participants. Only the jury Secretary can see the separate votes of each jury member.
14. The jury members will vote independently and it is not permitted for jury members to discuss performances of the candidates while they are still participating in the competition.
15. The jury members who have their student(s) among the candidates (or who have been otherwise disqualified from voting) will put “#” mark next to the name(s) of the candidate(s).
16. In case if a member of the jury does not inform the management of the competition about the current relationship between him/her and a candidate, the competition management has a right to exclude this jury member from the jury.
17. The vote of a jury member will be taken into account only if this member has heard performances of all candidates within the round. The management of the competition has a right to make exceptions from this rule.
18. Under no circumstances may the members of the jury communicate to each other the marks they have awarded. It is forbidden to use mobile phones for the entire duration of the competition (it is only possible to use mobile phones during breaks.)
19. The function of the Chairman of the Jury is to direct the operations of the Jury during the session.
20. For the choice of works and parts of works to be performed: there is a precise program.
21. In the event of illness or incapacity of a major force, the jury member shall be replaced, for the entire session or part thereof, either by a member of the Executive Committee appointed by the Chairman of that Committee or by a musical personality appointed by the Executive Committee of the Competition.
22. The President of the jury or artistic director shall announce the results of the tests, faithfully reflecting the decisions of the jury.

23. Performance assessment rules

Pre-selection round:

For the preselection round, 3 jury members will receive all names of the candidates and the links to video files. They will give each candidate a score “+” (“YES”) or “-” (“NO”) corresponding to the assessment of the performance, which will indicate whether the candidate passes or not to the first round. The number of the participants who can pass to the next round is limited to a **maximum** of 20 in each category. The voting results will be assessed by two independent people. In case of equal number of “+” and “-” votes the negative votes get higher weight in final evaluation. The jury members should send the final scores for assessment not later than March 3rd, 2020. After analysis, the names of participants and aggregated scores will be sent back to 3 jury members not later than March 4th 2020. All dispute cases will be resolved by mutual decision taken by the President of the jury and the Artistic Director of the Competition.

First round:

-For the first round, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper containing the names of the candidates. They will give each candidate a score between 1 and 20 corresponding to the assessment of the performance. The assessment rule is as follows:

- The passing rule: candidates with score 11-20 will pass to the final
- The passing rule: candidates with score 1-10 do not pass to the final

The number of finalists awarded by each jury member is limited to a **maximum** of 10 in each category. All dispute cases will be resolved by mutual decision taken by the President of the jury and the Artistic Director of the Competition. The names of the finalists will be announced after all the candidates in the same category have passed.

Finals:

After the audition of all finalists, the jury members will receive a ballot with the names of the finalists.

Next to each name, the members of the jury will give each candidate a score between 1 and 20 corresponding to the assessment of the performance.

The assessment rule is as follows:

- Score 19-20: 1st prize
- Score 17-18: 2nd prize
- Score 15-16: 3rd prize
- Score 13-14: diploma
- Score 11-12: diploma
- Score 9-10: diploma
- Score 7-8: diploma
- Score 5-6: diploma
- Score 3-4: diploma
- Score 1-2: diploma

The top 6 finalists should receive scores 15-20 . Maximum 3 couples from Top 6 list can receive same score.

In other words, two of the finalists from Top 6 list can receive 1st prize, two can receive 2st prize and again two can receive 3st prize.

In addition to assigning a score, the jury member will rank the finalists in order of preference, with his or her first choice coming first.

Jury members who have one or more students among the finalists will not rank their student(s).

The members of the jury will each sign their own ballot and submit it to the President of the jury.

The ranking will be established on the basis of the totals obtained by adding for each candidate the sum of the points awarded to him by all the members of the jury

All finalists will receive the title of "finalist". Maximum 6 finalists per level will receive the prizes (1st, 2nd, 3rd prize). Additionally, some finalists at each category can obtain special diplomas (for example as the youngest promising pianist etc)

The names of the winners will be announced after all the candidates in the same category have passed through.

24. PRIZES, DISTINCTIONS AND AWARDS. Various prizes, distinctions and awards will be distributed among the finalists. Each prize can be divided between a maximum of 2 winners (i.e. a total of 18 winners for all categories) and also special diplomas for younger promising participants in each category can be awarded.

- Category A : - First prize: 200 Euros; - Second prize: 150 Euros; - Third prize: 100 Euros
- Category B: - First prize: 400 Euros; - Second prize: 300 Euros; - Third prize: 200 Euros
- Category C: - First prize: 600 Euros; - Second prize: 400 Euros; - Third prize: 250 Euros

All participants will receive certificates. The participants of the first round who were not selected to participate in the final round will receive their certificates at the end of their round at the competition day or after the GALA concert.

All finalists will receive diplomas: the finalists who were not selected to participate in the Gala concert (who did not become winners) will receive their diplomas after all candidates in the same category have passed to the final or after the GALA concert.

The winners: the prizes, awards and diplomas signed by the President and the members of the jury will be awarded to the winners during the Gala concert of the laureates of the "Merci, Maestro!".

25. The Executive Committee of the Competition has the power to accept other donations, scholarships and concert offers for the benefit of candidates and winners.

26. Candidates are passed in alphabetical order. However, the Competition Management reserves the right to change this order.