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MERCI, MAESTRO !

1. Press Release

The 9th edition of our competition « Merci, Maestro! » will take place at the Piano's Maene's concert room, from April 9th to April 12th, 2025 and will end by a Gala concert on April 13th 2025 at the Gothic room of the City Hall of Brussels.

Organized by Nataliya Chepurenko, founder of the Brussels International Music Academy, « Merci Maestro! » welcomes international and Belgian pianists under 25 years old to participate. This event provides a platform for intercultural exchange, giving artistes the opportunity to be known in Europe and abroad.

“Merci, Maestro!” also provides a possibility to create a new space to share classical music during the competition, from April 9th to April 12th, 2025, and during the Gala Concert on April 13th, 2025.

For nine consecutive years, the international competition « Merci, Maestro! » gives an opportunity to young pianists to perform in front of a jury composed of world famous musicians. This event also provides chances for every talent to win prestigious prizes and, for some of them, to win opportunities to participate in other festivals or concerts.

The inscriptions, closed on the 1st of March, will give us a first glimpse of this edition. With a great international diversity, this competition attracts more and more candidates every year. After the pre-selections (via videos), around twenty candidates per category (under 10 years old, 11-13 years old, 14-16 years old, 17-19 years old, 20-22 years old and 23-25 years old) will be selected, coming from more than 20 different countries.

In 2025, the jury will meet under the presidency of the Belgo-Ukrainian pianist, Nataliya Chepurenko, artistic director and founder of the competition « Merci, Maestro! ».

Nataliya Chepurenko (Belgium /Ukraine), president of the jury, artistic director and founder of the competition « Merci, Maestro! ». Founder, director, piano teacher and chamber music teacher of the « Brussels International Music Academy » and of the festival « Music Academy Forte ».

Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden (Belgium), honorary professor at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and Master in Residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel.

Pietro Sellito (Italy), teacher at the Italian public school and director of chamber, choral and orchestral music, in Italy and abroad.

Lyudmyla Zakopets (Ukraine), professor of piano at the Lviv State Music Lyceum named after Solomiya Krushelnytska.

Michail Markov (Netherlands)

M. Markov is the founder and the artistic leader of the International Piano Competition for Young Musicians in Enschede, The Netherlands.

Tatiana Kozlova (Israel), professor of piano at the Israeli Conservatory of Music in Tel Aviv. Artistic director of “Stretto international piano competition” in Tel-Aviv.

Tamara Kordzadze (Switzerland), professor of piano at the Zurich Conservatory. President of Association “Unite Classics” and “Vivace”. Jury Member at international Competitions.

Milana Chernyavska (Germany), professor of piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Austria).

Organized over 5 days, from April 9th to April 13th, 2025, this edition offers the musicians a look back at the work of J.S-Bach, Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, and many others. The two rounds of the competition will take place in Piano’s Maene’s concert room, in Brussels, and they are open to the public.

The competition will end with a Gala Concert for all the winners. This Gala Concert will take place on April 13th, 2025, at the City Hall of Brussels.



2. PROGRAM

The International Competition for Young Pianists « Merci, Maestro! » is open for pianists from all around the world and is organized in six categories. The finalists will be announced after every performance of each category.

- **Category A:** for candidates younger than 10 years old (inclusive) at the first day of the Competition, that is **11th April 2025**.
- **Category B:** for candidates from 11 to 13 years old (inclusive) at the first day of the Competition, that is **11th April 2025**.
- **Category C:** for candidates from 14 to 16 years old (inclusive) at the first day of the Competition, that is **10th April 2025**
- **Category D:** for candidates from 17 to 19 years old (inclusive) at the first day of the Competition, that is **10th April 2025**
- **Category E:** for candidates from 20 to 22 years old (inclusive) at the first day of the Competition, that is **9th April 2025**.
- **Category F:** for candidates from 23 to 25 years old (inclusive) at the first day of the Competition, that is **9th April 2025**.

Preselection

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

Program for all categories : one virtuosic piece and free choice works

- **Category A :** maximum **4 min**
- **Category B :** maximum **6 min**
- **Category C :** maximum **8 min**
- **Category D :** maximum **10 min**
- **Category E :** maximum **12 min**
- **Category F :** maximum **14 min**

2. First Round:

Category A: 8 minutes maximum

1. One of the pieces of J.S. Bach
2. One virtuosic study (etude) by Czerny, Clementi, Chopin, Liszt, Lemoine, Moszkowski, Burgmüller – 18 Études, Op.109 No.1, 2.
3. A work(s) of a free choice

Category B: 10 minutes maximum

1. One of the Prelude and Fugue from WTC or two- or three-part invention of J.S. Bach
2. One virtuosic study (etude) by Czerny, Clementi, Chopin, Liszt, Lyatoshytsky, Bortkiewicz, Moszkowski, Burgmüller – 18 Études, Op.109 No. 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 18.
3. A work(s) of a free choice

Category C: 15 minutes maximum

1. One of the Prelude and Fugue of J.S. Bach from WTC
2. One virtuosic study (etude): F.Chopin, F.Liszt, C.Saint-Saëns, C.Debussy, Moszkowski, 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: 18 minutes maximum

1. One of the Prelude and Fugue of J.S. Bach from WTC

2. One virtuosic 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 classical sonata (tempo allegro) or variations: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Clementi

Category E: 20 minutes maximum

1. One of the Prelude and Fugue of J.S. Bach from WTC
2. One virtuosic 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, Clementi
4. A work(s) of a free choice

Category F: 25 minutes maximum

1. One of the Prelude and Fugue of J.S. Bach from WTC
2. One virtuosic 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, Clementi
4. A work(s) of a free choice

3. Second (Final) Round:

Category A: maximum 8 min

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

Category B: maximum 13 min

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

Category C: maximum 18 min

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

Category D: maximum 20 min

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

Category E: maximum 23 min

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

Category F: maximum 25 min

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

The order of program:

First round:

1. One of the pieces of J.S. Bach
2. One virtuosic 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 OR full sonata : Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Clementi (Categories B, C, D, E, F)
2. Few pieces of a free choice

GALA CONCERT | 13.04.2025 | 18:00

The Gala Concert will take place on April 13th, 2025, at 18:00 at the Gothic room of the City Hall of Brussels. A reception is organized after the concert during which everyone will have the opportunity to meet and talk with the jury members. Translators will be there to help you communicate, if necessary.

Merci, Maestro!
9th international competition for young pianists

Gala Concert
of the winners
Classical music (Piano solo) | Reception after the concert

Sunday
13th April 2025
18h00

Brussels Town Hall
Gothic Room
Grand Place

Ticket Prices:
•Children (9-12 years): 10 Euros
•Young adults (13-18 years): 20 Euros
•Adults (>18 years): 50 euros
•from 65 years old and above: 40 euros
Children <8 years old are not allowed at the Gala Concert

Info & ticket reservation: +32 496 48 87 80 | info@mercimaestro.be | www.mercimaestro.be



1. JURY MEMBERS BIOGRAPHIES

Nataliya Chepurenko (Belgium/Ukraine)

President of jury, founder, artistic director and founder of the competition “Merci, Maestro!”. Founder, director, piano & chamber music teacher of the “Brussels International Music Academy”. Founder, artistic director, piano & chamber music teacher of the festival & masterclasses “Music Academy FORTE”. Master in Piano Performing, Teaching and Chamber Music graduated from the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Kiev, Ukraine; the Royal Conservatory of Liege and the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Belgium. Jury member at many International piano competitions, member of EPTA, and ballet pianist. For several years main pianist of the Royal Ballet of Flanders and « Brussels International Ballet School », guest pianist at many international ballet companies. Jury member of several international competitions.

Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden (Belgium)

Honorary Professor at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and Master in Residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel. Frequently performed in chamber music formation with musicians such as José Van Dam, Augustin Dumay, Miriam Fried, Silvia Marcovici, Gérard Caussé, Michaela Martin, Walter Boeykens, Frans Helmerson, the quartet Ysaÿe, the quartet Melos and the quartet Enesco. Vanden Eynden was often a jury member in international competitions, primarily on the jury of the International Queen Elisabeth Competition. He was also artistic advisor for some festivals such as in Stavelot. He built a solid career as an international soloist. At the same time he was a professor at the Royal Music Academy in Brussels and at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel. He was also artistic director of the European Center Eduardo Del Pueyo.

Pietro Sellitto (Italy)

Currently, Sellitto is a teacher at the Italian public school. In 2024 he published his book “La Musica come rimedio alla Malinconia” which is achieving great success by selling hundreds of copies all over Italy. He is also a director of chamber, choral and orchestral music, in Italy and abroad. Founder of the Accademia Musicale Nocera and president of the Associazione di Cultura Musicale di Sant’ Anna in Nocera Inferiore (SA)- at the moment known as Associazione Musica Nova-, since 2013, he is also the organizer of many significant cultural events during which renowned artist of the opera, classical and contemporary music world are involved.

Graduated in Piano at the Conservatory “Carlo Gesualdo Da Venosa” in Potenza; subsequently he gained a specialized degree cum Laude in Musical Disciplines at the Conservatory “G. Martucci” of Salerno. Since he was a child, he was seen as an outstanding musical talent.

In partnership with the soprano Annunziata D’Alessio and the administration of municipality of Nocera, he designed a prestigious competition: the CIMN- Concorso Internazionale Musicale Nocera which has reached its fourth edition and has had as jury members renowned artist of the international piano scene, such as Olga Zdorenko.

Lyudmyla Zakopets (Ukraine)

From 1989 up till now Lyudmyla Zakopets has been working as a piano teacher in Lviv State Music Lyceum named after Solomiya Krushelnytska. She graduated Chernivtsi Music College in

1984 (class by Prasol M.I) and Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine (class by prof.Vitte N.M.) in 1989 with honors.Lyudmyla Zakopets has been coordinator and professor of international piano forum “Beshchady bez kordoniv” in Ukraine.

Thanks to creative cooperation with Ya.Dzhevietskyi and Ya. Ostrovskyi near 300 young pianists every year for 20 years have performed on the Forum stage and took part in workshops of provident educators. Lyudmyla Zakopets is an organizer and director of the first international young pianist competition “Feurich-virtuos” in Lviv and “Bechstein”.Over the years of teaching, the achievements are: 90 prizewinners of international and national competitions, 40 performances with symphonic and chamber orchestras in Ukraine , Germany, Poland, Slovenijas.

Many of Lyudmyla Zakopets’ students continued the studies in Music Academies in Ukraine (Lviv, Kyiv) Poland (Krakow, Bydgosz) Austria (Graz) Spain (Barcelona).Lyudmyla was invited to “Dora Schwarzberg summer international music school”as a teacher, often conducts master classes in Ukraine and abroad.Also worked as a member of jury of international and Ukrainian competitions.Lyudmyla is awarded with diploma by Ministry of Culture and “Achievement Medal” of Ukrainian and from Poland.

Michail Markov (Netherlands)

M. Markov is the founder and the artistic leader of the International Piano Competition for Young Musicians in Enschede, The Netherlands. Since 1991, the musician has been living in the Netherlands where he has continued his successful combination of teaching and musical performances. M. Markov has made CD recordings in France and Germany. Since mid-nineties he is working as professor at the piano department of the ArtEZ Conservatory in Enschede, the Netherlands. M. Markov is also the co-founder of the special Young Talents piano department of this Conservatory. M. Markov has been invited to give Master Classes at many International Music Festivals and Summer Schools in the Netherlands, USA, Austria, Poland and Ukraine.

Tatiana Kozlova (Israel)

Professor of piano at the Israeli Conservatory of Music in Tel–Aviv. Artistic director of “Stretto international piano competition” in Tel-Aviv. Previously artistic director of Scherzo international piano competition. Teaches constantly around the globe in different master classes: Elena Cobb Star Music Festival, Musicfest Perugia, Carmel Klavier International Piano competition. Master in Piano Performing, Teaching and Chamber Music graduated from Tchaikovsky National Academy of Music in Kiev, Ukraine. Touring career: performing at various international festivals and competition in Lithuania, Poland, Holland, Greece and Belgium. Jury member in various piano competitions.



Tamara Kordzadze (Switzerland)

Teaching at the Zurich Conservatory and her piano class counts over 53 Prizewinners of international and national piano competitions. President of Association “Unite Classics”. Founder and president of “Vivace” – an association that promotes and supports musically talented children and adults in Georgia. Was co-founder, board member, and head of international relationships of the association « Youth Classics » and « International Music Week Montepulciano » from 2009 to 2014. Leading two associations, successfully working on over 30 projects, and helping over 200 young musicians gave Tamara Kordzadze substantial experience and ultimately led to the « Unite Classics » Association in order to make classical music accessible to a wider, new audience with innovative projects. Tamara has been distinguished and has won prizes – including 1st prizes – at numerous national and international piano competitions.

Milana Chernyavska (Germany)

Professor of Piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (Austria). She leads numerous international masterclasses worldwide. A German artist with Ukrainian roots. Looking back at her impressive career, she established herself as one of the leading pianists and pedagogues of our times. Her critics agree with Alfred Brendel, who wrote that “Happiness was complete when one listened to Milana Chernyavska”. Since 2009 she is a piano professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Austria. Milana Chernyavska is a sought-after teacher at international master classes as well as a jury member at various prestigious piano competitions, such as the ARD in Munich, the Busoni Competition, Telekom Beethoven Competition in Bonn, the Mozart Competition in Salzburg, the Santa Cecilia in Porto Competition or the Blüthner Goldaward in Vienna.

International Competition For Young Pianists 2025

Merci, Maestro!

**JURY
PRESIDENT**



NATALIYA CHEPUREUKO (BE/UA)
Artistic Director & Founder & Professor:
MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE, International
competition for pianists «Merci, Maestro!»,
Brussels International Music Academy

JURY MEMBERS



**JEAN-CLAUDE
VANDEN EYNDEN**
(BE)
Honorary Professor at the Royal
Conservatory of Brussels &
Master in Residence at the
Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel.



PIETRO SELLITTO
(IT)
Music teacher at the Italian public
school & founder of the International
Music Competition CIMN at Italy.



LYUDMYLA ZAKOPETS
(UA)
Professor of piano at the Lviv State
Music Lyceum named after Solomiya
Krushevytska (Ukraine). Coordinator &
Professor of International Piano Forum
“Beshchady bez kordoniv” (Poland)



MICHAÏL MARKOV
(NL)
Founder and the artistic leader of the
International Piano Competition for
Young Musicians in Enschede, The
Netherlands



TAMARA KORDZADZE
(CH)
President of Association “Unite Classics”
and “Vivace”. Teaching at the Zurich
Conservatory. Jury Member at
international Competitions.



MILANA CHERNYAVSKA
(DE)
Professor of Piano at the University of
Music and Performing Arts Graz
(Austria). Leads numerous
international masterclasses worldwide.



TATIANA KOZLOVA
(IL)
Professor of piano at the Israeli
Conservatory of Music in Tel-Aviv.
Artistic director of “Stretto
international piano competition”.

Come join us!
April 09th to 13th, 2025
Contact Us at:
info@mercimaestro.be
+32 496 488780
www.mercimaestro.be



2. RULES

- The international competition « **Merci, Maestro!** » is open to young pianists from all around the world. The competition takes place at **Brussels, Belgium, from April 9th to April 13th, 2025**, after the preselection from **March 6th to March 10th, 2025** (preselection through video performances).

- **There are six categories : A, B, C, D, E and F:**

- **Category A:** candidates aged 10 and under
- **Category B:** candidates between 11 and 13
- **Category C:** candidates between 14 and 16
- **Category D:** candidates between 17 and 19
- **Category E:** candidates between 20 and 22
- **Category F:** candidates between 23 and 25

The **Gala Concert** is scheduled on Sunday 13th April, 2025, at the City Hall of Brussels, Gothic room.

- **Prizes:**

Prizes for the winners of the international competition for young pianists « Merci, Maestro ! »

Category A:

- First prize: diploma & special gifts
- Second prize: diploma & special gifts
- Third prize: diploma & special gifts

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: 400 euro
- Second prize: 250 euro
- Third prize: 200 euro

Category E:

- First prize: 500 euro
- Second prize: 300 euro
- Third prize: 250 euro

Category F:

- First prize: 600 euro
- Second prize: 350 euro
- Third prize: 300 euro

Special Prizes:

- Invitation by The Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Lviv National Philharmonic named after Myroslav Skoryk and the Lviv Krushelnytska State Music Lyceum to

perform in one concert as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra of Lviv (Ukraine) 2025/2026

- Grants for participation in the International Festival Masterclasses & Concerts “MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE” 2025/2026 (300 euro)
- Participation at the concert of MUSICORUM festival (Brussels, Belgium) 2025/2026
- Invitation to participate in the 20th International Piano Forum “Bieszczady Without Borders” in Sanok (Poland) from February 1-7, 2026 (Exemption from the entry fee of approximately 150 euro)
- Concert in ITALY organised by ASSOCIAZIONE DI ALTA CULTURA MUSICALE
- Masterclass in ITALY organised by ACCADEMIA MUSICALE NOCERINA
- Participation at the concert with CAMERATA BRIMA in Brussels, Belgium 2025/2026
- SOLO CONCERT at the “SALON BRIMA”, Brussels during 2025/2026
- Prize for the youngest promising participants in each category
- Best performance of a modern composition
- The best performance of a virtuoso piece-Special edition of music scores of Ukrainian composers
- Best interpretation of a Ukrainian Composer’s composition
- Cash prizes, Medals, Gifts and Diplomas

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.

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

- 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.
- All works must be performed by memory without scores and without repetition.
- Changes in the repertoire will not be allowed after the registration at the competition.
- The prize-winners commit themselves to giving a benefit concert for the Competition.
- All winners will receive diplomas and prizes in cash at the Gala concert.
- If the winner is not present at the GALA concert the prizes and diplomas will not be delivered
- The candidates have to be present minimum 30 minutes before the performance.
- If the candidate is a student of one of the jury members, this jury member cannot vote.
- 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 organiser 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.

- Members of the Jury are musicians and teachers with worldwide reputation.
- 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. The 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.
- The « Merci, Maestro! » competition reserves the right, without payment of fees, to record and distribute recordings for media and other purposes, including on the internet and television, broadcast, film, record, videotape, photograph or live stream all stages of the competition, all prize performances and concerts.
- The « Merci, Maestro! » competition reserves the right to change the conditions and rules in the interest of the competition.
- In case of refusal of the candidate to participate in the competition, the registration fee will not be refunded.
- All the pieces chosen by the candidates themselves must be accepted by the Jury and published in a repertoire.
- The announcement of each category's finalists will take place after the appearance of all the candidates of the category (at the end of the day).
- The order of the candidates is organised in alphabetical order. Nevertheless, the organiser of the Competition has the right to modify their order.
- The organiser of the competition is not responsible for any physical or material damages that could result from the participation at the contest.
- Each participant is responsible for their personal medical insurance, risk and personal belongings insurance.
- No music by Russian composers can be performed during the competition.





5.Laureates of edition 2025: Congratulations!

CATEGORY A

1st Prize: Oleksandr Kostyshyn (Ukraine, 8 y/o), Yihan-Laura Xu (China, 8 y/o), Freddy Wu (Austria, 10 y/o)

2nd Prize: Agnia Kovaleva (Belgium, 8 y/o), Jingshu Shi (China, 9 y/o), Pavlo Rovchak (Ukraine, 10 y/o), Heda Hou (Netherlands, 10 y/o), Nora Kostenko (Ukraine, 10 y/o), Yijia Gu (China, 9 y/o)

3rd Prize: Emma Mamaieva (Ukraine, 9 y/o), Oscar Liu (Ireland, 10 y/o), Osamu Ishimaru (Japan, 7 y/o)

CATEGORY B

The members of the jury decided that no prize would be awarded this year in category B.

CATEGORY C

1st Prize: Chenrui Zhang (China, 15 y/o)

2nd Prize: Martin Bajer (Czech Republic, 16 y/o)

3rd Prize: not awarded

CATEGORY D

1st Prize: Yurii Nechypor (Ukraine, 18 y/o)

2nd Prize: Magdalena Pflüger (Germany, 17 y/o)

3rd Prize: Shiyi Liu (China, 17 y/o), Sin U Sou (Macau, 19 y/o)

CATEGORY E

1st Prize: Steven Kleeven (Belgium, 20 y/o), Ihor Panchenko (Ukraine, 20 y/o)

2nd Prize: Yana Kalenchuk (Ukraine, 20 y/o)

3rd Prize: Kyoka Sasaya (Japan, 22 y/o)

CATEGORY F

1st Prize: Akito Nagai (Japan, 24 y/o)

2nd Prize: Nikolas Pappas (Greece, 24 y/o)

3rd Prize: Fumika Matsumura (Japan, 23 y/o)

Special Prizes :

- **Invitation by The Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Lviv National Philharmonic named after Myroslav Skoryk and the Lviv Krushelnytska State Music Lyceum to perform in one concert as a soloist with the Symphony Orchestra of Lviv (Ukraine) 2025/2026:** Chenrui Zhang (China, 15 y/o)
- **Partial Grants for participation in the International Festival Masterclasses & Concerts “MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE” 2025 or 2026:** Martin Bajer (Czech Republic, 16 y/o), Yurii Nechypor (Ukraine, 18 y/o), Shiyi Liu (China, 17 y/o), Sin U Sou (Macau, 19 y/o), Steven Kleeven (Belgium, 20 y/o), Ihor Panchenko (Ukraine, 20 y/o), Yana Kalenchuk (Ukraine, 20 y/o)

- **Full Grants for participation in the International Festival Masterclasses & Concerts “MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE” 2025 or 2026:** Akito Nagai (Japan, 24 y/o)
- **Invitation to participate in the 21st International Piano Forum “Bieszczady Without Borders” in Sanok (Poland) from February 1-7, 2026 (Exemption from the entry fee of approximately 150 euro):**
Martin Bajer (Czech Republic, 16 y/o), Ondrej Sýkora (Slovakia, 16 y/o), Nikolas Pappas (Greece, 24 y/o)
- **Concert in ITALY organised by ASSOCIAZIONE DI ALTA CULTURA MUSICALE (travel and accommodation are included in the prize):** Yurii Nechypor (Ukraine, 18 y/o)
- **Masterclass in ITALY organised by ACCADEMIA MUSICALE NOCERINA (travel and accommodation are included in the prize):** Nora Kostenko (Ukraine, 10 y/o), Mishel Kostenko (Ukraine, 15 y/o)
- **Participation at the concert of MUSICORUM festival (Brussels, Belgium) 2025/2026:** Chenrui Zhang (China, 15 y/o)
- **Participation at the concert with CAMERATA BRIMA in Brussels, Belgium 2025/2026:** Steven Kleeven (Belgium, 20 y/o)
- **Best performance of a modern composition:** Magdalena Pflüger (Germany, 17 y/o)
- **Prize for the youngest promising finalist in category C:** Sebastian Congyi Wang (United Kingdom, 14 y/o)
- **The best performance of a virtuoso piece-Special edition of music scores of Ukrainian composers:** Akito Nagai (Japan, 24 y/o)
- **Best interpretation of a Ukrainian Composer’s composition:** Yana Kalenchuk (Ukraine, 20 y/o)

6. PARTNERS



City of Brussels :

provides one of the most beautiful concert room in Belgium for the Gala Concert: the gothic room at the City Hall of Brussels



Brussels International Music Academy :

financial support for some costs, and the participation to some concerts during the same year as the winners take part in.



Piano's Maene :

provides several rooms for the competition.



Hoofdstedelijke Academie:

they provide their buildings for the whole competition. Located at only 10 minutes from Sint Jan Berchmanscollege, it's an easy access for everyone.



Point d'Orgue :

provides special prizes for the competition's winners.



MUSIC ACADEMY FORTE :

50% off the price of the masterclasses participation fee for some of the competition's winners, for the next masterclasses.



Radio Channel « La Classique » :

announce the information about our competition



The Alink-Argerich Foundation

an independent worldwide information and service center for musicians and competitions, AAF is a unique organization, offering the most complete details on music competitions ever compiled. By its nature and background, AAF has the widest range of information on piano competitions.



Embassy of Ukraine (in the Kingdom of Belgium)

Patronage of the Gala Concert of "Merci, Maestro!"



CIMN- Concorso Internazionale Musicale Nocera:
provides special prizes for the competition's winners.



Lviv State Music Lyceum named after Solomiya Krushelnytska:
provides special prizes for the competition's winners.



International Piano Forum "Bieszczady Without Borders":
provides special prizes for the competition's winners.



MUSIQ 3 Radio Channel:
announce the information about our competition



REPUBLIQUE DE CROATIE
Ambassade de la République de Croatie
auprès du Royaume de Belgique

Embassy of Croatia in Brussels, Belgium
Provide media support for the festival in Croatia



Embassy of the Republic of North Macedonia - Brussels
Provide media support for the festival in North Macedonia

7. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

WEB: www.mercimaestro.be
Email: info@mercimaestro.be
Phone: +32 496 48 87 80
Address: « Piano's Maene »
 Rue de l'Argonne 37, 1060 Bruxelles

Dates:
 Preselection : 06-10.03.2025 | online (via video performances)
 Semi-final 09-11.04.2025 | 09:30 > 20:00
 Final 11-12.04.2025 | 09:30 > 20:00

Price: Every round is open to the public for free

Gala Concert with reception: Sunday 13th April 2025, at 18:00.
Address: Brussels Town Hall - Grand Place
Ticket Prices: Children (9-12 years): **10 Euros**
 Young adults (13-18 years): **20 Euros**
 Adults (>18 years): **50 euros**
 From 65 years old and above: **40 euros**

* Children <8 years old are not allowed at the Gala Concert.





**9th
International
Competition
for Young Pianists**

**Merci,
Maestro!**

09-13.04.2025
Brussels, Belgium

Special prizes:
Grant for participation in
International
masterclasses,
concerts and festivals
in Europe

Prizes for the youngest
promising participants
in each category

Cash prizes

Cat A: under 10 years old (incl.)
Cat B: from 11 to 13 years old (incl.)
Cat C: from 14 to 16 years old (incl.)
Cat D: from 17 to 19 years old (incl.)
Cat E: from 20 to 22 years old (incl.)
Cat F: from 23 to 25 years old (incl.)

- **ONLINE PRE-SELECTION:** March 6-10th, 2025
(based on video recordings)
- **FIRST & SECOND ROUNDS:** April 9-13th, 2025
"PIANO'S MAENE"
Brussels, Belgium
- **GALA CONCERT of winners:** April 13th, 2025
BRUSSELS TOWN HALL
Grand Place, Brussels, Belgium

The registration deadline MARCH 1st, 2025

Information

+32 (0)496 48 87 80 | info@mercimaestro.be | www.mercimaestro.be



Embassy of Ukraine
in the Kingdom of Belgium



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