SIMA
SWISS INTERNATIONAL MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION

LUGANO INTERNATIONAL MUSIC AWARDS

THE 2ND LUGANO INTERNATIONAL MUSIC AWARDS

2027 Violin Competition

CATEGORIES A, B & C

APPLICATION DEADLINE

30 June 2027 | 23:59 CEST (UTC+2, Swiss local time)

Musical growth, artistic exchange

Based in Lugano, Switzerland, the competition supports young violinists through performance, professional assessment and international artistic exchange. Its purpose is to recognise musical achievement while helping promising artists gain experience and develop their individual musical voice.

Organised by the Swiss International Musicians Association (SIMA) and co-organised by the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana, the 2027 edition combines an international video preliminary round with live semifinals and finals in Lugano. Cash prizes are complemented by 2028 festival invitations and selected performance opportunities.

LUGANO LIVE ROUNDS | AUGUST 2027

10-13	11	13
EVENT WINDOW	SEMIFINALS	FINAL

Age categories

Age reference date: 10 August 2027. Dates of birth below are inclusive.

CATEGORY	STANDARD AGE BAND	DATE OF BIRTH
A	12 and under	11 August 2014 or later
B	13-18	11 August 2008 - 10 August 2014
C	19-29 (inclusive)	11 August 1997 - 10 August 2008

Younger candidates may enter a higher category if they meet all its requirements. Candidates above a category's age limit may not enter it.

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

Your route to Lugano

01

Video preliminary round

Apply via www.SWISSIMA.com and submit performance video links. Selected candidates proceed to the live rounds in Switzerland.

02

Live semifinals | 11 August 2027

Up to 10 candidates per age category are admitted to the semifinals in Lugano, Switzerland.

03

Live final | 13 August 2027

Up to 5 candidates per age category proceed to the final. Concertos are performed with piano reduction accompaniment.

International jury

Chair of the Jury: Massimo Quarta

Christoph Brenner · Zhen Xu · MingEn Zhou · Robert Kowalski

Honorary Artistic Director of the 2027 Violin Competition: Dmitry Sitkovetsky

Repertoire and video submission

The complete English repertoire requirements for Categories A, B and C follow in this PDF. Please read the general repertoire rules as well as the requirements for every round in your category.

Detailed video submission instructions will be announced separately.

Application, fees and refunds

Apply via www.SWISSIMA.com

Prepare personal details, proof of age, a portrait, a short biography, your category, repertoire and video links.

Application fee: CHF 120 **Piano accompaniment: CHF 90 per candidate**

The accompaniment fee covers both the semifinal and final.

Refunds are not available for withdrawals for personal reasons, but may be granted in cases of serious health issues or other major exceptional circumstances.

RECOGNITION WITH A PATH FORWARD

Awards & artistic development

Cash prizes in EUR

CATEGORY	1ST PRIZE	2ND PRIZE	3RD PRIZE
A	500	300	200
B	800	500	300
C	1,500	1,000	800

The jury may withhold or share prizes according to its artistic assessment.

2028 festival invitations

2028 | SWITZERLAND

Lugano International Summer Music Festival

The first-prize winners of Categories A, B and C receive invitations to perform.

2028 | ITALY

Morelino International Music Festival

The Category C first-prize winner receives an invitation to perform.

Full tuition entry scholarship

The Category C first-prize winner may be considered for a full tuition entry scholarship covering the first academic year at the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana, subject to the institution's formal admission and scholarship requirements.

2028 international performance support

ITALY · PORTUGAL · RUSSIA · CHINA · JAPAN

Selected outstanding participants and prizewinners may receive support for performance opportunities through the competition's international partners. Individual programmes, dates, costs and participation arrangements will be confirmed separately.

Venue and contact

Via Soldino 9, 6900 Lugano, Switzerland

www.SWISSIMA.com **info@swissima.com**

CATEGORY A

Junior Category

AGE 12 AND UNDER | AGE REFERENCE DATE: 10 AUGUST 2027

Preliminary Round

1. One etude, caprice or unaccompanied work

Candidates must perform both items 1 and 2.

Suggested works include, but are not limited to:

- J. S. Bach - Works for unaccompanied violin
- G. P. Telemann - Fantasias for unaccompanied violin
- R. Kreutzer - Etudes / Caprices
- P. Rode - Caprices
- J. Dont - Etudes / Caprices
- C. Dancla - Etudes / Caprices
- J. B. Accolay - Etudes / Caprices
- H. Wieniawski - Etudes-Caprices
- N. Paganini - Caprices
- Other etudes, caprices or unaccompanied works of comparable difficulty

2. One work of the candidate's choice

Candidates may choose:

A Baroque work; A Classical work; A Romantic work; A twentieth-century or modern work; A work for solo violin; A work for violin and piano.

Where possible, the two works should contrast in tempo, style or musical character.

Semifinal

1. A sonata for violin and piano

Choose one complete movement from a sonata for violin and piano.

Suggested composers include, but are not limited to:

J. S. Bach; G. F. Handel; W. A. Mozart; L. van Beethoven; F. Schubert; R. Schumann; E. Grieg; G. Fauré; Other sonatas for violin and piano of comparable difficulty.

2. One work for violin and piano of the candidate's choice

This may be:

- A lyrical work
- A character piece
- A work demonstrating technical skills
- A dance
- A fantasy
- A set of variations
- A twentieth-century or contemporary work

Particular attention will be given to musical communication between the violinist and pianist, rhythmic sense, stylistic interpretation and the overall musical performance.

Final

One complete movement from a violin concerto

Candidates must perform one complete movement from a violin concerto, with piano reduction accompaniment.

Suggested repertoire includes, but is not limited to:

- J. S. Bach - Violin Concertos
- J. Haydn - Violin Concertos
- W. A. Mozart - Violin Concertos Nos. 1-5
- G. B. Viotti - Violin Concertos
- P. Rode - Violin Concertos
- C. A. de Bériot - Violin Concertos
- D. Kabalevsky - Violin Concerto, Op. 48
- M. Bruch - Violin Concerto No. 1
- F. Mendelssohn - Violin Concerto in E minor
- H. Wieniawski - Violin Concerto No. 2
- C. Saint-Saëns - Violin Concerto No. 3
- H. Vieuxtemps - Violin Concertos
- Other violin concertos of comparable difficulty

Where the selected movement includes a traditional cadenza, the cadenza must be performed.

CATEGORY B

Youth Category

AGE 13-18 | AGE REFERENCE DATE: 10 AUGUST 2027

Preliminary Round

1. J. S. Bach

One complete movement of the candidate's choice from the Six Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, BWV 1001-1006.

2. One étude, caprice or technically demanding work

Suggested repertoire includes, but is not limited to:

- N. Paganini - 24 Caprices, Op. 1
- H. Wieniawski - Études-Caprices, Op. 18
- H. Wieniawski - L'École moderne, Op. 10
- P. Rode - 24 Caprices
- J. Dont - Études et Caprices, Op. 35
- P. Gaviniès - 24 Matinées
- H. Vieuxtemps - Études / Caprices
- H. W. Ernst - Études / Caprices
- E. Ysaÿe - Solo Works
- Other technically demanding works of comparable level

Semifinal

1. One complete movement from a sonata for violin and piano

Candidates must perform both of the following programme components.

Suggested composers include, but are not limited to:

W. A. Mozart; L. van Beethoven; F. Schubert; R. Schumann; J. Brahms; E. Grieg; C. Franck; G. Fauré; C. Saint-Saëns; R. Strauss; C. Debussy; M. Ravel; L. Janáček; S. Prokofiev; F. Poulenc; K. Szymanowski.

2. One work of the candidate's choice for violin and piano

The work may be:

A lyrical work; A technically demanding work; A fantasia; A dance; A romance; A set of variations; A concert piece; A twentieth-century work; A contemporary work.

Suggested composers include, but are not limited to:

P. Sarasate; H. Wieniawski; C. Saint-Saëns; H. Vieuxtemps; F. Kreisler; P. I. Tchaikovsky; J. Brahms; E. Elgar; M. Ravel; C. Debussy; S. Prokofiev; K. Szymanowski; B. Bartók.

The two programme components should, wherever possible, demonstrate contrasting musical characters.

Final

One complete movement from a violin concerto

Candidates must perform one complete movement from a violin concerto, with piano reduction accompaniment.

Repertoire includes, but is not limited to:

- W. A. Mozart - Violin Concertos Nos. 3-5
- G. B. Viotti - Violin Concerto No. 22
- D. Kabalevsky - Violin Concerto
- M. Bruch - Violin Concerto No. 1
- F. Mendelssohn - Violin Concerto in E minor
- É. Lalo - Symphonie espagnole
- C. Saint-Saëns - Violin Concerto No. 3
- H. Wieniawski - Violin Concerto No. 1
- H. Wieniawski - Violin Concerto No. 2
- H. Vieuxtemps - Violin Concerto No. 4
- H. Vieuxtemps - Violin Concerto No. 5
- A. Dvořák - Violin Concerto
- A. Glazunov - Violin Concerto
- P. I. Tchaikovsky - Violin Concerto
- J. Sibelius - Violin Concerto
- S. Prokofiev - Violin Concerto No. 1
- S. Prokofiev - Violin Concerto No. 2
- Other standard violin concertos of comparable level

CATEGORY C

Young Artist Category

AGE 19-29 | AGE REFERENCE DATE: 10 AUGUST 2027

Preliminary Round

1. J. S. Bach

Select one complete movement from the Six Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, BWV 1001-1006.

Examples of movements include:

Adagio; Grave; Fuga; Siciliana; Andante; Allegro; Allemanda; Corrente; Sarabanda; Giga; Loure; Gavotte; Menuet; Bourrée.

2. One unaccompanied work of technical virtuosity

Repertoire may include, but is not limited to:

- N. Paganini - 24 Caprices, Op. 1
- E. Ysaÿe - Six Sonatas for Solo Violin, Op. 27
- H. W. Ernst - Polyphonic Studies / Caprices
- H. W. Ernst - The Last Rose of Summer
- H. Wieniawski - Études-Caprices
- N. Milstein - Paganiniana
- B. Bartók - Sonata for Solo Violin
- S. Prokofiev - Sonata for Solo Violin
- M. Reger - Sonatas / Preludes and Fugues for Solo Violin
- P. Hindemith - Sonatas for Solo Violin
- F. Kreisler - Recitativo and Scherzo-Caprice
- Other unaccompanied works of equivalent artistic and technical demands

Semifinal

1. A major sonata for violin and piano

Candidates must perform both items 1 and 2.

Perform one complete movement from a major sonata for violin and piano. Prepare the movement in full, without cuts.

Suggested composers include, but are not limited to:

W. A. Mozart; L. van Beethoven; F. Schubert; R. Schumann; J. Brahms; C. Franck; G. Fauré; E. Grieg; C. Saint-Saëns; R. Strauss; C. Debussy; M. Ravel; L. Janáček; S. Prokofiev; F. Poulenc; B. Bartók; K. Szymanowski; G. Enescu; O. Respighi; E. Elgar; R. Vaughan Williams; A. Schnittke.

2. One work of the candidate's choice for violin and piano

The work may be:

A concert fantasy; A virtuoso work; A lyrical work; A romance; A rhapsody; A set of variations; A dance; A 20th-century work; A contemporary work.

Suggested composers for item 2

Suggested composers include, but are not limited to:

N. Paganini; H. Wieniawski; P. Sarasate; H. Vieuxtemps; F. Kreisler; C. Saint-Saëns; P. I. Tchaikovsky; M. Ravel; K. Szymanowski; S. Prokofiev; G. Enescu; B. Bartók; E. Ysaÿe.

The semifinal focuses on the candidate's ability to collaborate with the pianist, musical communication, structural understanding, command of different styles and overall artistic maturity.

CATEGORY C

Young Artist Category

AGE 19-29 | AGE REFERENCE DATE: 10 AUGUST 2027

Final

One complete movement from a standard major violin concerto

Candidates must select one complete movement from a standard major violin concerto.

The work is performed with piano reduction accompaniment.

Repertoire may include, but is not limited to, the following works.

Classical and early Romantic repertoire

- W. A. Mozart - Violin Concertos Nos. 3-5
- L. van Beethoven - Violin Concerto in D major
- F. Mendelssohn - Violin Concerto in E minor
- R. Schumann - Violin Concerto

Romantic repertoire

- J. Brahms - Violin Concerto in D major
- M. Bruch - Violin Concerto No. 1
- M. Bruch - Scottish Fantasy
- A. Dvořák - Violin Concerto in A minor
- É. Lalo - Symphonie espagnole
- C. Saint-Saëns - Violin Concerto No. 3
- H. Wieniawski - Violin Concerto No. 1
- H. Wieniawski - Violin Concerto No. 2
- H. Vieuxtemps - Violin Concerto No. 4 or No. 5
- N. Paganini - Violin Concerto No. 1
- N. Paganini - Violin Concerto No. 2
- P. I. Tchaikovsky - Violin Concerto in D major
- A. Glazunov - Violin Concerto in A minor

20th-century and modern repertoire

- J. Sibelius - Violin Concerto in D minor
- S. Prokofiev - Violin Concerto No. 1
- S. Prokofiev - Violin Concerto No. 2
- D. Shostakovich - Violin Concerto No. 1
- D. Shostakovich - Violin Concerto No. 2
- B. Bartók - Violin Concerto No. 2
- I. Stravinsky - Violin Concerto
- S. Barber - Violin Concerto
- E. W. Korngold - Violin Concerto
- W. Walton - Violin Concerto
- A. Khachaturian - Violin Concerto
- K. Szymanowski - Violin Concerto No. 1
- K. Szymanowski - Violin Concerto No. 2
- C. Nielsen - Violin Concerto
- E. Elgar - Violin Concerto
- B. Britten - Violin Concerto
- A. Berg - Violin Concerto

Other standard violin concertos of equivalent artistic and technical difficulty are also permitted.

ALL CATEGORIES

General repertoire rules

Applies to Categories A, B and C and to all rounds.

1. Repertoire must not be repeated between rounds.

2. All works must be performed in their original form or in an officially published edition.

3. The preliminary-round repertoire remains open in scope so that outstanding candidates from different countries, institutions and teaching traditions have the opportunity to apply.

4. All programme items must be prepared in accordance with the specified work types.

5. Where a complete movement is required, candidates must not make their own cuts to the work.

6. The semifinals place particular emphasis on collaboration and musical communication between violinist and pianist, understanding of musical structure and overall musicianship.

7. All final-round violin concertos are performed with piano reduction accompaniment. Particular emphasis is placed on concerto performance skills, technical consistency, tonal organisation, musical structure, stage presence and individual artistic personality.

8. The composers and works listed are for reference and do not constitute an exclusive prescribed repertoire list. Candidates may choose other works of comparable artistic and technical difficulty.

9. For works not included in the reference lists, the Organising Committee reserves the right to determine whether they meet the requirements of the relevant category and round.

10. Younger candidates entering a higher category must meet all repertoire requirements for that category.