

WPTA Austria International Piano Competition 2026



The **WPTA Austria International Piano Competition 2026** marks the first edition of this new artistic platform, welcoming **pianists of all nationalities up to the age of 34**. Entirely **online** in its preliminary stage, the competition offers a modern and accessible format while maintaining the highest artistic standards.

Laureates will be invited to **Hohenems, Austria**, to present themselves in the **Gala Concert and Prize Ceremony** at the historic **Markus-Sittikus-Saal** – a stage that connects today's pianists with Austria's timeless musical tradition.

General Provisions

- Open to **pianists of all nationalities up to the age of 34**.
- The competition is held **entirely online** through **video submissions**.
- **Laureates will be invited to Hohenems, Austria**, to perform in the **Gala Concert and attend the prize Ceremony** at the **Markus-Sittikus-Saal** on **22 March 2026**.

Categories

- **Category A:** 7–10 years old – 5–10 minutes
- **Category B:** 11–13 years old – 10–15 minutes
- **Category C:** 14–17 years old – 15–20 minutes
- **Category D:** 18–24 years old – 20–25 minutes
- **Category E** (Artist Category): 25–34 years old – 25–30 minutes

Note: For Categories D and E, participants must present works from at least **two contrasting styles/periods**. All works must be performed **from memory**.

Programme / Repertoire

Repertoire is free choice within the indicated time limits. Participants are encouraged to present a **varied program** that showcases both **technical mastery** and **musical depth**.

Video Recording Guidelines

- Each piece must be recorded ***in one single take – no editing or splicing*** is allowed.
- The performer's ***hands and face*** must be ***clearly visible*** throughout the recording.
- Use a ***fixed camera angle*** with ***good lighting*** and ***sound quality***.
- Performance should be recorded in ***horizontal format***.
- Videos must be uploaded to ***Youtube or Vimeo*** (public or unlisted).

Application

Applications must be submitted ***online*** via the official form at www.wpta.info/austria.

Each application must include:

- Completed online ***application form***
- ***Video recordings*** (YouTube or similar links)
- ***Short Biography*** (maximum 150 words)
- ***One recent Photograph*** (high quality, suitable for publication)
- ***Proof of age*** (passport or ID copy)
- ***Proof of payment*** of the application fee

Application Fees (non-refundable):

- Categories A & B: €80
- Categories C & D: €90
- Category E (Artist): €100

Application Deadline: 20 January 2026

Jury

The ***jury*** will consist of ***internationally recognized pianists and pedagogues*** appointed by WPTA Austria. The jury's ***decisions are final*** and cannot be appealed. Jury members may not vote for their own students.

Prizes

The following ***prizes*** will be awarded:

• ***Main Prize (Overall Winner):*** Awarded to one performer selected across all categories by the jury. Gala Concert performance and Prize Ceremony in Hohenems, ***WPTA IPC Application Fee Waiver, WPC Registration Fee Waiver, WPTA Lifetime Membership, Official Diploma.***

Category Prizes (Categories A-E): Each Category will have its own winners:

- ***1st Prize:*** Gala Concert performance and Prize Ceremony in Hohenems.
- ***2nd Prize:*** Gala Concert performance and Prize Ceremony in Hohenems.
- ***3rd Prize:*** Gala Concert performance and Prize Ceremony in Hohenems.
- ***Special Prize – Austrian Composer Award:*** For the best interpretation of a work by ***Franz Schubert*** or another ***Austrian composer*** (Mozart, Haydn, Bruckner, Berg, etc.).

The winner will receive a ***special diploma***.

- **Honorable Mentions** may be awarded at the discretion of the jury.

Certificates

All participants will receive **official digital certificates**. Laureates who perform in the Gala Concert in Hohenems will be awarded **printed diplomas** during the celebrations.

Timeline

- **Applications Open:** 1 December 2025
- **Application Deadline:** 20 January 2026
- **Results Announced:** 1 February 2026
- **Gala Concert & Prize Ceremony:** 22 March 2026, Hohenems (Austria), Markus-Sittikus-Saal

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