

“FRANZ LISZT” INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION  
“MARIO ZANFI” PRIZE – XII EDITION

**Art. 1. Competition**

The 12th Edition of the “Franz Liszt” International Piano Competition – “Mario Zanfi” Prize will take place from December 1st to December 6th, 2026 in Parma.

The Competition is divided into three stages:

- 1) the 1st round (elimination), not open to the public, will take place at the Conservatory of Parma;
- 2) the 2nd round (semi-final), open to the public, will take place at the Conservatory of Parma. A maximum of 6 candidates who passed the first round will be admitted to the semi-final round;
- 3) the 3rd round (final) will consist in a public concert with the Orchestra of the Conservatory of Parma and will be held at the Auditorium Paganini in Parma.

**Art. 2. Repertoire**

The Competition only allows for pieces either composed, transcribed, or arranged by Franz Liszt.

**FIRST ROUND (elimination)**

1. The candidate must choose one Étude from the following list:

*Études d'exécution transcendante, S. 139 / Transcendental Études, S. 139*

*Grandes études de Paganini, S. 141*

*Ab Irato (Étude de perfectionnement), S.143*

*Trois Études de concert, S. 144 / Three Concert Études, S. 144*

*Zwei Konzertetüden, S. 145 / Two Concert Études, S. 145*

2. The candidate must choose one transcription of a Lied by Mendelssohn, Schubert, or Schumann
3. *Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi Sonata, S. 161/7*

**SECOND ROUND (semi-final) - maximum 70 minutes**

1. *Sonata in si minore S. 178 / Piano Sonata in B minor*

2. The candidate must choose one of the following transcriptions of an opera by Giuseppe Verdi:

*Parafrasi da concerto su “Ernani”, S. 432 / Paraphrase de concert sur Ernani II, S. 432*

*Miserere dal “Trovatore”, S. 433 / Miserere du Trovatore, S. 433*

*Parafrasi da Concerto da “Rigoletto”, S. 434 / Paraphrase de concert sur Rigoletto, S. 434*

*Coro di festa e marcia funebre dal “Don Carlos”, S. 435 / Finale de Don Carlos de Verdi, S. 435*

*Danza sacra e duetto finale da “Aida”, S. 436*

*Reminiscenze da “Simon Boccanegra”, S. 438 / Réminiscences de Boccanegra, S. 438*

3. One or more additional pieces by Liszt, chosen at the discretion of the candidate.

## FINAL ROUND

1. The candidate must choose a Concert for piano and orchestra from the following list:

*Concerto n. 1, S. 124 / Piano Concerto No. 1, S. 124*

*Concerto n. 2, S. 125 / Piano Concerto No. 2, S. 125*

*Totentanz, S. 126*

During the 1st round (elimination), the Jury has the right to interrupt any performance after a minimum of 15 minutes have passed. Following the conclusion of the final round, the Jury will make their final and indisputable decision on whether and how to award the prizes; the Jury reserves the right to award or not to award one or more prizes.

### Art. 3. Admission requirements

The Competition is open to candidates of all nationalities aged 35 or under as of December 1st, 2026 (start date of the Competition).

### Art. 4. Application process

Applications, addressed to the *Ufficio Produzione* of the Conservatory of Parma, must be submitted, without exception, by Monday, October 12th 2026 at 14:00 PM (local time). The application form can be found attached as “Attachment A” and must be sent:

- By e-mail, addressed to: [ufficio.produzione@conservatorio.pr.it](mailto:ufficio.produzione@conservatorio.pr.it)
- By personal certified e-mail (PEC), addressed to: [conservatorio.pr@pec.it](mailto:conservatorio.pr@pec.it)

The subject of the e-mail/PEC must contain: “*Iscrizione Premio Zanfi 2026*”.

No other means of submission or transmission of the application form are allowed. Therefore, any applications submitted in ways other than those specified above will not be accepted.

The application form (“Attachment A”), to be sent in PDF format, must be either:

- signed by the candidate with a qualified electronic signature supplied by a certified provider;
- hand-signed by the candidate and then scanned.

The candidate must attach the following documents to his/her application form:

- Curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate, signed by hand or digitally;
- A copy (front and back) of a valid ID/passport of the candidate, not authenticated in accordance with Article 38 of the D.P.R. 445/2000;
- A high-resolution color photograph of the candidate in JPG format;
- Proof of payment of the application fee.

The admission fee of € 100,00 must be paid by bank transfer to:

Conservatorio di Musica “Arrigo Boito”

IBAN: IT44 0062 3012 7000 0007 4997 550

BIC/SWIFT: CRPPIT2P452

The admission fee is non-refundable.

#### **Art. 5. Participation**

On December 1st, 2026, all candidates must be present at the Conservatory of Parma “Arrigo Boito” on time at 17:00 PM; failure to do so will result in the exclusion from the Competition. Candidates will be required to show a valid ID/passport. The order of performance will be determined by a draw, which will take place once the candidates have arrived.

#### **Art. 6. Jury**

The President of the Jury is the Director of the Conservatory of Parma “Arrigo Boito”. The remaining members of the Jury will be announced after the application process has concluded, ahead of the start of the Competition.

The decisions of the Jury are final and not subject to appeal.

#### **Art. 7. Prizes**

The three main prizes of the Competition are:

First prize: € 10.000

Second prize: € 5.000

Third prize: € 2.500

The Jury reserves the right to award or not to award one or more prizes.

In case of ex-aequo, the prize will be divided among the winners.

The winner will be guaranteed concerts with the Fondazione “Arturo Toscanini” and the Società dei Concerti di Parma.

#### **Art. 8. Visual and audio-visual recordings**

The Conservatory reserves the right to use all photographs and audio/video recordings taken during the 2nd round (semi-final) and the concert (final) to promote any future events, as well as to share and publish all the collected visual and audio-visual material for promotional and institutional purposes.

The audio/video recordings taken during the 2nd round (semi-final) and the concert (final) may also be transferred to third parties and candidates will not be entitled to compensation of any kind in relation to such grant of right.

#### **Art. 9. Acceptance of the rules and regulations**

Participation in the Competition implies the full and unconditional acceptance of all the rules and regulations in this call for applications.

This call for application is written up and published in two languages (Italian and English). In case of disputes concerning the rules and regulations, the original text in Italian will prevail.

#### **Art. 10. Processing of personal data**

In accordance with the D. Lgs. 169/2003: “Codice Privacy”, amended by the D. Lgs. 101/2018, and with Article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679: “General Data Protection Regulation” (GDPR), which concerns the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of their personal data, all personal data transmitted

by the candidates will be processed by the Conservatory of Parma “Arrigo Boito” in compliance with the aforementioned GDPR.

The Data Controller is the Conservatory of Parma “Arrigo Boito” (Via del Conservatorio 27/A, Parma).

Articles 15-22 of the GDPR grant the ability to exercise specific rights towards the Data Controller, such as the right of access, rectification, integration, restriction and deletion of personal data. These rights may be exercised by the data subjects at any point in time.

These rights can be exercised by sending a written request to: [privacy@conservatorio.pr.it](mailto:privacy@conservatorio.pr.it) and [dpo@conservatorio.pr.it](mailto:dpo@conservatorio.pr.it).

**Further information:**

**Ufficio Produzione – “Franz Liszt International” Piano Competition – “Mario Zanfi” Prize**

**Conservatory of Parma “Arrigo Boito”**

**Via del Conservatorio 27/A, 43100 Parma - Italia**

**E-mail address: [ufficio.produzione@conservatorio.pr.it](mailto:ufficio.produzione@conservatorio.pr.it)**

The Director  
M° Massimo Felici

