

Regione Liguria
Provincia di Imperia
Comune di San Bartolomeo al Mare

Rovere d'Oro Association

CHAIRPERSON

Elvira Arimondo

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

M° Christian Lavernier

*XXXVII International Competition of Instrumental
Execution*

*"Young Talents"
and
"Rovere d'Oro 2026" Prize*

13nd – 19th July 2026
Città di San Bartolomeo al Mare
Imperia - Italy

RULES

"GENERAL SECTION"

Art. 1 — The Competition, to be held from **13–19 July 2026**, is open to young musicians of all nationalities and educational backgrounds.

Art. 2 — Applications close on **23 June 2026**. Candidates must complete the online application form available at <https://www.roveredoro.org/iscrizioni/> and upload the following documents:

1. A copy of a valid ID;
2. One signed copy of the list of pieces (divided by each round for contestants registered in the "Rovere d'Oro" competition), specifying: a) the composer's name, with dates of birth and death; b) title and date of composition; c) opus number; d) publisher or rights holder; e) duration;

NB – The digital version of the sheet music must be sent to the secretariat (competition@roveredoro.org) or presented to the secretariat at the time of registration. A printed copy must be handed directly to the jury at the time of the performance.

3. Proof of payment of the registration fee (for the amounts specified in Articles 17 and 21 of this announcement), non-refundable, payable via bank transfer to:

Associazione Rovere D'Oro Città di San Bartolomeo

Filiale di Imperia – 00090

della banca Crédit Agricole – 06230

IBAN: IT56W0623010523000030878640

BIC: CRPPIT2P090

with the subject: “Young Talents Competition – Full Name, Category and Age Group” or “Rovere d'Oro Competition – Full Name, Category.”

4. By completing the online application form, candidates must confirm their acceptance of the present Competition Regulations. Late applications may, in exceptional circumstances, be accepted at the sole discretion of the **Artistic Director**. Incomplete applications or those missing any of the required documents will **not** be considered.

For any inquiries or clarifications, please contact the Secretariat at competition@roveredoro.org

Art. 3 – The competition schedule and audition times will be published on the website www.roveredoro.org and communicated by email to all participants after the application deadline. Contestants will be given the opportunity to use the piano for practice during the hours set by the Organizational Committee.

The harp will be made available for rehearsal purposes by the organizer.

Please note the following:

- a) **Soloists must provide their own accompanist.** The accompanist is not subject to age restrictions and will not receive any certification.
- b) Upon **explicit and timely request** from the contestant, the organization may suggest names of accompanists, whom the contestant will contact directly and to whom they must send the sheet music well in advance. Based on the chosen program and the time available for preparation, the accompanist may accept or decline the engagement and set their fee.
- c) The Organization assumes no responsibility for any arrangements made between the contestant and the accompanist.

Art. 4 – The **Organizing Committee** declines all responsibility for any injury to persons or damage to property occurring during the event.

Art. 5 – By submitting the application, contestants acknowledge and authorize the **“Rovere d'Oro” Association** to store and process their personal data in compliance with current data protection laws and regulations.

Art. 6 – The **Jury Panels** are composed of distinguished musical personalities.

A representative of the Department of Performing Arts – Ministry of Culture – Office of the Prime Minister may attend the final, although their presence is not mandatory.

Art. 7 – No individual having family or personal ties with any contestant may serve as a member of the Jury. Likewise, anyone who has provided private instruction to a contestant within the two years preceding the competition is ineligible to serve. Jury members who have maintained public teaching relationships (e.g., in conservatories or universities) with contestants during the same period must abstain from voting on those contestants' performances. Such abstentions must

be explicitly recorded in the official minutes. Upon taking their seat, each Jury member shall declare any personal relationship with contestants, in accordance with the above provisions.

Art. 8 – At the beginning of the competition, a public drawing will be held in the presence of the President of the "Rovere d'Oro" Association (or their representative) and the Artistic Director to determine the starting letter of the last name for the order of auditions. The result will be immediately posted and made visible to all.

Art. 9 – Contestants must register with the secretariat before attending the auditions, presenting a valid ID. At the start of each audition, contestants must again present a valid ID and provide two copies of the sheet music for the jury. During the competition, contestants must be reachable at all times (by providing their phone number or temporary contact details to the secretariat when registering). Contestants' performances may be recorded for the jury's exclusive use. No contestant may claim any compensation for recordings made during the auditions or the winners' concert, nor for their use on radio, television, the website, or social media.

Art. 10 – The jury reserves the right to shorten performances across an entire category. The Artistic Director may attend the jury's deliberations without voting rights.

Art. 11 – The jury's decision is final and cannot be appealed. Final scores will be expressed in hundredths. The average will be calculated without considering the highest and lowest scores, which, if assigned by multiple jurors, will be removed only once.

Art. 12 – For any matters not covered by these rules, the President of the "Rovere d'Oro" Association and the Artistic Director have the final authority, including any issues regarding interpretation of the regulations.

Art. 13 – Any changes to this announcement and/or competition dates will be published on the website www.roveredoro.org, and such publication will serve as official notice to all registered participants.

Art. 14 – Registration for the competition implies unconditional acceptance of these rules, as well as the right of the Organizational and Artistic Committees to make modifications. In the event of any legal dispute, the competent court will be that of Imperia.

ROVERE D'ORO PRIZE 2026

Three auditions - One single age group

Audition period: July 16th – 17th – 18th - 19th.

All categories' auditions will take place on July 16, 17, 18, and 19.

Art. 15 – Solo contestants must be born on or after January 1, 1991. Anyone who has already won the Rovere d'Oro Prize in previous editions cannot register again.

Art. 16 – Contestants are divided into the following solo categories:

CAT. A: Piano

CAT. B: Guitar

CAT. C: String Instruments

CAT. D: Wind Instruments

CAT. E: Harp

CAT. F: Accordion

Art. 17 – The participation fee is €110.00, which includes the €10.00 membership fee as a Supporting Member for one year.

Art. 18 – The competition consists of three rounds:

- **July 16, 2026: Preliminary Round for Category Group 1 (Categories A, E, F)** — Duration: **15 minutes**. A free-choice program that best represents the contestant and includes at least one work from the 18th or 19th century. Admission to the Category Final is determined by a majority decision of the jury. Non-admitted contestants will receive a participation diploma.
- **July 17, 2026: Preliminary Round for Category Group 2 (Categories B, C, D)** — Duration: **15 minutes**. A free-choice program that best represents the contestant and includes at least one work from the 18th or 19th century. Admission to the Category Final is determined by a majority decision of the jury. Non-admitted contestants will receive a participation diploma.
- **July 18, 2026: Category Final (all categories)** — Duration: **20 minutes**. Contestants must present a free-choice program that best represents their artistic personality, different from the preliminary round, and including at least one work composed in the 20th or 21st century. Scores will be expressed on a scale of 100 points, with the highest and lowest marks eliminated. If the same highest or lowest mark is assigned by more than one jury member, it will be excluded only once. In each category, the contestant obtaining the highest score, provided it is 95/100 or above, will be awarded the 1st Category Prize. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Prizes will be assigned according to descending scores. All prize-winners will receive a Diploma indicating the prize obtained. All other finalists will receive a Finalist Diploma.

The winner of the First Category Prize in each category will advance to the “Rovere d’Oro” Final.

If two or more contestants in the same category obtain the **First Prize** with an equal score and unanimous approval of the Jury, all of them may be admitted to the “Rovere d’Oro” Final.

- **July 19, 2026: "Rovere d’Oro" Final**, held as a public concert at 9:30 PM at the square of the N.S. della Rovere Sanctuary, with each contestant performing a 15-minute program of their choice that best represents them. Contestants may repeat a piece from the two previous rounds. The final ranking will be determined based on the jury's average scores, expressed in hundredths, eliminating the highest and lowest scores, which, if assigned by multiple jury members, will be deducted only once.

At the discretion of the **Artistic Director**, **Second Prize winners** may also be invited to perform in the evening concert; however, they will not compete for the “Rovere d’Oro” Prize.

Art. 19 – The prizes are as follows:

- **First Absolute Prize – Rovere d’Oro**: €5,000 scholarship, concert engagement in an European Concert Season (*performance fee included in the scholarship*), “Rovere d’Oro” Trophy, and Diplomas for both the Category Winner and the First Absolute Prize. The winner will also receive a recording contract for an album with the EMA Vinci label in 2026, including accommodation and studio rental (*value: €2,500*), as well as a one-year artist management contract with the international agency Notes&Words. In addition, the winner will be awarded a concert tour of three performances in Mexico, organized by the Conservatorio Nacional de Las Rosas. Travel expenses will be covered by the Competition, while accommodation during the tour will be provided in accordance with arrangements made with the Conservatorio.
- **Second Absolute Prize**: €2,500 scholarship, concert in Italy (travel fee included in the scholarship), diploma for category winner and second absolute prize.

- **Third Absolute Prize:** €1,000 scholarship, concert in Italy (fee included in the scholarship), diploma for category winner and third absolute prize.
- **Fourth Absolute Prize:** €500 scholarship, diploma for category winner and fourth absolute prize.
- **From Fifth Absolute Prize Onward:** Diploma for category winner and fifth/sixth/... absolute prize.

All amounts are subject to any applicable tax withholdings.

All other musicians will receive their diplomas during the awards ceremony, following the elimination and final category rounds.

No remuneration is due to participants in the evening concerts. In the event of television broadcasts or recordings of any part of the competition, participants are not entitled to any financial compensation from the Organizing Association.

The Prize Concerts are offered by various national and international Associations and Organizations.

Any additional monetary or concert prizes not specified in this announcement are considered special mentions and are awarded at the jury's discretion. Their amounts and details will be announced on the official competition website and via email before the registration deadline.

YOUNG TALENTS COMPETITION 2026

July 13-14-15, 2026.

One single audition - 6 age groups

Art. 20 - Competitors are organized into the following categories:

Cat. A: Piano (auditions on July 13th and in the morning of 14th)

Cat. B: Guitar & Harp (auditions on July 14th)

Cat. C: String instruments (auditions on July 15th)

Cat. D: Wind instruments (auditions on July 14th and 15th)

Cat. E: Ensembles (auditions on July 19th, in the morning)

Competitors may enroll in both Rovere d'Oro and Young Talents competitions.

The official timetable of the auditions will be published on the Competition website after the deadline for applying.

Art. 21 - Competition consists, for all Sections, in a single audition within the duration limits below, according to the following age groups:

Group	Date of birth	Subscription Fee	Programme	Duration
1	1/1/2018 – 31/12/2020	Euro 45,00	1 or more pieces	Max 5'
2	1/1/2015 -31/12/2017	Euro 50,00	1 or more pieces	Max 10'
3	1/1/2012- 31/12/2014	Euro 55,00	1 or more pieces	Max 15'
4	1/1/2009 - 31/12/2011	Euro 60,00	1 or more pieces	Max 20'
5	1/1/2005- 31/12/2008	Euro 65,00	1 or more pieces	Max 25'
6	1/1/2000 - 31/12/2004	Euro 70,00	1 or more pieces	Max 30'

The competitors in category E are divided into 2 age groups:

Group 1: the average age of the members is between 15 and 21 years old, the rehearsal has a maximum duration of 20' minutes and the entry fee is €55 per member of the instrumental ensemble.

Group 2: the average age of the components is between 22 and 30 years, the rehearsal has a maximum duration of 30' minutes and the registration fee is 65 € for each component of the ensemble

The amount includes the membership fee as a Supporting Member, for the duration of one year, amounting to €10.00.

As for instrumental ensembles: the average age of their members must not exceed 30 years;

- the maximum subscription fee for non-soloist can be up to € 400,00;
- Subscription fee for each member of an ensemble corresponds to the subscription fee of the age group of the average age of the ensemble's members.

Candidates can enroll in a superior age group than the one they should enroll according to their age or change their application to a superior age group (communicating the choice in writing to the Secretary's office, before the deadline for applying) **which assumes that they have to pay the subscription fee of the chosen age group.**

Candidates whose mark in the 2025 "Young Talents" competition was 98/100 points or above are exempted from the subscription fee on presentation of the photocopy of the 2025 diploma.

The competition consists in a single audition with a program of candidate's choice.

Auditions can exceed the durations mentioned in Art.21, only in case of a single and unitary piece, at the discretion of the Artistic Director and of the Jury.

Art. 22 - Final results, determined by the votes of the Jury, are expressed in hundredths and determine the following prizes for each category and age group, also ex aequo:

Absolute First Prize (for each Category and Band. Points 95 to 100) - Prize for the best placed of the First Prizes (by

unanimous vote of the judging committee) for each Category and age group:

SOLOISTS	ENSAMBLES
Age group I Overall first prize: 150€	Age Group I Overall first prize: 500 €
Age group II Overall first prize: 150€	Age Group II Overall first prize: 700 €
Age group III Overall first prize: 150€	
Age group IV Overall first prize: 200€	
Age group V Overall first prize: 200€	
Age group VI Overall first prize: 300€	

In case of ex aequo, the winner will be chosen at the sole discretion of the committee.

Competitors who score between 95 and 100 points will be awarded the medal and diploma with classification and score.

2nd Prize (marks from 90 to 94) – Medal, diploma with qualification and marks attained.

3rd Prize (marks from 85 to 89) – Medal, diploma with qualification and marks attained.

4th Prize (marks from 80 to 84) – Medal, diploma with qualification and marks attained.

To all the other competitors: diploma of participation.

The amounts are after tax.

The absolute first prize winners are bound to take part in the prize-giving evening Concert of their section, playing a piece chosen by the Jury, on pain of loss of the Prize. The prize-giving evening concerts take place on 13th, 14th, 15th of July on the parvis of Nostra Signora della Rovere Sanctuary, in San Bartolomeo al Mare, at 21:30. To the discretion of the Artistic Director other first prize winners may take part in the prize-giving evening Concert and there receive their diploma. The jury will define the program of the concert by choosing among the pieces performed during the competition. Young musicians who perform during the evening concert receive their diplomas and medals in that occasion.

The other competitors receive their diplomas during the winners announcement at the end of the audition or, if it is not possible for justified reasons, later during the competition in the Secretary Office.

Art. 23 - No remuneration is due to those who take part in the evening concerts.

In the case of filming for televised broadcasts or recording even of only a part of the Competition, candidates may not demand or request payment from the Organization.

For any further information:

competition@roveredoro.org

Tel. +33(0)651501705 / +39 3347001111 - tourist information: 0183.41.70.65 (turismo@sanbart.it), from 9:00 to 12:00 and from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

