

PIERRE BARBIZET PIANO COMPETITION RULES

Article 1 – Organization of the Competition

The competition is named the “Pierre Barbizet International Piano Competition,” hereinafter referred to as “the Competition.”

It is organized by the Société Marseillaise des Amis de Chopin (hereinafter “SMAC”), a non-profit association under French law (Law 1901), Siret No. 92370881200014, RNA W133035429, headquartered at 8 rue Jules Moulet – 13006 Marseille, represented by its President, Agnès Viottolo.

The Competition will take place, for its second edition, from December 11 to 13, 2026, at Musicatreize concert hall, located at 53 rue Grignan – 13006 Marseille.

The Competition is held every two years.

It is presided over by a distinguished pianist appointed by the SMAC board.

For the second edition, the president is Ms. Marie-Ange Nguci.

The term of office as President is renewable every 2 years, upon decision by the Board.

Article 2 – Eligibility Requirements

The Competition is open to candidates aged no more than 30 years as of December 31, 2026.

Registration is subject to:

- Payment of an entry fee of €100 via the link provided on the website www.Chopin-Marseille.com
- Submission of an application form available on www.Chopin-Marseille.com and a curriculum vitae no later than August 31, 2026, to the following address: concours@Chopin-Marseille.com

Article 3 – Competition Program

Preselection Round:

- One Chopin piano étude
- One first movement of a Beethoven sonata of the candidate’s choice (to be repeated in the semi-final program)
- One work of the candidate’s choice

The preselection works may be performed again in later rounds.

Quarter-finals (25–30 minutes):

- One piece or work by Rameau or Couperin (candidate's choice)
- One piece or work by Chabrier (candidate's choice)
- One work of the candidate's choice

Semi-finals (50–55 minutes):

- One complete Beethoven sonata (candidate's choice)
- One or more works by Chopin (candidate's choice)
- One work by another composer (optional)

Final:

- One complete Chopin concerto, Op. 11 or Op. 21 (candidate's choice)
The concerto will be performed in a version for piano and string quintet.

Article 4 – Preselection: Video Requirements

Preselection will be based on a video submitted via a YouTube link no later than August 31, 2026, to concours@chopin-marseille.com.

The video must:

- Be recorded without cuts
- Use a fixed camera angle
- Clearly show the candidate's face and hands at all times

The program may be recorded in separate sessions and edited into a single video.
The video must be recent (year 2026).

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disqualification.

Article 5 – Competition schedules

All rounds are open to the public.

Schedule:

- December 11, 2026: Quarter-finals
- December 12, 2026: Semi-finals
- December 13, 2026: Final

Finalists will be granted rehearsal time with the string ensemble.

On the evening of the final, a concert featuring the three prize winners will be organized. The Competition president will determine the program for the winners' concert after proposals from each laureate.

If the winners refuse to participate in the concert, they will be considered to have declined the prize.

Article 6 – Jury Decisions

Each jury member awards a score out of 20 to each candidate.

The arithmetic mean of the scores obtained determines the candidates' rankings, their advancement to subsequent rounds, and the awarding of prizes.

The jury's decisions are final and cannot be subject to appeal.

Article 7 – Prizes Awarded

The First Prize winner will receive the Pierre Barbizet Prize.

The following monetary prizes will be awarded:

- 1st Prize: €10,000
- 2nd Prize: €5,000
- 3rd Prize: €2,000
- Audience Prize: €1,000

The First Prize winner will also be offered the following concert engagements:

- Festival de La Roque d'Anthéron
- La Folle Journée de Varsovie
- Chopin Society of Paris
- Chopin Society of Nohant (Nohant Festival Chopin)
- Chopin Society of Marseille (SMAC)
- Société Tropézienne des Amis de la Musique (STAM)
- Pontlevoy Festival

One of the prize winners will be offered participation in Génération France Musique (radio).

Additional engagements may also be proposed.

Article 8 – Image Rights

The final will be filmed.

Candidates agree to participate in any interviews, recordings, or promotional events related to the Competition.

In accordance with image rights regulations, candidates authorize SMAC to use, reproduce, and adapt images, videos, or recordings made during their performance on the following media:

- SMAC website
- Social media
- Any other media used to promote the Competition and/or SMAC

No remuneration will be provided for the use of these rights.

Article 9 – Personal Data Protection

SMAC processes candidates' personal data in the context of their participation in the Competition, in accordance with applicable regulations and its data protection policy.

Candidates have the right to access, rectify, and delete their personal data, which they may exercise by sending a letter to:

Société Marseillaise des Amis de Chopin
8, rue Jules Moulet – 13006 Marseille

Article 10 – Travel and Accommodation Costs

Travel and transportation expenses are the responsibility of the candidates.

Candidates who pass the preselection round will be accommodated in Marseille with host families from December 10 to 14, 2026.

They will have access to a piano for at least 3 hours per day.

Article 11 – Governing Law and Jurisdiction

These rules are established in both French and English.

Only the French version shall be legally binding.

Any dispute shall be governed by French law and brought before the Judicial Court of Marseille.