



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – 1st INTERNATIONAL CELLO COMPETITION

“PREMIO LUIGI BOCCHERINI”

28 August – 1 September 2023

On the occasion of the 280th anniversary of the birth of Luigi Boccherini, the “L. Boccherini” Music Conservatory in Lucca is organising the 1st edition of the “Premio Luigi Boccherini” International Cello Competition.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Article 1 – VIDEO PRE-SELECTION (July 2023) and FACE-TO-FACE COMPETITION (28 August to 1 September 2023).

The Competition, which includes an online pre-selection phase and 3 (three) face-to-face rounds, is organised as follows:

- REGISTRATIONS: applications must be sent, together with the video and the registration fee, **by 10 July 2023**.
- PRE-SELECTION VIA VIDEO: the Jury shall select 12 (twelve) competitors. The results shall be communicated **by 20 July 2023**.
- Online pre-selections REPERTOIRE ([see Article 8](#))
- FACE-TO-FACE COMPETITION: schedule of the face-to-face Competition rounds ([see Article 14](#))

Article 2 – JURY AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The Jury for the pre-selections and for the face-to-face Competition rounds shall be composed as follows:

- Enrico Bronzi – President (Italy)
- Karine Georgian – Jury Member (United Kingdom)
- Anatole Liebermann – Jury Member (France)

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- Miriam Prandi – Jury Member (Italy)
 - Alexey Zhilin – Jury Member (Russia)
 - Massimo Maffei – Artistic Director (Italy)

The judgment of the Jury shall be final.

The Artistic Director may, at any time, appoint new members of the Jury, if such measure is deemed necessary.

Article 3 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Competition is open to cellists of any nationality who meet the following requirements:

- On the deadline of the Call for Applications (10 July 2023), the applicant must have turned 15 (fifteen) (minimum age) and on the same date must not be older than 35 (thirty-five) years of age (maximum age).

Following the pre-selections, 12 (twelve) competitors shall be admitted to take part in the Competition. A list of reserves (containing a maximum 5 of competitors) shall also be identified, in the event that one or more of the 12 selected competitors are absent.

Article 4 – RESTRICTIONS

Competitors who are related to or have an affinity with a member of the Jury shall not be able to participate in the Competition.

If a Competitor has participated in study courses, masterclasses, etc. taught by a member of the Jury in the 12 (twelve) months prior to registration for the Competition, the member of the Jury shall abstain from voting for the Competitor in question.

At the start of the Competition, each Jury member shall provide a statement with regard to his/her personal relationship towards each individual Competitor.

PRE-SELECTION

Article 5 – REGISTRATION TERMS

Registrations must be received by 10 July 2023, exclusively through the form published on the www.premioboccherini.it Competition website

The Artistic Director and the Jury reserve the right to accept applications received after the deadline indicated above (10 July 2023).

Registration for the Competition implies acceptance on the part of the applicant of all the rules included herein.

Article 6 – REGISTRATION METHOD

The registration form must be accompanied by:

- a copy of a valid identity document or passport of the applicant;
- receipt of payment of the registration fee;
- curriculum of the applicant (no more than 1500 characters, including spaces, in discursive form) in Italian or English;
- a photo of the applicant in jpg/png format, horizontal, in colour, print resolution, preferably taken during a performance;
- “unlisted” link to the video uploaded to YouTube. The video must be made *ad hoc* for the Competition ([upload tutorial](#)).

Guidelines for making and publishing the video

1. Ensure that the framing is fixed and horizontal and that it captures all the performers;
2. ensure that the lighting is adequate;
3. a full live video is required, cuts or editing are not permitted;
4. we recommend the highest audio quality;
5. upload the video to YouTube as “unlisted” ([upload tutorial](#)).



Article 7 – REGISTRATION FEE

The registration fee is Euro 100.00 (one hundred Euro/00) per competitor, to be paid by 10 July 2023.

The registration fee is non-refundable.

PAYMENT METHOD:

Bank transfer of the registration fee of Euro 100.00 (one hundred Euro/00), net of any expenses charged by both the ordering bank and the receiving bank;

Payable to “ Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali L. Boccherini”

IBAN: IT 48 N 05034 13701 000 000 000 649

SWIFT: BAPPIT21S00

Transaction description: “LAST NAME FIRST NAME” – registration for the 1st edition of the International Cello Competition “Premio Luigi Boccherini”

Article 8 – REPERTOIRE

For the online pre-selection see **Annex A**.

Article 9 – EVALUATION OF PRE-SELECTIONS AND PUBLICATION OF THE LIST OF SELECTED COMPETITORS

A total of 12 (twelve) competitors shall be selected to take part in the face-to-face Competition to be held starting from 28 August 2023 (ranked in alphabetical order). An additional 5 (five) competitors shall be selected (ranked by score) to constitute the reserves in case of withdrawal of one or more of the top 12 competitors.

The results shall be published on the www.premioboccherini.it website by 20 July 2023.

FACE-TO-FACE COMPETITION

Article 10 – CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION

The 12 (twelve) competitors selected in the pre-selection must confirm their participation in the

Competition within 1 (one) week of the communication of the outcome of the same pre-selection. The confirmation of participation must be sent by email to concorso@premioboccherini.it

Competitors from countries outside the European Union are advised to apply promptly for a Visa.

Article 11 – ROLL CALL AND ORDER OF PERFORMANCE

The order of performances in each round of the Competition shall be based on a draw of a starting letter, which determinates the alphabetical order. The schedule of the Competition rounds will be communicated by email to all 12 (twelve) competitors and published on the Competition website.

Competitors who are absent from the roll call shall be excluded from the Competition, unless such delay is attributable to justified reasons of force majeure and the first round has already been concluded. Competitors who are absent from the roll call for justified reasons of force majeure must nevertheless complete the round by the end of the originally scheduled day.

Candidates must present a valid identification document.

Article 12 – CONFIRMATION/CHANGES TO THE MUSICAL REPERTOIRE

The performances must include only original published music. Any changes to the musical repertoire indicated on the application form must be communicated before the start of the Competition rounds.

At the beginning of each round of the Competition, each competitor must submit to the Jury a copy of the printed edition of the repertoire to be performed.

The 12 (twelve) selected competitors and the 5 (five) reserves are required to submit a detailed list of the musical repertoire they intend to perform in the final rounds of the Competition, to be sent by email to concorso@premioboccherini.it by 31 July 2023, under penalty of exclusion from the Competition.

Article 13 – REHEARSALS, PIANOS AND STUDY ROOMS

The Conservatory provides classrooms for study and rehearsals and, where necessary, accompanying pianists starting from Thursday, 24 August 2023.

The 12 (twelve) candidates who intend to make use of these resources are required to communicate the date of their arrival in Lucca no later than 1 August 2023, in order to allow the Conservatory to create a rehearsal schedule.

Article 14 – MUSICAL REPERTOIRE AND SCHEDULE OF FACE-TO-FACE COMPETITION ROUNDS (see **Annexes B** and **C**)

1st ROUND (Preliminary round): A total of 12 (twelve) competitors shall be admitted to the preliminary round.

2nd ROUND (Semifinals): A total of 6 (six) competitors shall be admitted to the semifinals.

The first and second rounds shall be held in the Chiesa di San Francesco in Lucca (Piazza San Francesco), in front of the tomb of Luigi Boccherini.

3rd ROUND (Final): A total of 3 (three) competitors shall be admitted to the final.

The third round shall be held in the Chiesa di San Francesco in Lucca (Piazza San Francesco).

Article 15 – EVALUATION

The Artistic Director shall participate in the Jury's deliberations, who shall have the right to vote in the event that a member of the jury must abstain (see Article 4).

PRE-SELECTIONS AND COMPETITION

Each jury member shall have evaluation forms available on which the evaluation of each competitor shall be carried out. The evaluation shall be expressed in tenths (10/10). The total of the evaluations of all the jury members shall determine the ranking of the 12 (twelve) competitors selected for the face-to-face Competition rounds. The ranking shall be published in alphabetical order. For the 5 (five) reserves, the order shall be based according to the actual score obtained.

The same voting system shall be used for the pre-selections, the face-to-face Competition rounds and the awarding of special prizes such as "Best performance of the unpublished work by Maestro Giovanni Sollima" and "Best Performance of *the Concerto in B flat major: I* by Luigi Boccherini".

The award of ex aequo / joint winners for the First Prize shall not be permitted.

Special Audience Prize: The audience present at the Competition Rounds to be held on 28, 29 and 30 August and 1 September 2023 has the right to vote for the “Special Audience Prize”.

The public shall be provided with a card on which to indicate their preference (one). The counting of the ballots shall take place on 1 September 2023, at the end of the third round (Final).

Article 16 – PRIZES, SPECIAL PRIZES AND CONCERT PRIZES**

Prizes

1st Prize: Euro 7,000 (seven thousand Euro/00)

2nd Prize: Euro 4,000 (four thousand Euro/00)

3rd Prize: Euro 2,000 (two thousand Euro/00)

Special Prizes

UNPUBLISHED PUCCINI PRIZE: Euro 2,000 (two thousand Euro/00)

AUDIENCE PRIZE: Euro 1,000 (one thousand Euro/00)

PRIZE FOR THE BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE *CONCERTO IN B FLAT MAJOR* BY L. BOCCHERINI: Euro 1,000 (one thousand Euro/00)

*** Prizes gross of legal taxes due according to current regulations*

Concerts

The 1st place winner shall be guaranteed concerts with Italian and foreign institutions. The *cachet* shall be established by each organiser.

FINAL CLAUSES

Article 17 – FORCE MAJEURE

The Artistic Committee reserves the right to cancel the Competition in the event of reasons of proven force majeure. In this case, the registration fees paid shall be immediately refunded.

Article 18 – UNCOVERED MATTERS

Any matters not covered by these Competition Rules shall fall under the responsibility of the Artistic Committee.

Article 19 – JURISDICTION

In case of a dispute, the only legitimately valid text shall be the printed edition of the Competition Call for Applications published in Italian. For any dispute the Court of Lucca shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

ANNEX A

VIDEO PRE-SELECTIONS

- L. Boccherini , *Sonata in A major G 4 - Adagio and Allegro* (version for cello and piano or bass and continuo)
- J.S. Bach, *Prelude* and a movement (selected by the candidate) from one of the following Suites:
Suite No. 4 in E flat major, BWV 1010
Suite No. 5 in C minor, BWV 1011
Suite No. 6 in D major, BWV 1012
- Performance of a Caprice from the *12 Caprices for Cello Op. 25* by A. Piatti selected from Caprice 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 or 12 and a Study taken from the *40 Studies Op.73* by D. Popper (IMC edition) selected from *Studies 20, 29, 33* or 39
- L. van Beethoven, *7 Variations in E flat major for cello and piano*.

Candidates who pass the preliminary video pre-selection shall be able to take part in the first round of the Competition.

ANNEX B

1st ROUND - Preliminary round

12 (twelve) competitors admitted - Repertoire must be played from memory (no sheet music)

- One of the following sonatas for cello and piano (selected by the candidate):
 - Ludwig van Beethoven, *Sonata No. 3 in A major Op. 69*
 - Ludwig van Beethoven, *Sonata No. 5 in D major, Op. 102 No. 2*
 - Johannes Brahms, *Sonata No. 2 in F major Op. 99*
 - Franz Schubert, *Sonata "Arpeggione" in A minor, D. 821*
 - Claude Debussy, *Sonata No. 1 in D minor L. 144*
 - Dmitri Shostakovich, *Sonata in D minor Op. 40*
 - Sergei Prokofiev, *Sonata in C major Op. 119*
- A work with a minimum duration of 7 minutes up to a maximum duration of 10 minutes, selected by the contestant.
The work can be for solo cello or for cello and piano and can be an unpublished piece or a work composed by the competitor.
- Unpublished work, provided to the candidates 1 (one) month before the start of the Competition composed by Maestro Giovanni Sollima (does not need to be played from memory).

2nd ROUND - Semifinals

6 (six) competitors admitted - Repertoire must be played from memory (no sheet music)

- Performance of a *Suite* by J.S. Bach selected from the *6 Suites for solo cello* (the suite can also be selected from those presented for the online pre-selection).
- A virtuoso work for solo cello or with piano accompaniment.

3rd and LAST ROUND - Final

3 (three) competitors admitted - Performance with orchestra - Repertoire must be played from memory (no sheet music)

- L. Boccherini: First movement of the *Concerto No. 9 in B flat major G. 482: I* (only the original version is permitted)
- One of the following concertos for cello and orchestra (selected by the candidate):
 - Robert Schumann, *Concerto in A minor Op. 129*
 - Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, *Variations on a Rococo Theme Op. 33*
 - Dmitri Shostakovich, *Concerto No. 1 in E flat major Op. 107*

ANNEX C

N.B. The order of performances in each round of the Competition shall be based on a draw.

The final stages of the Competition (1st, 2nd and 3rd ROUND) shall be open to the public and include voting.

D A Y 1	Monday, 28 August 2023 - session A	
	1st ROUND - PRELIMINARY ROUND 12 competitors	
	Chiesa di San Francesco	
	4:00 pm	First three competitors
	7:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
	9:00 pm	Second three competitors
D A Y 2	Tuesday, 29 August 2023 - session B	
	1st ROUND - PRELIMINARY ROUND 12 competitors	
	Chiesa di San Francesco	
	4:00 pm	First three competitors
	7:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
	9:00 pm	Second three competitors
D A Y 3	Wednesday, 30 August	
	2nd ROUND - SEMIFINALS 6 competitors	
	Chiesa di San Francesco	
	4:00 pm	First three competitors
	7:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
	9:00 pm	Second three competitors
Thursday, 31 August 2023		

D A Y 4	MUSICAL REHEARSAL		
	Luigi Boccherini Conservatory		
	10:00 am to 1:00 pm	Rehearsal of repertoire selected by the competitor with conductor and pianist	
	REHEARSAL WITH ORCHESTRA		
	Chiesa di San Francesco		
	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Rehearsal of <i>Concerto No. 9 in B flat major G. 482: I</i> by L. Boccherini	
8:00 pm	<i>Break</i>		
9:00 pm to Midnight	Rehearsal of repertoire selected by the competitor for the 3rd ROUND		
D A Y 5	Friday, 1 September 2023		
	3rd ROUND - FINAL		
	Chiesa di San Francesco		
	8:45 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First movement of the <i>Concerto No. 9 in B flat major G. 482: I</i> by L. Boccherini - Performance of a work selected by the competitor among the 3 obligatory works permitted for the 3rd ROUND 	
Midnight	AWARD CEREMONY		