

62nd INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION "ARCANGELO SPERANZA"

Taranto – May 21 - 24, 2026

REGULATIONS

Art.

1

The Amici della Musica "Arcangelo Speranza" Association of Taranto organizes the 62nd International Piano Competition "Arcangelo Speranza", taking place from May 21 to 24, 2026. Pianists of all nationalities up to 35 years of age (born after April 30, 1991) may participate.

Art. 2

To register, candidates must complete the online application form by **4 May at 12:00 noon, 2026**, available at www.speranzacompetition.it, and upload a photo, a copy of their ID, and proof of payment of the entry fee. Only the **first 50 completed applications** will be accepted (minimum of 20), including payment receipt; incomplete applications will not be considered.

Art. 3

By registering, candidates commit to paying a **non-refundable** registration fee of **€100**, excluding any bank transfer fees (both sender and recipient banks). Payment can be made online.

Art. 4

All candidates must report on **May 21 at 2:30 PM** to the **Salone di Rappresentanza** of the **Province of Taranto**, located at Via Anfiteatro No. 4, for registration and the drawing of the performance order. The preliminary round will begin at **3:00 PM**.

Art. 5

The jury will consist of **five distinguished members**: renowned musicians, concert artists, conservatory professors, musicologists, and critics, both Italian and international. Any changes in the jury composition will be promptly announced on the competition website.

Art. 6

The jury's decisions are **final and irrevocable**. Prizes may be withheld if the jury deems the level of performance insufficient. The **First Prize cannot be shared**, while **Second and Third Prizes** may be awarded **ex aequo**; in such cases, the prize money will be divided equally.

Art. 7

Candidates must **not be related** to jury members and must **not have had a professional or educational relationship** with them in the **past two years**. Applications from such candidates will not be accepted. Progression from one round to the next is decided by majority vote. The number of candidates admitted to each subsequent round is determined by the jury. Members of the "Amici della Musica" association may attend jury sessions but may **not vote or interfere**.

Art. 8

The jury may **rehear** a candidate or **shorten** performances at its discretion.

Candidates **must perform all pieces from memory**, except for contemporary works, which may be played with the score.

A written report will be prepared and signed after each session, including decisions and assessments. These reports will be **public** and available for consultation at the end of the competition.

Art. 9

All competition rounds are **open to the public**. Candidates may not request payment or compensation for their performances or for any **recordings, broadcasts (radio, TV, streaming), or other media uses** (e.g., CDs or DVDs). All audio-video recordings made are the **property of the Amici della Musica “Arcangelo Speranza” – APS**, which retains all rights.

Art. 10

Any issues not covered by these regulations will be resolved by the **Artistic Director**, who is also responsible for interpreting the rules.

Art. 11

Registration implies **full acceptance** of these regulations. In the event of disputes or interpretations, the **Italian text** shall prevail, and the **Court of Taranto** shall have jurisdiction.

PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

May 21 – 2:30 PM - PRELIMINARY ROUND

May 22 – 9:30 AM - PRELIMINARY ROUND

Max duration: 20 minutes

Program:

- One brilliant **Sonata by Scarlatti**, or
- One Sonata by **Paisiello** (from the 6 Sonatas, Ed. Carisch – available at www.speranzacompetition.it)
- One or more works chosen by the candidate (including contemporary repertoire)

May 23 – 9:00 AM - SEMIFINAL ROUND

Max duration: 45 minutes

Program:

- One Sonata chosen from: **Haydn, Mozart, Clementi, Beethoven, Schubert**
- One or more works chosen by the candidate (including contemporary repertoire)

May 24 – 6:00 PM - FINAL ROUND & AWARDS CEREMONY

Max duration: 30 minutes

Program:

- One or more works of the candidate's choice (including contemporary repertoire), **not performed in previous rounds**

PRIZES

1st PRIZE – € 5,000.00

Concert in Taranto (unpaid) during the **2023/24 Concert Season** organized by Amici della Musica;
Additional recitals (dates and terms to be arranged with the following concert societies):

- Martina Franca: Fondazione “Paolo Grassi”
- Foggia: Amici della Musica
- Messina: Accademia Filarmonica di Messina
- Molfetta: Fondazione Musicale “Valente”

2nd PRIZE – € 3,000.00

3rd PRIZE – € 1,500.00

AUDIENCE PRIZE "ELSA e PEPPINO ORLANDO" – € 500.00

Awarded by the audience to a finalist. Sponsored by Elsa and Peppino Orlando.

“GIOVANNI PAISIELLO FESTIVAL” PRIZE – € 500.00

Awarded to the best finalist performer of a **Paisiello** piece + Concert in Taranto (unpaid) during the **2026 Giovanni Paisiello Festival**.

“GIOVANNI PAISIELLO” CONSERVATORY AWARD

A commemorative plaque awarded by the students of the “G. Paisiello” Conservatory of Taranto.