



SCHEDULE

June 1, 2025	Online registration opens
March 2, 2026	Online registration closes and pre-selection begins
March 11, 2026	Designation of the 29 successful candidates
August 15, 2026	Competition inauguration evening
August 16 and 17, 2026	First round of the Competition
August 18 and 19, 2026	Second round of the Competition
August 20, 2026	Rehearsal of the recital rounds for the finalists
August 21 and 22, 2026	Final of the Competition in two rounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- one in recital- the other with orchestra
August 23, 2026	Winners' concert and prize-giving ceremony

**Rules of the
First Pleyel International Chopin Piano Competition in Nohant**

I

The First International Chopin Pleyel Piano Competition in Nohant (hereinafter referred to as the Competition), organized by the Association Chopin Pleyel (hereinafter referred to as the Association), will be held in Nohant from August 15 to 23, 2026.

II

The Competition is open to any pianist representing a professional level of performance, born between 1995 and 2010 and meeting the requirements described below.

III

Candidates wishing to take part in the Competition must submit the required application documents by the deadline indicated below (see § IV).

IV

The application must include:

- A. Application form available on the Competition website, duly completed on the website,
- B. A short biographical note (no more than half an A4 page - about 1000 characters),
- C. Photocopy of an official document with photo showing date of birth,
- D. Three current, royalty-free photographs, including at least one portrait, for use in Competition publications (electronic version 300-1200 dpi; accepted formats - .jpg, .bmp, .tif),
- E. Photocopies of certificates of musical studies and main competition results,
- F. Documents attesting to the candidate's major artistic activities over the past three years,
- G. Two letters of recommendation in support of the candidate's application to the Competition, provided by prominent pedagogues or musical personalities,
- H. A link to a video recording of the following repertoire, recorded in its entirety and uncut and submitted in a single file (no larger than 4 GB), at least in HD quality (accepted formats - .mp4, .mov):
 - 1) Johann Sebastian Bach: a 4-part or 5-part Fugue from the Well-Tempered Clavier (no Prelude)
 - 2) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: 1st movement of a Sonata of your choice (except Sonatas K. 282, K. 331)
 - 3) Frédéric Chopin :

- One etude of your choice with the exception of the following: Op. 10 No. 3, Op. 10 No. 6, Op. 10 No. 9, and Op. 25 No. 1, Op. 25 No. 2, Op. 25 No. 3, Op. 25 No. 7, Op. 25 No. 8, Op. 25 No. 9 and the 3 posthumous etudes.

- The finale of one of the two concertos (Op. 11 or Op. 21) with second piano accompaniment

The video image must show the pianist's hands playing and the right-hand side of his or her entire silhouette, filmed horizontally with a single camera, without cuts during the performance of the solo program. Volume control during recording is not permitted. All pieces must be recorded in the same place and at the same time, with the exception of the Finale of the Concerto which can be recorded separately and in another location, but also in a single take.

A. Payment via the website or proof of payment of the application fee of 100 euros (net) into the Association's account, which will be communicated when registration opens (June 1).

The candidate's name and the purpose of payment must be indicated.

The application and all correspondence relating to participation in the competition must be in French or English, or translated into one of these languages. Failure to meet the above requirements or to provide complete information may result in rejection of the application.

The application must be completed and submitted to the Association using the electronic form available on the Competition website.

Applications must be submitted to the Association no later than March 2, 2026 (if sent by post, the postmark deadline is March 2, 2026). On receipt of a complete application, the Association will confirm its acceptance. The submission of the candidate's application to the Competition shall constitute acceptance of these regulations by the candidate. Notification of acceptance of the candidate's application shall signify that an agreement has been reached between the Association and the candidate concerning all matters provided for in these rules.

V

The candidate's documents and records, specified in § IV paragraph H, will be evaluated by the qualification committee. The Competition Director will appoint the members of the qualification committee.

In total, the Committee will select 29 candidates to take part in the competition, which will be held in Nohant from August 15, 2026. The two candidates who came 25th and 26th in the pre-selection rounds will remain on the waiting list until June 30, 2026.

The list of candidates selected for the preliminary round will be made public at the launch concert of the 60th Nohant Festival Chopin at the Salle Cortot, on March 11 2026, and by an announcement published on the Competition website no later than the same day evening.

Following the publication of the shortlist, jury members will be required to declare on their honor which candidates are their students or have worked with them regularly and extensively in the past. They will not be able to vote for these individuals during the competition.

This does not apply to students who may have attended occasional masterclasses, even recent ones.

VI

The order of performance of the participants in the Competition will be drawn publicly on August 15, 2026.

Depending on the order of performance, each participant will be given a time slot in which to rehearse on the competition piano. As the Competition begins on the morning of August 16, participants must arrive at the Competition venue by the afternoon of August 15, 2026 at the latest.

The Competition Director reserves the right to alter the schedule of one-day performances for organizational or program-related reasons. In the event of a competitor's illness, confirmed by the Competition's medical service, he or she may be authorized to perform outside the established sequence, at the end of the current event.

VII

Participants in the competition are responsible for their own travel expenses.

The association will only be responsible for local transfers between residences, rehearsal spaces and the competition venue.

The association will cover the accommodation costs for candidates from August 15th onwards, as long as they are allowed to continue in the competition. If they wish to remain after their potential elimination, they will have to pay for their own accommodation.

The association does not cover the accommodation costs for accompanying persons.

VIII

The Association will make practice pianos available to all candidates.

The finalists will rehearse with the orchestra on the morning of their performance with the orchestra, which will take place in the evening.

The Association will not assist Competition participants in obtaining French visas. On request, the Competition Office will provide a note confirming the admission of participants to the Competition and the advantages mentioned above.

Competition participants must have health insurance cover for the duration of their stay in France in order to take part in the Competition.

IX

The competition performances will be open to the public and will take place over two rounds and a final, itself comprising two different rounds on two consecutive days: one in recital, the other with orchestra.

At the end of the first eliminatory round, 12 participants will be selected for the second round, then 6 for the Final.

X

The Competition repertoire to be played during the rounds to be held in Nohant includes only works by Frédéric Chopin. The works chosen by the candidates may not be played twice during the competition, even if they appear in two different rounds, with the exception of the video pre-selection test.

1st round

one of the etudes listed below:

in C major, Op. 10 No. 1

in A minor, Op. 10 No. 2

in G sharp minor, Op. 25 No. 6

in B minor, Op. 25 No. 10

in A minor, Op. 25 No. 11

one of the following pieces

Nocturne in G major, Op. 37 No. 2

Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48 No. 1

Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 55 No. 2

Nocturne in B major, Op. 62 No. 1

Nocturne in E major, Op. 62 No. 2

one of the following pieces

Scherzo in C sharp minor, Op. 39

Scherzo in E major, Op. 54

Ballade No. 3 in A flat major, Op. 47

Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52

The pieces can be performed in any order.

2nd round

24 Preludes, Op. 28

or

One piece from each of the following 4 categories (4 pieces in total), not exceeding the maximum duration of 40' and without repeating a work already chosen from the program of the 1st round:

1. Scherzo No. 3 in C sharp minor, Op. 39 or Scherzo No. 4 in E major, Op. 54
2. Fantasy in F minor, Op. 49 or Barcarolle in F sharp major, Op. 60 or Polonaise-Fantaisie in A-flat major, Op. 61
3. 3. Ballade No. 3 in A flat major, Op. 47, or Ballade No. 4 in F minor, Op. 52 2
4. One of the following pieces (*):
 - o Impromptu No. 2 in F sharp major, Op. 36
 - o Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 45
 - o Impromptu No. 3 in G flat major, Op. 51
 - o Lullaby in D-flat major, Op. 57
 - o Waltz in F minor, Op. 70

(*) The candidate may, if he wishes, play this piece on a Pleyel piano from 1844. This choice belongs to the candidate but is not an obligation.

Final 1: recital round

the following pieces, with a maximum duration of 55':

1. One of the two following Sonatas
 - Sonata No. 2 in B flat minor, Op. 35
 - Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op. 58
2. One of the following four Mazurka cycles (*):
 - Mazurkas Op. 50, No. 1 in G major, No. 2 in A flat major, No. 3 in C sharp minor
 - Mazurkas Op. 56, No. 1 in B major, No. 2 in C major, No. 3 in C minor
 - Mazurkas Op. 59, No. 1 in A minor, No. 2 in A flat major, No. 3 in F sharp minor
 - Mazurkas Op. 63, No. 1 in B major, No. 2 in F minor, No. 3 in C sharp minor
3. One of the two following Polonaises:
 - Polonaise in F sharp minor, Op. 44
 - Polonaise in A flat major, Op. 53
4. One of the following Nocturnes (*):
 - Nocturne in G major, Op. 37 No. 2
 - Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48 No. 1
 - Nocturne in F sharp minor, Op. 48 No. 2
 - Nocturne in F minor, Op. 55 No. 1
 - Nocturne in E flat major, Op. 55 No. 2
 - Nocturne in B major, Op. 62 No. 1
 - Nocturne in E major, Op. 62 No. 2

(*) The candidate may, if he wishes, play the Mazurka Cycle and/or the Nocturne on a Pleyel piano from 1844. This choice is his, but is not an obligation.

Final 2: with orchestra

One of the two concertos:

- Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11
- Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21

XI

1. The following main prizes will be awarded:
 - 1st prize - €10,000 - a Pleyel grand piano - a Pleyel Magistral system - a Pleyel imperator 250 loudspeaker
 - 2nd prize - €8,000 - a Pleyel upright piano - a Pleyel Magistral system - a Pleyel imperator 250 loudspeaker
 - 3rd prize - €5,000 - a Pleyel Magistral system - a Pleyel imperator 250 loudspeaker
 - The other finalists (from 4th to 6th place) will receive a Pleyel Magistral system and a Pleyel Imperator 250 speaker.
 - The semi-finalists (7th to 12th place) will receive a Pleyel Imperator 250 speaker
2. The top three in the competition will receive the title of “Laureate of the First Pleyel International Chopin Piano Competition in Nohant”.
3. The other finalists will receive the diploma of “Finalist of the First Concours International de Piano Chopin Pleyel à Nohant”.
4. In addition to the prizes listed above, the following special prizes may be awarded:
 - for the best performance of a Concerto
 - for the best performance of a Mazurka
 - for the best performance of a Polonaise
 - for the best performance of a Sonata
 - for the best interpretation of a Ballade
 - Audience Prize
 - Press Prize

5. The above amounts are subject to any applicable tax deductions required by law.
6. Participants in the second round who fail to qualify for the final will receive participation diplomas.

XII

The decision to award the main prizes, distinctions and special prizes will be taken by the Competition Jury.

The Jury will have the right to modify, by a two-thirds majority, the number and ranking of main prizes, it being understood that the total amount of prizes, including distinctions, may be increased by decision of the Competition Director.

The Jury reserves the right not to award individual main prizes or special prizes.

All decisions taken by the Jury are final and without appeal.

The results of the competition will be made public once the final performances have been completed and the Jury has completed its deliberations on August 22, 2026.

XIII

The official presentation of the winners of the main prizes, special prizes and awards will take place on the afternoon of August 23, 2026.

XIV

All prizewinners must take part in the prizewinners' concert free of charge.

The competition jury president will establish the repertoire for the laureates' concert in consultation with the performers. Laureates must perform the exact repertoire as established.

Any unjustified absence from the prize-winners' concert will result in forfeiture of the prize.

XV

Any additional special prize offers must be submitted by March 1, 2026. The Competition Director reserves the right to accept or reject them, in accordance with article XII.

XVI

1. Each participant in the Competition shall:

- a. allow the Association to make audio and visual recordings of his or her artistic performances of the works in the Competition and the prize-winners' concert, and transfer to the Association all economic rights to these performances,

- b. to allow the Association to make audio and visual recordings of its image, statements and interviews given during the Competition and the prize-winners' concert or relating to the Competition and the prize-winners' concert; to transfer to the Association all property rights in such statements and interviews; to allow the Association to broadcast its recorded image in connection with its participation in the Competition and the prize-winners' concert,
- c. transfer to the Association the exclusive right, unlimited in time and territory, to grant authorizations to exercise neighboring copyrights on the works specified under b) above, in particular to dispose of and use adaptations of the works, including translations into foreign languages; the participant also undertakes not to take any measure limiting this right in the future,
- d. authorizes the Association to exercise its personal rights in respect of the artistic works and performances mentioned in a) and b) above, and undertakes not to exercise its personal rights in a way that would restrict the Association in the exercise of its rights obtained in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph,
- e. allow the Association to use his or her artistic performances, interviews, statements and images, in whole or in part, for adaptations, abridged versions, modifications and translations, and declare that such use will not be considered prejudicial to his or her name; the participant will also be authorized to mark his or her artistic performances, statements, interviews and images specified in a) and b) above with his or her first and last name.

2. The assignment and granting of the rights (including authorizations) specified in paragraph 1 above are unlimited in time and territory, and cover all fields of exploitation known at the time of publication of these Regulations, in particular :

- a. recording and duplication (including storage in the memory of a computer or other device), reproduction using any technology, including printing, reprography, magnetic, mechanical, optical, electronic or other recording, analog and digital technology, in any system or format; on any support, including audio, video and audiovisual supports, on paper and similar supports, on photosensitive, magnetic, optical disks, memory cubes, computers and other recording and memory supports, on-line, downloading, digitization, use in a multimedia work manner,
- b. commercialize the original and its copies created in the technological fields specified in a) above - offer for sale, license, lease, rental,
- c. any other means of distribution, including:
 - i. live, simultaneous, full-length broadcasts and rebroadcasts, including cable and wireless radio/television, terrestrial and satellite ; availability on the Internet (including streaming technology), in other information relay, cable, telecommunication and multimedia networks, and in other transmission systems (including simulcasting, webcasting, IPTV), unencrypted and encrypted, in open- and closed-circuit relay systems, in any technology (including analog and digital, high-definition (HD), three-dimensional (3D)), and in any system and format, with or without recording mode, including text, multimedia, Internet, telephone and telecommunication services, and video-on-demand (VoD) service;
 - ii. made available to the public in such a way as to offer any person access to the objects covered by these rights at the time and place of his or her choice, including via terrestrial and satellite transmitters, cable, telecommunication and multimedia networks, databases, servers or

other devices and systems, including those of third parties, in open- and closed-circuit systems, in any technology, system and format, with or without a recording mode, including the services mentioned in i.) above, also as part of any telecommunication services using any system and device (inter alia, landline telephones and/or cell phones, tablets, desktops and/or laptops, netbooks, etc.), and relay in any available technology, e.g. GSM, UMTS, etc., via telecommunication data relay networks);

iii. all types of audiences replaying, playing, exhibiting, displaying
c. produce foreign-language versions.

3. The assignment and granting of the rights (including authorizations) specified in this paragraph take effect as soon as the artistic performances, statements and interviews are established, and they are free of charge. If possible under applicable law, the participant will waive his rights to royalties on Internet, TV and radio broadcasts of his artistic performances, statements or interviews mentioned in paragraph 1 above.

4. Within the framework of the rights obtained under the present Regulations, the Association shall be fully authorized to transfer these rights to third parties and to grant additional licenses and authorizations. The participant shall not be entitled to any additional remuneration arising therefrom.

XVII

For 2026, the jury will consist of: Boris BERMAN, Akiko EBI, Yves HENRY, Ewa POBLOCKA, Bruno RIGUTTO, Rena SHERESHEWSKAYA, and Danwen WEI. The jury will be chaired by the Competition Director, Yves HENRY.

The Competition Director will make decisions on all matters beyond the powers of the Jury. His decisions will be final and without appeal.

XVIII

1. In case of doubt, the French version of the Regulations will be used to interpret and clarify its provisions.
2. Any matter not provided for in the Regulations shall be governed by French law.
3. Any dispute shall be settled by the French court having jurisdiction over the Association's registered office.
