

38° International Piano Competition “Città di Albenga”

15° Memorial “Maria Silvia Folco”

Special Edition

REGULATION

The Municipality of Albenga organizes the **38th Piano Competition “Città di Albenga” – 15th Memorial “Maria Silvia Folco.”**

Art. 1 – The competition, open to pianists of different ages, aims to promote musical culture and encourage young people to study and spread music.

Art. 2 – The competition will take place in Albenga (SV) at the **San Carlo Auditorium of Palazzo Oddo**, Via Roma 58, on **April 10 (afternoon), 11, and 12 (morning), 2026**. For this special edition, an **online preliminary round** is planned for the categories of pianists aged **13 and above**.

Sections and Categories

Art. 3 – The competition consists of **one section and 11 categories**:

- **Category “First Notes”**: up to 6 years old (born from **13/04/2019** onward)
- **Category “A”**: up to 7 years old (born **between 12/04/2019 and 13/04/2018**)
- **Category “B”**: up to 8 years old (born **between 12/04/2018 and 13/04/2017**)
- **Category “C”**: up to 9 years old (born **between 12/04/2017 and 13/04/2016**)
- **Category “D”**: up to 10 years old (born **between 12/04/2016 and 13/04/2015**)
- **Category “E”**: up to 12 years old (born **between 12/04/2015 and 13/04/2013**)
- **Category “F”**: up to 14 years old (born **between 12/04/2013 and 13/04/2011**)
- **Category “G”**: up to 16 years old (born **between 12/04/2011 and 13/04/2009**)
- **Category “H”**: up to 18 years old (born **between 12/04/2009 and 13/04/2007**)
- **Category “I”**: up to 21 years old (born **between 12/04/2007 and 13/04/2004**)
- **Category “Eccellenza”**: from **22 to 35 years old** (born **between 12/04/2007 and 13/04/1990**)

rt. 4 – Competitors in categories F, G, H, I and Eccellenza must complete the **preliminary selection round**, which, as stated in Art. 2, will take place **online through the submission of a video**.

Art. 5 – Competitors may participate in **only one category**.

Art. 6 – Competitors may register in **categories higher than their age group**, if they believe they are adequately prepared from a **technical and artistic point of view**.

Art. 7 – **Only for the categories First Notes, A, B, C, D and E**, for which a **single live audition** is scheduled, competitors in the various categories must present a **program of their choice** that **should not exceed approximately the following duration**:

Category “Prime Note” – 2 minutes

Category “A” – 3 minutes

Category “B” – 5 minutes

Category “C” – 9 minutes

Category “D” – 10 minutes

Category “E” – 12 minutes

For **categories F, G, H, I and Eccellenza**, competitors must first submit a **video recording**.

Rules for submitting the audition video

- The **deadline for sending the video** is **Friday, March 20, 2026**. By **March 28, 2026**, depending on the number of videos the jury must review, the **results of the preliminary round** will be published on the website.
- **Hands and face must be visible** during the recording, as well as the **keyboard and pedals**.
- **No cuts or editing are allowed** in the submitted video (there must be **one single video**, even if different pieces are performed).
- The video may be recorded using **video cameras, mobile phones, tablets, or other recording devices**.
- In the message used to send the video, the following information must be indicated: **38th Piano Competition “Città di Albenga” – Category, Surname and First Name**.
- The video must be sent via **WeTransfer** to the email address **pianisticoalbenga@yahoo.it**, with the title: **Category, Surname and First Name of the candidate** (Example: *Category G, Rossi Mario*).
- Please note that the **video must be sent together with the application form by March 20, 2026**.
- All submitted videos will be uploaded to a **YouTube channel of the Piano Competition “Città di Albenga”**. By submitting the video, participants **automatically authorize the organization to publish the video on YouTube**.

Note: In the video, next to the piano or the candidate, there must be a **clearly visible sign or sheet of paper (handwritten is also acceptable)** on which it is clearly written: **“Concorso Pianistico Città di Albenga 2026”**.

For any **technical issues regarding the video upload**, it is possible to contact the **Artistic Direction** at **+39 339 7467598**, which will provide the necessary assistance.

- With regard to the **length of the videos** for the categories concerned, the **total duration of the performed pieces** should **approximately not exceed the following time limits**:
- - **Category F:** 10 minutes, free program
 - **Category G:** 11 minutes, free program
 - **Category H:** 12 minutes, free program
 - **Category I:** 13 minutes, free program
 - **Category Eccellenza:** 15 minutes, free program including **an étude by Chopin, Clementi, Liszt, Prokofiev, Rachmaninov, Scriabin, Debussy, or another composer of an appropriate level for the category.**

The jury's pre-selection activities will take place **via videoconference**. The **number of candidates admitted to the final round** will be determined by the jury.

Candidates who pass the **preliminary round** must then **attend the final round in person in Albenga**, according to the schedule published on **March 28, 2016**.

All participants, **including those who do not qualify for the final round**, will receive a **certificate of participation by email** at the address provided during registration.

Candidates who are selected and pass the preliminary round must present, for the live final round, a program that does not exceed the following time limits:

- **Category F:** 14 minutes
- **Category G:** 15 minutes
- **Category H:** 17 minutes
- **Category I:** 20 minutes
- **Category Eccellenza:** 30 minutes, free program chosen by the candidate

Pieces performed in the preliminary round may be repeated in the final round for **categories F, G, and H**.

For **category I**, pieces from the video round may be repeated for a **maximum of 30% of the program**.

For **category Eccellenza**, it is **not permitted to repeat pieces from the preliminary round**.

Art. 8 – There is **no obligation to perform the pieces from memory**. All pieces must be performed in their **original form** and must be **published works**. Competitors must provide the jury with a **photocopy of the sheet music for all pieces performed**. The organizing committee is **not responsible for making photocopies** of the pieces. Photocopies may be collected by the secretariat, which will **ensure they are delivered to the jury**.

Art. 9 – All candidates will be given a **score out of 100**, which will be communicated through a **notice posted on the bulletin board** at the competition secretariat.

Prizes

Art. 10 – The **absolute winner of a category** is the competitor who, among the first prizes of each category, has achieved the **highest score**, which must in any case be **no less than 98/100**.

The absolute winners of each category will also receive the following prizes:

Category “Eccellenza”:

FIRST IN THE RANKINGS (with the highest score overall, and in any case no less than 98/100)

- “Città di Albenga” Prize of €1,000, diploma, and 1st place trophy;
- **Various concerts offered by important associations and institutions:**
 - A concert included in the **Savona International Music Festival**, offered by the **Ensemble Nuove Musiche** association*.
 - A concert included in the prestigious **Di voci e di Accordo** series in **Laigueglia**.
 - A concert offered by the **Municipality of Albenga**.

There is also the **possibility of a recital** offered by the **Associazione Amici di Paganini**, in the prestigious setting of **Palazzo Tursi in Genoa**, as part of the “**Gems à la Paganini**” series, as well as other concerts or opportunities at **prestigious radio or television institutions**. (Last year, one of the winners was selected by the artistic direction, which, at the request of **RAI**, wanted a very young winner of this competition for a special event broadcast during the winter of 2024.)

SECOND IN THE RANKINGS (with the highest score after the first in the rankings, and in any case no less than 95/100)

- **Prize:** €400, a diploma, and a trophy
- **Concert:** offered by the **Associazione Musicamica** in the evocative setting of **Villa Durazzo in Santa Margherita Ligure**

THIRD IN THE RANKINGS (with the highest score after the second in the rankings, and in any case no less than 90/100)

- **Prize:** €300, a diploma, and a trophy

Note: For **Category Excellence**, the jury may also award **additional piano recitals** at their discretion, offered by other important **national and international institutions and associations** with which the organization is in constant contact.

Winners of the concert prizes must **respond to the organizing entities** that contact them **within one month from the first contact** to agree on the concert dates. Failure to do so will result in **forfeiture of the prize**, which will then be awarded to the next candidates in the category rankings.

Category I:

- Prize of €600
- A concert included in the **Savona International Music Festival**, offered by the **Ensemble Nuove Musiche** association*
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category H:

- Prize of €500
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category G:

- Prize of €400
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category F:

- Prize of €300
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category E:

- Prize of €200
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category D:

- Prize of €100
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category C:

- Prize of €100
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category B:

- Prize of €50
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category A:

- Prize of €50
- Diploma for 1st place and a trophy

Category “Prime Note”:

- Diploma for 1st place and a **special trophy for the youngest and most deserving candidate**

Note: Cash prizes will be **paid to the winners no later than August 2026.**

All competitors will also be awarded the following prizes based on their **average score:**

- **Average score of 95/100 or higher** – 1st prize diploma
- **Average score of 90/100 or higher** – 2nd prize diploma
- **Average score of 85/100 or higher** – 3rd prize diploma

At the discretion of the **jury, the artistic direction, and the organization**, trophies may also be awarded to first prize winners.

In any case, **all competitors will receive a certificate of participation.**

*For these two concerts, candidates must be of legal age.

Art. 11 – Winners will perform **free of charge** at the final concerts. The pieces performed will be **chosen by the competitors**, in agreement with the jury and the artistic direction, from those presented in the competition. **Prizes must be collected** by the winner or by someone **with a signed authorization or the competitor's identification document**.

Note: Prizes and certificates **will not be sent by mail**, and it is **not possible to collect trophies in advance**; they will be handed out on the **evening of the winners' concert**.
Failure to attend the award ceremony will result in the forfeiture of all prizes won.

Art. 12 – For concerts awarded as prizes at the indicated institutions, **reimbursements and any fees** will be determined **at the discretion of the hosting institutions**.

The Juries

Art. 13 – The judging panel is composed of **Conservatory professors**, as well as **highly renowned personalities** who, in various capacities, belong to the musical world.
The decisions of the **Judging Panel** are **final, unquestionable, and binding**. The panel also has the **right to publicly comment on the performances**, exclusively at the end of the evaluation of the relevant category.

Judgments must be expressed at the **end of each performance**. The jurors give their **scores out of 100**. The **final result** will be calculated by taking the **arithmetic average of the scores**, eliminating the **highest and lowest score**.

The jury reserves the **right, with proper justification**, to **withhold one or more prizes** or to **award any special prizes** made available by public and/or private institutions. In the case of a **tie in a category**, the judging panel may **split the prize equally**. The jury also has the **authority to listen to the competitors again** if deemed necessary.

Art. 14 – Jury members are **not allowed to enter their own students** in the competition. Jury members must also **abstain from voting** in case of **family relationships** or **previous teaching relationships** with competitors.

In accordance with the above, at the time of appointment, **each jury member must submit a declaration regarding their personal situation in relation to the competitors**.

General Rules and Participation Procedures

Art. 15 – The **competition registration fees**, as a contribution to organizational costs, are set at:

Category	Single fee for in-person participants
cat. Prime note	€ 20
cat. A	€ 20
cat. B	€ 20
cat. C	€ 30
cat. D	€ 30
cat. E	€ 30

Category	Preliminary round fee	Final round fee (paid only by finalists)
cat. F	€ 15	€ 40
cat. G	€ 15	€ 40
cat. H	€ 15	€ 50
cat. I	€ 20	€ 60
cat. Eccellenza	€ 20	€ 70

For those who pass the preliminary round in **categories F, G, H, I, and Excellence**, the **fee for the final round** must be paid **no later than April 5, 2026**.

Competition registration fees are non-refundable, except in the case of a category being canceled due to an insufficient number of participants. In such a case, the competitor may choose to **forfeit the audition or participate in the next higher category**. Competitors affected will be **promptly informed**.

Travel and accommodation expenses are entirely the responsibility of the competitor.

Art. 16 – The **registration form**, as per the form attached to the regulations (or a photocopy or typewritten copy of the form), must be **sent to the following address no later than:**

March 20, 2026

Completed **online through the website www.concorsopianisticoalbenga.it** on the **Registrations** page.

The **registration form**, signed by the candidate—or, in the case of minors, by the person exercising parental authority—must be accompanied by:

- **A valid identity document and/or self-certification**
- **Proof of bank transfer** to be made to the account of: **Comune di Albenga, c/o Unicredit Albenga**, IBAN: **IT76B0200849252000105262632**, Bank: **UNICREDIT, Branch Via Papa Giovanni XXIII, 69 – ALBENGA**, BIC: **UNCRITM1185**, for the amount corresponding to the **registration fee prescribed for the respective category**.

Note: In the **transfer reason**, the following must be specified in full:

“Name, Surname OF THE COMPETITOR – Registration 38th Piano Competition “Città di Albenga” – Cat.”.

- Competitors are required to indicate in the registration form the **name and address of their teacher** (if applicable). It is also **mandatory to indicate the duration in minutes of each piece performed**.
- **Art. 17** – The **Municipality of Albenga** assumes **no responsibility for delays or disruptions** in postal or electronic communications.
- **Art. 18** – **Incomplete or incorrect registration forms will not be accepted**.
- **Art. 19** – Auditions will take place from the **afternoon of April 10, 2026, until the morning of April 12, 2026**. The **detailed schedule** for each category will be published on the website **www.concorsopianisticoalbenga.it** after the registration deadline and will also

be available at the secretariat. **It is the competitors' responsibility to check the time of their own audition.** The Organizing Committee **assumes no responsibility for absences or forgetfulness** on the part of competitors.

- The **winners' concert** and award ceremony for **categories F, G, H, I, and Excellence** is scheduled for the **evening of Saturday, April 11, 2026.**
The **winners' concert** for **categories First Notes, A, B, C, D, and E** is scheduled for the **afternoon of Sunday, April 12, 2026.**

Art. 20 – Competitors must **arrive for auditions at the scheduled times** and will perform in **alphabetical order.** Competitors who are **absent at roll call** will be **excluded from the competition,** unless the auditions for their category have not yet concluded and the **delay is justified by force majeure.** In such cases, they will be heard **at the end of the performances for their respective category.**

Art. 21 – All auditions will be **open to the public.** Results will be **announced and posted at the end of each category's auditions.** Several **grand and upright pianos** will be available for both auditions and warm-up. Each competitor will be **guaranteed a reserved practice room** prior to their audition. Additionally, there will be rooms available for **open reservation.** In these rooms, competitors can **book piano time by writing their name** on a sheet posted in the morning at the entrance of each practice room. The **schedule of auditions** will be determined by the Organizing Committee. Competitors will also have the opportunity to **practice on the grand piano used for their audition,** at times determined daily by the Organizing Committee.

Art. 22 – Competitors must **submit to the secretariat, Palazzo Oddo – Via Roma 58,** an **identification document** and a **copy of the pieces to be performed,** on which they must write, in order: **Surname, First Name, and Category.** During registration, competitors will be given a **detailed program and the list of participants.**

Note: Photocopies of the pieces submitted to the secretariat **will not be returned,** but will instead be **destroyed according to current copyright regulations.**

Art. 23 – Any **recordings (video or audio),** radio or television broadcasts of category auditions, the final award concert, or any subsequent concerts, **do not entitle performers to any compensation.** Such recordings will remain the **exclusive property of the Municipality** and may be used for any purpose. By accepting these regulations, competitors **consent to the recording and photography** of the selections and the final concert, and their possible **publication on the competition's website or social media channels.**

Art. 24 – For information, contact **Prof. Isabella Vasile:** +39 339 7467598 (Monday – Friday, 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM), or send an email to **pianisticoalbenga@yahoo.it.** Further information is available on the website: **www.concorsopianisticoalbenga.it.**

Art. 25 – In accordance with current regulations on “**Personal Data Protection**”, the Municipality of Albenga informs that the data provided upon registration will be **stored and used exclusively** to send communications related to the competition and its future editions. Data subjects have the **right to access, update, delete, correct, or object to the use of their data.**

Art. 26 – The organization **assumes no responsibility** for any **damage to persons or property** during the course of the competition.

Art. 27 – Registration for the competition implies **consent to the publication of videos and photos** of the competitors on the competition’s **social media channels or website**, and the consequent **transfer of the participant’s image rights** (for minor participants, registration and the above consent **equates to consent given by parents or legal guardians**).

Art. 28 – Registration for the competition implies **unconditional acceptance** of these regulations and any **changes made by the Organizing Committee**.
For matters not covered in these regulations, the **Organizing Committee** is competent to decide and is entrusted with the **interpretation of the regulations themselves**.