

**RULES of the 13th INTERNATIONAL
PADEREWSKI PIANO COMPETITION IN BYDGOSZCZ
NOVEMBER 9th – 23rd, 2025**

I.

1. The 13th International Paderewski Piano Competition shall be held in Bydgoszcz from November 9th to November 23rd, 2025.

2. The Competition is organized to commemorate Ignacy Jan Paderewski, a remarkable pianist, virtuoso, composer, politician and statesman.

3. The Competition is organized by the Paderewski Music Association in Bydgoszcz, in the cooperation with the Feliks Nowowiejski Music Academy and the Paderewski Pomeranian Philharmonic.

The Competition is co-financed by:

- The Minister of Culture and National Heritage from the Fund for the Promotion of Culture, as part of the „Music” program implemented by the National Institute of Music and Dance
- The City of Bydgoszcz.

Partner of the Paderewski Piano Competition – Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region.

4. The Competition auditions shall be open to the public and shall take place in the concert halls of the Nowowiejski Academy of Music and the Paderewski Pomeranian Philharmonic in Bydgoszcz.

The following is an English translation of the official Polish language rules. Any disputes about this document or its application(s) will be governed by the rules written in Polish. Applicants should be well aware of these rules when applying to the 13th Paderewski International Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz. Applying to the Competition indicates acceptance of these rules.

II.

The Competition is open to pianists of all nationalities, born between 1993 and 2007.

To maintain equity in the judging process, **the following pianists are barred from the Competition:**

- pianists who over the last three years (since October 1st, 2022) were regular students of a Juror in any school or academy of music,
- pianists who over the last three years (since October 1st, 2022) took additional private classes with a Juror,
- pianists who are Juror 's relatives.

The above restrictions shall not apply to pianists who attended sporadically masterclasses held by a Juror, also online. The term 'sporadic' means one or two classes annually, which does not designate the competitor a "regular student" of the Juror.

III.

THE APPLICATION FORM.

1. The application form is available at <https://paderewskicompetition.pl/application-form/>
2. The following documents are required for a complete application, and should be submitted in the order below:
 - a) list of repertoire performed in each Stage of the Competition and duration of each work;
 - b) recent black and white photograph/headshot;
 - c) photocopy of the applicant's identity card, passport or other document confirming applicant's date of birth;
 - d) short artistic resume presenting previous concert experience, participation in other competitions, names of current and former professors, and completed schools;
 - e) photocopy of awarded diplomas, prizes, honourable mentions;
 - f) reference letter written by a well-known musician or the applicant's recent professor;
 - g) proof of entry fee payment amount of 150 Euro (net) into the following account:

Towarzystwo Muzyczne im. Paderewskiego (the Paderewski Music Association)
BANK: BNP Paribas Bank Polska S.A.
Address of the Bank: ul. Kasprzaka 10/16, 01-211 Warszawa
SWIFT/BIC: PPABPLPK
IBAN BANK PL 46 2030 0045 3110 0000 0028 4270 (Euro account)

3. All the documents required to apply shall be sent no later than April 22nd, 2025.

- a) the application shall contain all the required documents to be processed;
- b) application documents and entry fees are property of the Paderewski Music Association. These are all non-returnable/refundable.

4. After the Commission has reviewed all applications, applicants shall be informed of their acceptance to the Competition or their invitation to the Preliminary Auditions, on or before **April 30th, 2025**

5. The Office of the Competition reserves the right to accept or reject any application.

6. IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES ONLY

An applicant whose circumstances render them unable to travel for Preliminary Auditions may request that the Competition Office allow them submit their Preliminary Audition by video recording. Any video submissions are due **on June 15th, 2025**. Applicants must inquire in writing at info@paderewskicompetition.pl.

If approval is given, the applicant may send their Preliminary Audition program to the this e-mail: info@paderewskicompetition.pl.

NOTICE - Video Recorded Preliminary Audition requirements:

- the pianist's hands and whole silhouette/right profile must be visible;
- it shall be taken with one camera, without editing. To improve sound quality the use of external microphones is advised;

Recording shall be signed by the applicant and its authenticity must be confirmed by the pianist's professor or other well-known musician. Said confirmation shall also contain a telephone number, facilitating - if need be - direct contact;

IV.

THE PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS for the 13th International Paderewski Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz will take place in May – June 2025 in the following cities:

Warsaw	May 21st – 23rd, 2025 KAWAI Poland Showroom Warsaw Stock Exchange S.A building (entrance C with KAWAI's logo) Książęca Street No. 4, 00-498 Warsaw, Poland
Sacile	May 27th – 29th, 2025 Fazioli Concert Hall in Sacile Fazioli Pianoforti S.p.A. Via Ronche, 47, 33077 Sacile PN, Italy
Seoul	June 3rd – 4th, 2025 Spielenhaus and Spielen Art Hall 301, Geumjeong Building, 304 Banpo-daero, Seocho-gu, Seoul, Korea
Tokyo	June 6th – 7th, 2025 Yamaha Artist Service Tokyo Yamaha Ginza Building Annex Ginza 7-10-14, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0061, Japan
Shanghai	June 9th – 10th, 2025 Yamaha Music & Electronics (China) Co., Ltd. 2F, Yunhedasha, 1818 Xinzha-lu, Jingan-qu, Shanghai, P.R China 上海市静安区新闻路1818号云和大厦1-3楼
New York	June 17th – 18th, 2025 Yamaha Artist Services, Inc. 689 Fifth Avenue, 11th Floor, (entrance on 54 th St.) New York, NY 10022, USA
Vienna	June 24th – 26th, 2025 Yamaha Music Central Europe GmbH Branch Austria Schleiergasse 20, 1100 Vienna, Austria

* The order of performances will be arranged alphabetically. The organizer reserves the right to choose the date of the preselection.

V.

REPERTOIRE FOR PRELIMINARY AUDITIONS (maximum - 30 minutes)

1. Each competitor of preliminary auditions shall perform:

- a)** 2 virtuoso etudes (one of them by F. Chopin);
- b)** the first or more movements of a classical sonata (yet always inclusively with the first movement);
- c)** one or two works of competitor's choice, in different character, but not from the classical period.

VI. PRELIMINARY AUDITION RESULTS

1. The applicants shall be informed about the results of the Preliminary Auditions by **July 30th, 2025**.
2. No more than 40 pianists shall be admitted to the Competition, selected by at least two persons Preselection Jury, chaired by the Chairman of the Competition Jury.
3. The competitors shall - if need be - petition for a visa to enter Poland.

VII. MEDIA AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

All the auditions held for the competition and laureates' concert may be:

- a) broadcast free of charge by the radio, TV or the internet;
- b) recorded free of charge as the Chronicle of the Competition and then broadcast on TV, radio and Internet;
- c) photographed free of charge for the purposes of the Competition and the press.

By completing the application form, the applicant agree to the free use of personal data and image regarding the processing of the application and promotion of the 13th International Paderewski Piano Competition. According to the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), the data controller of the personal data information is the Paderewski Music Association in Bydgoszcz, the organizer of the Competition. Providing personal data is voluntary, but necessary to the processing of the application.

VIII. ACCOMMODATIONS

1. The Organizer of the Competition shall cover the costs of accommodation in Bydgoszcz for all the participants of the Competition from **November 8th, 2025**, the day before the beginning of the Competition, till the end of the 1st stage, **November 14th, 2025**.
2. If a competitor advances to the 2nd stage, the Organizers shall cover the cost of accommodation till **November 17th, 2025**.
3. For the competitors who advance to the semi-final stage, the Organizer shall cover the costs of accommodation **till the end of the Competition**.
4. All travel costs to and from Bydgoszcz shall be covered by the competitors.
5. The Organizers shall provide competitors with the opportunity to use instruments required to practice free of charge.

IX. PERFORMANCE ORDER, PIANO SELECTION

1. Competitors must register with the Competition's Office no later than **November 9th, 2025**.
2. An orientation meeting for Competitors and determination of the order of their appearance in the Competition is scheduled the day before the opening of the 1st stage: **November 9th, 2025 at 3 pm**. Order is determined by drawing lots.
3. **The presence of all Competitors is mandatory at the orientation meeting.**
4. The Competition will follow the order determined by drawing lots till throughout the Competition. Only in some exceptional cases may the Chairman of the Jury consent to alter the order.
5. On **November 8 - 9th, 2025**, Competitors will have scheduled time to select the instrument they will play in the competition. The pianos offered include concert grands of Steinway, Fazioli, Yamaha, and Shigeru Kawai.

X.

1. The Competition consists of two elimination stages, the semi-final and final stage.
2. In principle, no more than 20 competitors shall be admitted to the 2nd stage.
3. No more than 10 competitors shall be admitted to the semi-final stage and no more than 5 pianists to the final stage.

XI. REPERTOIRE RULES

1. The repertoire shall be performed from memory and completely. All works shall be performed only once during the Competition.
2. The Competitors shall provide the Competition's Office with all the scores of the works they intend to perform during the Competition.
3. Any changes to the repertoire shall be accepted provided that a competitor informs thereof the Competition's Office in writing **prior to September 10th, 2025.**
This is a firm deadline after which no proposed changes will be accepted.
4. The competitors must respect time limits of each Stage. The Jury reserves the right to interrupt performance if the time limits are not respected.

XII.

REPERTOIRE OF THE COMPETITION

1. The Paderewski Piano Competition offers participants the opportunity to perform the programs of their own choice. Thereby, the Organizers give pianists the chance to present their artistic personality, imagination and individuality.

2. NOTE:

Free choice of the repertoire is restricted by one condition only.

The repertoire performed throughout the Competition should contain works representing at least three different music styles.

3. The Jury will assess the programs and their performance, taking into account the pianists' ability to construct a recital program, understand and convey the depth of works representing a variety of styles, and thus demonstrate musicality and artistic personality.

XIII.

1st STAGE – performance duration 25-30 minutes

Free choice repertoire

2nd STAGE – performance duration 40-45 minutes

Repertoire:

1. All competitors in the 2nd stage shall include two or more works by I. J. Paderewski in their program.

All competitors shall select works from group A and B – at least one from each group.

A. from the series - Polish Dances op. 9:

No. 3. Mazurka in A major

No. 4. Mazurka in B-flat major

from the series - Album de Mai op.10:

No. 1. Au Soir

No. 2. Chant d'amour

from the series - Miscellanea op.16:

No. 1. Legend

No. 2. Melody

No. 3. Thème varié in A major

No. 4. Nocturne

No. 6. Un moment Musical

B. from the series - Polish Dances op. 9:

No. 6. Polonaise in B major

from the series - Album de Mai op. 10:

No. 3. Scherzino

No. 5. Caprice Valse

from the series - Humoresques de Concert op. 14:

No. 1. Menuet

No. 2. Sarabande

No. 3. Caprice /genre Scarlatti/

No. 4. Burlesque

No. 5. Intermezzo polacco

No.6. Cracovienne fantastique

2. The remaining works of the 2nd stage repertoire is determined by the competitors.

SEMI-FINAL

A. RECITAL - duration time 40–45 minutes

1. All the participants of Semifinal A shall perform a piece specially commissioned by and for the Competition (ca. 5 minutes long).

The score of the composition will be available after the announcement of the list of competition participants.

All the participants are obliged to first public performance of the compulsory piece during the Semi-Final of the Competition on November 18th - 19th, 2025. Public performance of the work before the scheduled date is not permitted.

2. The remaining works performed in Semifinal A - RECITAL shall be determined by the competitors.

B. W. A. MOZART PIANO CONCERTOS

Competitors in the semi-final stage shall perform one of W. A. Mozart piano concertos with the Chamber Orchestra:

No. 15 in B-flat major, K. 450

No. 17 in G major, K. 453

No. 19 in F major, K. 459

No. 20 in D minor, K. 466

No. 21 in C major, K. 467

No. 23 in A major, K. 488

No. 24 in C minor, K.491

No. 27 in B-flat major, K. 595

FINAL

The participants of the final stage shall perform with the Paderewski Pomeranian Philharmonic Orchestra one of the following piano concertos:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| I. J. Paderewski | - Concerto in A minor, Op. 17
- Polish Fantasy, Op. 19 |
| L. van Beethoven | - Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37
- Concerto No. 4 in G minor, Op. 58
- Concerto No. 5 in E-flat major, Op. 73 |
| F. Chopin | - Concerto No. 1 in E minor, Op. 11
- Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21 |
| R. Schumann | - Concerto in A minor, Op. 54 |
| F. Liszt | - Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major
- Concerto No. 2 in A major |
| J. Brahms | - Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15 |
| K. Szymanowski | - Symphonie concertante No. 4, Op. 60 |

XIV.

STATUTORY PRIZES

I prize	€ 30 000
II prize	€ 15 000
III prize	€ 7 000
IV prize	€ 3 000
V prize	€ 2 500

The Finalists shall also be awarded the title of the Laureate of the 13th International Paderewski Piano Competition in Bydgoszcz.

SPECIAL PRIZES

a) € 1 000 – for the best performance of I. J. Paderewski's works in the 2nd stage of the Competition;

a) € 1 000 – for the best performance of I. J. Paderewski's Sonata in E flat minor op. 21 or Variations and Fugue in E flat minor op. 23 or in the Final of the Competition Concerto in A minor op. 17 or Polish Fantasy op. 19;

c) € 1 000 – for the best performance of W. A. Mozart piano concerto;

d) € 1 000 – for the best Semi-final recital;

e) € 1 000 – for the best Polish participant classified to the Semi-final or Final.

NON-STATUTORY PRIZES

The Competition Office shall be notified of monetary and material prizes funded by individuals and institutions no later **than September 30, 2025**. These awards are non-statutory and shall be presented at the time of the laureates' concert. Monetary prizes shall be paid in deposited currency.

XV.

The pianists who advance to the Semi-final shall receive Participation Diplomas.

XVI. JURY

1. The Jury of the Competition consists of eminent Polish and foreign musicians.
2. The Chairman and the Members of the Jury are appointed by the Board of the Music Association in Bydgoszcz at the request of the Director of the Competition.
3. The workings of the Jury are based on Rules laid down separately.

XVII.

1. The Jury has the right to change the structure and number of prizes provided that the total sum assigned for the prizes is not changed, and particular prizes and honorable mentions shall not be lower than those provided for in the Rules.
2. The Jury awards special prizes but may also decide not to award any prize
3. The decisions of the Jury are irrevocable and not subject to appeal.

XVIII.

The verdict shall be announced during the final ceremony on **November 22nd, 2025**, shortly followed by the final auditions.

XIX.

1. Statutory prizes, special awards and non-statutory prizes shall be presented during prize-winners' concert staged in the Paderewski Philharmonic Hall on **November 23rd, 2025**.
2. All prize-winners will participate in this concert without compensation for their performances and perform the repertoire proposed by the Jury.
3. The laureates of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize shall take part in the prize-winners' concert staged in Warsaw in the National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw. The date will be announced.