

FVG Contemporary Talent Competition
and "Astor Piazzolla" Award 2026
Fourth Edition

The "FVG Contemporary Talent" Competition 2026 is now in its fourth edition. It takes place in Trieste, at the Auditorium of the Casa della Musica and the Sala Luttazzi, Magazzino 26, Trieste. The competition is open to young pianists, accordionists, bandoneonists, and ensembles of all nationalities. Participation in the "A. Piazzolla" Award is open to soloists and ensembles of up to five members, of any type and with no age limit; the section is dedicated to all new compositions and experimental works in Tango Nuevo.

The primary goal of the competition is to highlight and enhance the talent of young artists, including by encouraging international cultural exchanges, promoting the region hosting the competition, and, last but not least, encouraging young artists to explore, in some way, uncharted paths.

Starting with this 2026 edition, the "Anticoncorso: amatori" section will also be available, dedicated to non-professional pianists.

The competition will be held from June 25 to 28, 2026, with registration closing date May 31, 2026.

RULES

Art. 1. Competition Announcement.

The competition is open to young musicians, soloists or members of ensembles, of all nationalities.

Art. 2. Sections, Categories.

FIRST COMMISSION, piano section.

Section I: Piano Soloists. Categories: First Notes, A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

"Anti-Competition: Amateurs" Section, amateur pianists

SECOND COMMISSION, accordion section.

Section II: Accordion Soloists. Categories: A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

THIRD COMMISSION, Astor Piazzolla Prize.

Section III: "Astor Piazzolla Prize," reserved for soloists or ensembles of up to five members. Category H.

CATEGORIES:

SECTIONS I (piano) - II (accordion)

Prime Note Category: for those born in 2019 or later (piano only) - Elective program, maximum duration 8 minutes

Category A: for those born between 2016 and 2018 - Program of your choice, maximum duration 10 minutes

Category B: for those born between 2013 and 2015 - Program of your choice, maximum duration 10 minutes

Category C: for those born between 2010 and 2012 - Program of your choice, maximum duration 15 minutes

Category D: for those born between 2007 and 2009 - Program of your choice, maximum duration 15 minutes

Category E: for those born between 2003 and 2006 - Program of your choice, maximum duration 20 minutes

Category F: for those born between 2002 and 2005 - Free choice program, maximum duration 20 minutes

Category G: Adults up to 35 years of age - Free choice program, maximum duration 20 minutes

"Anti-competition: amateurs" Category (in Section I): (Amateur pianists of any nationality and origin, born before 1995, who are not professional pianists or have not been professional pianists for at least 10 years, without the need for any recognized academic qualification in piano studies). Free choice program, maximum duration 20 minutes.

SECTION III Astor Piazzolla Prize and Nuevo Tango Compositions

Category H: Soloists and ensembles of up to 5 members, without age limit. Free choice program (compositions by A. Piazzolla and any composition, including unpublished, of Nuevo Tango) maximum duration 20 minutes.

Art. 3. *Period.*

The auditions will take place in Trieste from June 25th to 28th, at the Auditorium of the Casa della Musica, Via dei Capitelli, 3.

The competition will open with the opening concert, scheduled for June 25th at the Sala Luttazzi, Magazzino 26, Trieste. Some of the concerts for the young talents awarded by the competition, as well as the concert of the overall winners, will also take place between the Sala Luttazzi, Magazzino 26, and the Casa della Musica, Via dei Capitelli, 3.

Art. 4. *Auditions.*

Competitors will be admitted to the auditions in alphabetical order. The audition schedule for each Category will be announced by June 15, 2026. All auditions will be public. Competitors are required to check the date and time of their auditions on the website www.puntomusicale.org.

Competitors must arrive half an hour before their audition for roll call. Latecomers may be admitted only at the sole discretion of the Jury, before the closing of the minutes for their Category. Before their Audition, competitors must submit to the Jury an identity document and three copies of the pieces to be performed.

Art. 5. *Juries.*

The Juries will be composed of international music personalities, and their decisions will be final and binding.

Art. 6. Any recordings, radio, or television broadcasts of the auditions will not entitle the participant to any compensation.

Art. 7. Travel and accommodation expenses for participants and their companions will be borne by them.

Art. 8. The organization assumes no responsibility for risks or damages of any kind that may arise to competitors during the entire event.

Art. 9. *Scores, prizes, concerts.*

The overall winner for each category is the competitor with the highest score, no lower than 98/100. Competitors with a score of 95/100 or higher are awarded first place. Competitors with a score of 90/100 or higher are awarded second place. Competitors with a score of 85/100 or higher are awarded third place.

All first-, second-, and third-place competitors will receive a prize and a Certificate of Participation. All other competitors will receive a Certificate of Participation.

A final concert will be held, featuring the most outstanding artists.

The overall winners of the three sections with the highest overall scores (no lower than 98/100) will receive paid concerts starting in August 2026 as part of the "Note del Timavo - Tango da Pensare" Concert Season, 39th edition, 2026-27. These concerts will be assigned by the Competition Directors based on the recommendations of the various judging panels.

For the "Anticoncorso: amatori" section (amateur pianists), all participants will receive a diploma of merit (without a grade) and a brief written evaluation from the jury. The concert will take place during the musical evenings scheduled during the competition period. Additional concerts may be held during the Concert Season, at the sole discretion of the jury and the artistic director.

Art. 10. Competences.

For any matters not specifically stated in these regulations, the artistic director of the competition, together with the Presidents of the various judging panels, are responsible for deciding on the interpretation of these regulations based on the Italian text.

Art. 11. Registration Fees.

Sections I - II: Piano, Accordion - First Notes (piano only), A, B, €50.00

Sections I - II: Piano, Accordion - Categories C, D, E, F, G €65.00

"Anti-competition: amateurs" section: €90.00 (when registering, it is mandatory to indicate your profession with a self-declaration. Students must declare that they do not attend conservatories or academies for professional purposes.)

Section III: Astor Piazzolla Prize and Tango Nuevo compositions - Category H, €65.00 for soloists, €35.00 for each group member

Art. 12. Application form.

The registration form can be filled out using the specific form provided by the Organizer or a copy thereof.

Participants can download it from the website www.puntomusicale.org. The application, accompanied by proof of payment of the registration fee, must be submitted by email or delivered to the Competition Secretariat no later than May 31, 2026. The registration fee can be paid by bank transfer to: Associazione Culturale Punto Musicale – Via Carducci, 30 – 34125 Trieste - ITALY Banca Cassa Rurale FVG, Sistiana Branch, whose bank details are: BIC/SWIFT- Code: CCRTIT2T96A, IBAN: IT59B0862236460022000000871. REASON FOR PAYMENT: indicate the candidate's name – Section – Category – Instrument. All bank and/or postal charges are the competitor's responsibility. The registration fee is non-refundable. For ensembles with multiple instruments, a single transfer for the total amount is required.

Art. 13. Common Rules.

Competitors may register for a Category above their age and participate in multiple Competition Sections, but not multiple Categories within the same Section. While the maximum time limit established for each Category does not oblige competitors to reach it, the Jury reserves the right to interrupt the performance if it exceeds the set limits. The Jury reserves the right to have performances repeated or interrupted (if deemed appropriate) or to select the pieces to be performed. Performance from memory is not required. The jury's final decision is final.

The selections will be announced and published on the website www.puntomusicale.org by April 2026.

Art. 14. Teacher Award.

The teacher who presents the greatest number of award winners will receive a Diploma of Honor.

Art. 15. Final Rules.

The organizers will provide only the piano for competitors. Candidates must bring all instruments and accessories necessary for their performance. Registration for the Competition implies full and unconditional acceptance of the provisions of these Regulations.

For information on hospitality, please visit www.puntomusicale.org and access the section dedicated to the competition.