

Rules
3rd Music Competition
“VILLA DE BILBAO”
PIANO & VIOLIN
May 15-18, 2026



H I N V E S



Third Music Competition

“VILLA DE BILBAO”

Rules

1. Participation

Pianists and violinists of all nationalities may participate in the competition, with no residency restrictions. The official languages of the contest are Spanish, Euskera and English.

2. Sections and Categories

The contest is divided into two sections:

- SECTION 1: PIANO
- SECTION 2: VIOLÍN

Each section is divided into nine categories, defined by age. However, participants may opt for a higher category that corresponds to their age (for example, anyone born on April 20, 2008, can participate in any of the categories F, G, H, or I).

- CATEGORY A: born after January 1, 2018 (inclusive)
- CATEGORY B: born after January 1, 2016 (inclusive)
- CATEGORY C: born after January 1, 2014 (inclusive)
- CATEGORY D: born after January 1, 2012 (inclusive)
- CATEGORY E: born after January 1, 2010 (inclusive)
- CATEGORY F: born after January 1, 2008 (inclusive)
- CATEGORY G: born after January 1, 2006 (inclusive)
- CATEGORY H: born after January 1, 2004 (inclusive)
- CATEGORY I: born after January 1, 1994 (inclusive)

3. Dates and venue

The Contest will be held between May 15 - 18, 2026, at the Conservatorio Profesional de Música “Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga”, Plaza Ibarrekolanda 1, 48015 Bilbao.

4. Registration

The payment of the following fees is mandatory to register in the Contest:

- Categorías A, B y C: 40 €.
- Categorías D, E y F: 50 €.
- Categorías G, H e I: 60 €.

Violin section participants must bring their own accompanying pianist. If they do not have one, the organization will provide a pianist at no cost for categories A, B, C, D, E, and F. For categories

G, H, and I, participants who require a pianist provided by the organization must pay the corresponding fee:

- Categories G, H, and I - Violin section: €100 (if an accompanying pianist is required)

The fees have to be paid by bank transfer, with the following data:

IBAN Code: ES39 2095 0292 9132 3900 0567

SWIFT Code (BIC): BASKES2BXXX

Name of the Bank: Kutxabank

Titular of the account: Universidad del País Vasco - Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea

Concept: "NAME SURNAME" piano competition VILLA DE BILBAO

Registration is open from the date of publication of these rules until the following dates:

- Section 1 (piano), all the categories: April 20, 2026
- Section 2 (violín), all the categories: April 20, 2026

Only those participants who have correctly completed the registration and paid the fees, within the established period, will be considered registered. Under no circumstances will registration fees, once paid, be refunded.

Registrations will be made electronically, through the [Contest website](#), by completing the form found in the "registrations", providing the following:

1. Name and surname, date of birth, full address, email and mobile phone.
2. Section and Category in which you participate
3. Name of the work(s) and/or movement(s) with which you are competing; name(s) of the composer(s) and duration of each work and/or movement.

They will also have to upload the form:

1. Copy of ID or passport
2. Proof of payment of the registration fee
3. Academic resume, no more than one page, in pdf format, indicating the professors with whom you have studied in the last two years.
4. Authorization of parents or legal guardians to participate for minors under 18 years of age.
5. Authorization for the publication of photos and videos of the participants, on the different digital platforms and social networks related to the Contest.

5. Repertoire

The repertoire will be free choice. In categories A, B, C, D, E, F movements of works may be interpreted. In categories G, H, I, the works must be presented complete, with the exception of those parts or movements that have already been consolidated in the repertoire as independent, or those cycles of pieces that, due to their length or characteristics, are common. and accepted to perform a selection of them in concert. In any case, the inclusion of said works must be consulted and explicitly accepted by the Artistic Directorate of the Contest before the registration period ends.

Only original works for piano (in the piano section) or violin (in the violin section) will be admitted, except in those cases consecrated by tradition, consolidated in the concert repertoire of the instrument, having to be consulted and accepted, explicitly, by the Artistic Direction of the Contest, before the registration period ends.

In the event that the contestant presents more than one work and/or movement, the order of interpretation will be as detailed in the registration.

The repertoire cannot be changed once it has been accepted by the Artistic Directorate of the Contest.

Participants, at the time of their performance, must provide the Jury with 5 photocopies of the works with which they are competing.

It will not be mandatory to perform the repertoire from memory.

6. Duration of the performances

- CATEGORY A: max 3 min
- CATEGORY B: max 4 min
- CATEGORY C: max 5 min
- CATEGORY D: max 8 min
- CATEGORY E: max 10 min
- CATEGORY F: max 12 min
- CATEGORY G: 25 min
- CATEGORY H: max 30 min
- CATEGORY I: max 40 min.

If the scheduled time is exceeded, the Jury may interrupt the contestant's test.

7. Dates and timetable

The dates and times of the tests will be announced once the registration period has closed, through the contest website.

The Competition will take place at the Conservatorio "Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga" (Plaza Ibarrekolanda 1, 48015 Bilbao). Contestants must be at the scheduled time and place and will be provided with their ID or document that proves their identity.

8. Order of performances

The order of performance of each participant will be determined by randomly picking up a letter, carried out before the beginning of each category.

9. Closing and Awards Ceremony

The event's closing ceremony will be held on May 30, 2026. Further details about the time and location will be announced soon. At this event, the prizes will be awarded to the absolute winners of each category, and the special BCAM prize. The event will conclude with a closing concert by the award-winning contestants of categories G,H,I of both sections.

10. Jury

The Jury will be made up of prestigious pianists, designated by the Artistic Director of the Competition. The President of the Jury may interrupt a performance if it exceeds the established duration, or if he considers that it is sufficient to evaluate the performer, which does not imply a negative or positive evaluation of the interpretation. The Jury may declare the Awards void.

The Jury's ruling will be final.

11. Awards

The Jury will assign a natural number less than or equal to 100 to each contestant as a score. In all categories, the following prizes will be awarded:

- ABSOLUTE 1ST PRIZE: score greater than or equal to 98
- 1ST PRIZE: score between 95 and 97 (extremals included)
- 2ND PRIZE: score between 90 and 94 (extremals included)
- 3RD PRIZE: score between 85 and 89 (extremals included)
- 4TH PRIZE: score between 80 and 84 (extremals included)

The absolute 1st prize winners in each category will receive a plaque and a diploma during the closing ceremony.

All other winning contestants will receive a medal and a diploma once the corresponding category has been completed and the results announced.

All contestants will receive a participation certificate.

For categories G, H, I, the following prizes will also be awarded:

- Category G: Two concerts shared with the winners of Category H: one at the Bilbao Conservatory and another at the Hives Hall in Madrid + a scholarship of €500 to cover the travel expenses incurred by these concerts.
- Category H: Two concerts shared with the winners of Category G: one at the Bilbao Conservatory and another at the Hives Hall in Madrid + a Scholarship of €750, to cover the travel expenses incurred by these concerts.
- Category I: A concert for the Bilbaina Society and another one, shared between piano and violin, at the Hives Hall in Madrid + a Scholarship of €1,000. to cover the travel expenses incurred by these concerts.

The amount of the prizes, in accordance with current legislation, will be subject to the corresponding tax withholding.

12. Acceptance of the rules

Registration in the contest implies acceptance of these rules in their entirety. The organization reserves the right to modify the bases and/or schedules, to benefit the proper development of the contest, notifying the participants with sufficient advance notice.

13. Other requirements and observations

- The organization will have the right to record, by any audiovisual means, any activity related to the Contest (tests and closing ceremony), reserving the right to use these recordings for any promotional use it deems appropriate.
- During the performances, an official photographer and/or videographer from the organization will take images of them, always trying to minimize, as far as possible, the sound and visual impact of their work.

14. Artistic Direction

The artistic direction of the contest will be in charge of:

- Luca Fanelli (Ikerbasque Research Professor, Distinguished Researcher at UPV/EHU & BCAM, panel of the Mathematics Area at the National Research Agency (Spain); pianist).
Webpage: <https://www.ikerbasque.net/es/luca-fanelli>

The artistic co-direction of the contest will be in charge of:

- Rubén Darío Reina (RTVE Orquesta; violinist)
- Ales Larrazabal (Head of the Bilbao Conservatorium; pianist)
- Maite Villate (Full Professor at Bilbao Conservatorium; pianist)

15. Contacto

The organization of the event will be in charge of *Magdalena Strugaru* (Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science and Technology, UPV/EHU).

Email of the organization: contactovilladebilbao@gmail.com