



Ettore Pozzoli

International Piano Competition

RULES
OF THE XXXIV INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION
ETTORE POZZOLI
FROM 20TH TO 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025



Città di Seregno

CONSERVATORIO
DI MILANO

CASA RICORDI



WORLD FEDERATION
OF INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC COMPETITIONS



Fondazione
Alink-Argerich



**RULES OF THE XXXIV INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION ETTORE
POZZOLI
FROM 20th TO 28th SEPTEMBER 2025**

To honor the memory of Ettore Pozzoli, illustrious composer, teacher and the pride of Italian music, an International Piano Competition has been held every two years since 1959 in his home town Seregno (Monza Brianza), Italy.

ADMISSION

Admission is open to pianists born on or after 1st January 1993.

An application process must be completed by filling in the form found on this website www.concorsopozzoli.it

Two video recordings must be submitted by **Saturday 31st May 2025** as indicated in the guidelines annexed to these rules.

The registration fee is € 90,00.

The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- identity document;
- two recent half-length photographs in high-resolution digital format;
- performance repertoire;
- curriculum vitae
- proof of payment of the application fee of €90,00 (net of bank charges), to be paid by:
 - bank transfer to:
Banca Popolare di Milano - Tesoreria Comunale - Concorso Pianistico Internazionale Ettore Pozzoli
IBAN IT 77 G 05034 33842 000000019900 - BIC (o SWIFT) BAPPIT21B56
indicating the candidate's name;
 - PayPal on the website www.concorsopozzoli.it (€94,00 charges included).

The entry fee is not refundable.

FIRST STAGE – Preliminary round

In order to participate in the Competition, applicants must submit two video recordings, one of candidate's presentation in English lasting 2 minutes, and the other lasting between 18 and 22 minutes, according to the instructions listed in the annex to these Rules. The repertoire must include:

1. one étude by Chopin
2. one Romantic piece of candidate's choice
3. one 20th century piece of candidate's choice
4. one piece of candidate's choice from "Riflessi del Mare" by Ettore Pozzoli.

The Ettore Pozzoli's etude "Riflessi del mare" can be requested at the following address: staff@concorsopozzoli.it

By **Monday 30th June 2025**, eligible candidates will be notified of their admission to the second stage of the Competition. This official notification can be used for visa procedures.



SECOND STAGE

Up to 30 candidates will be admitted to the second stage.

Eligible candidates will be examined in an order which will be decided by means of a draw. The order of the candidates' Competition performances will be drawn the day before auditions.

Only the Chairman of the Jury can change the sequence of a day's performances due to unforeseeable circumstances. For the finals with **Orchestra**, the order can be modified for organizational or programmed-related reasons.

Contestants who are not available to perform when required will be disqualified.

The program submitted with the application form is binding and cannot be modified. Each performance must be executed from memory. Repeating a piece already played in other rounds, is not allowed.

The order of pieces' performance is at the candidate's discretion.

Through the proposed pieces, candidates must show their ability to deal with different composers, periods and styles.

Repeats may be included or omitted at the candidate's discretion, bearing in mind the time limits specified. Should the contestant overrun the time limit, the Jury may stop his/her performance.

All auditions of the competition will be open to the public and will be **web-streamed**.

All audio-video recordings produced by the Pozzoli Competition are the property of the Competition with regard to commercial rights and other.

PROGRAMME – SECOND STAGE

First round (qualifying)

A maximum of 20 minutes' repertoire including:

1. Two études by different composers chosen among Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, Liapounov, Skrjabin, Debussy, Ligeti, Bartok, Rachmaninov, Stravinski;
2. One Prelude and Fugue from Bach's "Well-tempered Clavier";
3. One piece of the candidate's own choice.

Second round (qualifying)

Up to 16 contestants will be admitted to the second round.

A maximum of 40 minutes' repertoire of personal choice including:

1. a sonata by Beethoven
2. three études by Ettore Pozzoli selected from:
 - Studi di media difficoltà n. 8, n. 21 and n. 25
 - Studi a moto rapido (candidate's choice)
 - Studi sulle note ribattute (candidate's choice)

Candidates wishing to present Beethoven's Sonata op. 106 may exceed the maximum duration allowed.

The Ettore Pozzoli's studies can be requested by writing to the following address: staff@concorsopozzoli.it

Third round (semi-final)

Up to 9 contestants will be admitted to the third round.

A free choice program with a maximum duration of 50 minutes.



Fourth round (final)

Up to 3 contestants will be admitted to the final with orchestra.

Performance of one of the following concertos which will be accompanied by the **Orchestra**:

Mozart

Concert in E flat major K 271
Concert in G major K 453
Concert in D minor K 466
Concert in C major K 467
Concert in E flat major K 482
Concert in A major K 488
Concert in C minor K 491
Concert in C major K 503
Concert in B flat major K 595

Beethoven

Concert n. 1 in C major op. 15
Concert n. 2 in B flat major op. 19
Concert n. 3 in C minor op. 37
Concert n. 4 in G major op. 58
Concert n. 5 in E flat major op. 73

Chopin

Concert n. 1 in E minor op. 11
Concert n. 2 in F minor op. 21

Schumann

Concert in A minor op. 54

Liszt

Concert n. 1 in E flat major
Concert n. 2 in A major

Brahms

Concert n. 1 in D minor op. 15

Grieg

Concert in A minor op. 16

Tchaikovsky

Concert n. 1 in B flat minor op. 23

Rachmaninov

Concert n. 2 in C minor op. 18
Concert n. 3 in D minor op. 30

JURY

Eligible candidates will be examined by an international Jury consisting of outstanding musicians. No jurors are allowed to have their own students competing. In this regard, before the start of the Competition, each member of the jury will sign a special statement. In the event that a competitor turns out to have studied or participated in courses with a member of the jury, he/she will be disqualified.

The Mayor of Seregno may attend the Jury's sessions.



The Competition's secretary is involved in all activities.
All decisions made by the Jury will be final and unappealable.

PRIZES

First Prize

Prize in memory of Dr Francesco Scamazzo (1950-2023), doctor and great music passionate, offered by his wife Donata Nobili.

- 16.00,00 euro
- Concerts offered by public and private institutions to be performed in the two following seasons.

Second Prize

- 10.000,00 euro

Third Prize

- 5.000,00 euro

Special Prize "Diventerò" Project - Fondazione Bracco for Young People

Prize offered by the Bracco Foundation to the best semifinalist

- 2.500,00 euro offered by Fondazione Bracco.
- A concert

Special Prize Rotary Se.De.Ca.

Prize offered by Rotary Se.de.Ca. for the best performance of the Beethoven Sonata

- 2.500,00 euro
- A concert

Special Prize to the Best Performance of the Pozzoli Etudes

Prize in memory of Professor Angelo Biella (1923-2015), doctor and great passionate and supporter of the Pozzoli Competition since his first editions and Bishop Giuseppe Biella (1906-1967), pupil and colleague of Ettore Pozzoli.

- 1.000,00 euro

Special Prize to the Youngest Italian

Prize in memory of Luigi Pontiggia (1919-1987), renowned tenor from Seregno.

- 1.000,00 euro

Special Prize to the Youngest Foreign

Prize in memory of Giulio Confalonieri (1896-1972), distinguished composer and active promoter of the Competition until 1972.

- 1.000,00 euro

Special Audience Prize to the Finalist Chosen by the Public during the Final

- 500,00 euro voucher to purchase methods and music sheets offered by Casa Ricordi, to be spent online (dealers chosen by Casa Ricordi).

Nkoda Prize

- Nkoda yearly subscription to the 3 finalists.

An honorary diploma will be awarded to all contestants admitted to the semi-final.

Notes:

Cash awards may be subjected to Italian income tax laws.



OTHER INFORMATION

Applicants are requested to inform the office of the Competition about the date and time of their arrival in Seregno.

Nevertheless, they are required to appear with a document of identification for the roll call on **Saturday 20th September 2025 at 5 p.m.** at the office of the Pozzoli Competition.

Latecomers will be excluded from the Competition.

Candidates will be provided free of charge with:

- Pianos for daily practice

All participants will be awarded a reimbursement for meal and accommodation (non-cumulative) as follows:

- Competitors admitted to the first round up to a maximum of € 210.00
- Competitors admitted to the second round up to a maximum of € 350,00
- Competitors admitted to the third round up to a maximum of € 420.00
- Finalists and special prizes competitors up to a maximum of € 630.00

Reimbursement will be made by bank transfer upon submission of proof of expenses for room and board of the competitor during the competition period in Seregno.

First, second and third prize winning candidates, as well as special prize winners, are required to attend Sunday 28th September 2025, the award ceremony and concert of the winners at the Verdi Hall of the Milan Conservatory of Music.

Candidates should consider themselves bound to fulfill this commitment.

Registration for the competition implies the implicit acceptance of all the rules of the regulation. The Executive Committee of the International Piano Competition "Ettore Pozzoli" reserves the right to make any organizational changes if needed.

The Competition organization declines all responsibility in the event of accidents to persons or property during the course of the competition.

For further information and updates, please contact:

Segreteria Concorso Pozzoli

Piazza Martiri della Libertà n. 2

20831 SEREGNO (MB) - Italia

e-mail: staff@concorsopozzoli.it

sito: www.concorsopozzoli.it

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ettorepozzoli

CALENDAR

Saturday 31st May 2025

Application deadline for Preliminary round

Monday 30th June 2025

Notification to admitted candidates to the Second stage

Saturday 20th September 2025

Roll call participants and drawing of the performance order

Sunday 21st September 2025

First round (qualifying)

Monday 22nd September 2025



First Round (qualifying)

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Second round (qualifying)

Wednesday 24th September 2025

Second round (qualifying)

Thursday 25th September 2025

Third round (semifinal)

Friday 26th September 2025

Finalists rehearsing with the Orchestra at the San Rocco Theatre.

Saturday 27th September 2025

Fourth round (final) with Orchestra and winner announcement in Seregno

Sunday 28th September 2025

Award ceremony and concert of the winners at the Verdi hall of the Conservatory of Milan