

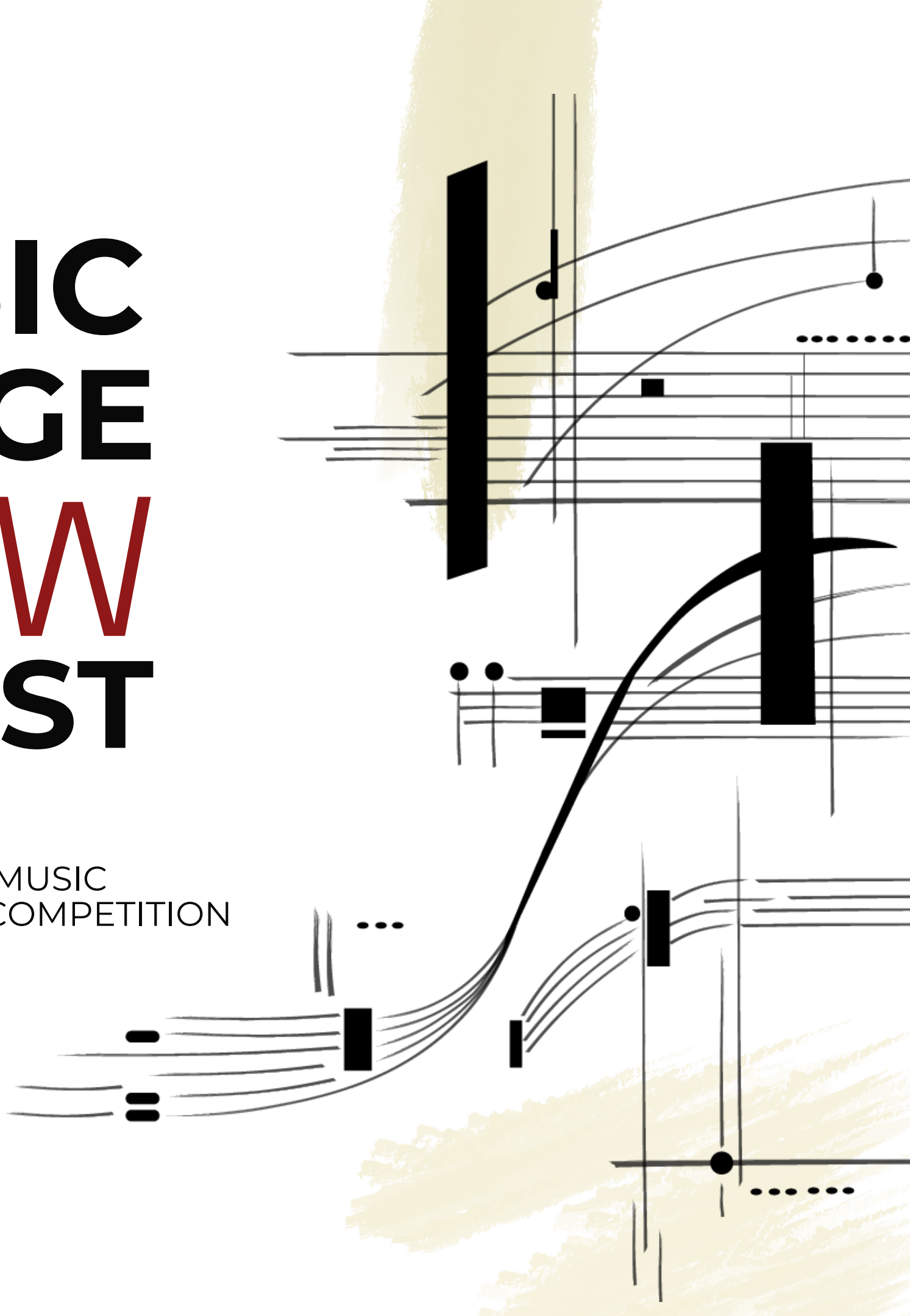


MUSIC FORGE NEW ARTIST

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC
PERFORMANCE COMPETITION

Second Edition

2026



YOU CAN APPLY NOW

**“MUSIC FORGE
NEW ARTIST COMPETITION”**

Deadline 10 september 2026

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ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPANTS

STAGE 1 – ONLINE PRELIMINARY ROUND

Applications open until September 10, 2026

STAGE 2 – FINAL ROUND

10 finalists will be invited to perform in Lucera (FG), Italy, on October 17, 2026

MusicForgeStudio, an independent record label, music production studio, artist management agency, and artistic promotion platform, announces the **Second Edition of the MusicForge New Artist International Music Performance Competition.**

The competition has been established as an international talent scouting initiative aimed at awarding one MusicForgeStudio Recording Contract to an outstanding artist or ensemble.

The recording contract will be awarded to the participant who demonstrates exceptional artistic quality, interpretative originality, and strong professional development potential.

Article 1

The competition is open to musicians of all nationalities, with no age restrictions, belonging to one of the following categories:

- Instrumental Soloists
- Vocal Soloists
- Chamber Ensembles
- Choirs
- Orchestras and Large Ensembles

Participants may perform published or unpublished repertoire, with particular attention to classical music, contemporary music, jazz, and new artistic productions.

At the conclusion of the online preliminary round, the Artistic Committee will select the finalists and, during the Live Final in Lucera, will award the Grand Prize and all category awards.

The Grand Prize consists of a **MusicForgeStudio contract including a €3,000 reimbursement , the professional production, recording, post-production, publication, and distribution of a music album**, according to the terms established by the organization.

The competition is conceived as an international artistic scouting project dedicated to discovering and supporting emerging musicians for inclusion in the MusicForgeStudio artistic and recording catalogue.

SECTIONS AND CATEGORIES

The competition is divided into four sections:

SECTION 1 – SOLOISTS

- Category A – Born after 2016
- Category B – Born between 2012 and 2015
- Category C – Born between 2009 and 2011
- Category D – Born before 2010

SECTION 2 – CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

- Category E – Average age under 16
- Category F – Average age over 16

SECTION 3 – CHOIRS

- Category G – Average age under 16
- Category H – Average age over 16

SECTION 4 – ORCHESTRAS

- Category I – Average age under 16
- Category L – Average age over 16

CATEGORY

SECTION 1 – SOLOISTS

The Soloists section includes instrumentalists and singers performing either with or without accompaniment. Accompaniment may be provided by backing tracks or by musicians who are not registered as competitors.



A-Born after 2015	_____	€ 25,00
B-Born between 2011 and 2014	_____	€ 35,00
C-Born between 2008 and 2010	_____	€ 65,00
D-18 years and older	_____	€ 75,00



Awards Available

- Grand Prize – MusicForge New Artist
- MusicForge Young Talent Award

CATEGORY

SECTION 2 – CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

The Chamber Ensembles section includes instrumental, vocal, or mixed ensembles, with or without electronic instruments, consisting of 2 to 11 performers. Each ensemble must designate a contact person and compete under an official ensemble name, which will be used throughout the competition.



E- Average age under 16 years	_____	€95,00
F-Average age above 16 years	_____	€155,00



Premi in palio:

- Grand Prize – MusicForge New Artist
- MusicForge Chamber Music Award

CATEGORY

SECTION 3 – CHOIRS

The Choirs section includes vocal ensembles consisting of more than 11 singers.

Each choir must designate a contact person and compete under an official ensemble name.



I-Average age under 16 years ————— €125,00

L-Average age above 16 years ————— €250,00



Premi in palio:

- Grand Prize – MusicForge New Artist
- MusicForge a cappella Award

CATEGORY

SECTION 4 – ORCHESTRAS

The Orchestras section includes instrumental or mixed ensembles (instrumentalists and choir), with or without electronic instruments, consisting of more than 11 performers. Each orchestra must designate a contact person and compete under an official ensemble name.



G-Average age under 16 years	_____	€290,00
H-Average age above 16 years	_____	€390,00



Premi in palio:

- Grand Prize – MusicForge New Artist
- MusicForge Orchestra Award

FORMAT

The competition consists of two phases.

STAGE 1 – ONLINE PRELIMINARY ROUND

The Jury will evaluate videos of up to 12 minutes submitted via YouTube (or another accepted platform) through the online application form between 30 April and 10 September 2026.

Each performance will be assessed according to the evaluation criteria described in Article 5, and competitors will receive a score out of 100. Category prizes will be awarded according to the following scoring system:

- Below 85 points – Certificate of Participation
- 85–89 points – Third Prize
- 90–94 points – Second Prize
- 95–97 points – First Prize
- 98–100 points – Absolute First Prize and qualification for Stage 2 (Final Round)

All participants will receive, by 20 September 2026, a digital certificate issued by MusicForgeStudio indicating their result (Participation, Merit or Prize), together with their final score and the Jury's comments.

Certificates will bear the digital signatures of the Jury members and a MusicForgeStudio representative.

On the same date, the 10 finalists selected for Stage 2 will be notified by email.

**Participants receiving a score of 84/100 or below will receive a Certificate of Participation.*

FORMAT

STAGE 2 – FINAL ROUND AND WINNERS' CONCERT

If fewer than ten competitors receive the Absolute First Prize, the remaining finalists will be selected from among the First Prize winners according to an overall provisional ranking.

Priority will be given to:

- competitors with the highest score;
- in the event of a tie, the younger soloist or the ensemble, choir, or orchestra with the lower average age.

The selected finalists must confirm their participation by paying the €45 Final Round participation fee, regardless of their category, through the dedicated online form available on the MusicForgeStudio website or via the link sent by email from 15 September 2026. Competitors who fail to confirm their participation within five days of notification will be considered withdrawn and replaced by the next eligible competitor in the provisional ranking.

The Final Round will take place in Lucera (FG), Italy, on 17 October 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All performances will be presented live before the four Jury members and a representative of MusicForgeStudio. The official awards ceremony will take place during the Winners' Concert at 9:30 p.m. on the same day.

REPERTOIRE

The repertoire for the Final Round must be submitted by email upon registration for Phase 2. The total performance time may not exceed 30 minutes.

JURY

The Jury for both stages of the Competition shall consist of four distinguished musicians, together with one alternate member. All Jury members are internationally recognized performers, composers, conductors, educators, or music professionals with extensive artistic experience and a proven record of international activity.

The names and biographies of the Jury members will be published on the official MusicForgeStudio website before the opening of the Competition.

The Jury has been appointed to ensure a balanced representation of different musical backgrounds, artistic disciplines, and professional expertise, thereby guaranteeing a fair and impartial evaluation of all participants, regardless of their instrument, ensemble type, or repertoire.

Should a Jury member have a direct pedagogical or professional relationship with a competitor, that member shall abstain from evaluating the competitor concerned and will be replaced by the alternate Jury member for that evaluation.

All decisions of the Jury are final and not subject to appeal

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING METHOD

Stage 1

Each juror will evaluate performances according to the following criteria:

Candidate	Technical Ability, Virtuosity and Musicality	Expressiveness, Phrasing and Interpretation	Stylistic Consistency, Repertoire Selection and Performance	Creativity	Total
Mario Rossi	29/30	17/30	21/30	6/10	73/100

Example of the Final Jury Score

Juror 1	Juror 2	Juror 3	Juror 4	Average Score
73/100	87/100	94/100	95/100	87/100

MusicForgeStudio Scouting Bonus

Candidate	Jury Score	MusicForgeStudio Scouting Bonus	Total
Mario Rossi	87/100	6/6	93/100

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING METHOD

Stage 2:

Each juror will evaluate performances according to the following criteria:

Candidate	Technical Ability, Virtuosity and Musicality	Expressiveness, Phrasing and Interpretation	Stylistic Consistency, Repertoire Selection and Performance	Creativity	Total
Mario Rossi	29/30	17/30	21/30	6/10	73/100

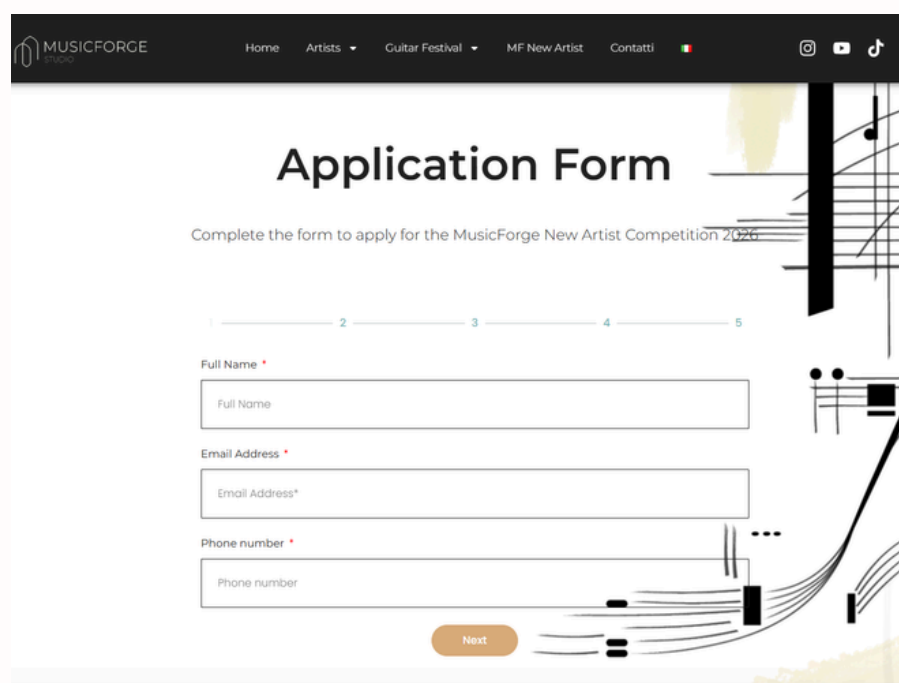
Example of the evaluation form used during the Final Round:

Cadidate	Jury Average Score	MusicForgeStudio Scouting Bonus	Total
Mario Rossi	73/100	4 di 5 massimi assegnabili	77/100

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the official online application form available on the MusicForgeStudio website.

<https://musicforgestudio.site/iscrizione-mfnewartists/>

A screenshot of the MusicForgeStudio website's application form. The header is dark with the MusicForge logo and navigation links: Home, Artists, Guitar Festival, MF New Artist, and Contatti. The main heading is "Application Form" with a subtitle "Complete the form to apply for the MusicForge New Artist Competition 2026". Below this is a progress bar with five steps, where step 1 is active. The form fields are: "Full Name" (with a red asterisk), "Email Address" (with a red asterisk), and "Phone number" (with a red asterisk). Each field has a corresponding input box. At the bottom right of the form is an orange "Next" button. The background of the form area features faint musical notes and staff lines.

Should applicants experience any difficulties during the registration process, they may contact the MusicForgeStudio staff via email or WhatsApp.

Assistance is available from Monday to Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (CET).

HOW TO APPLY

Application Requirements

To complete the application for Stage 1, applicants must provide:

1. A publicly accessible link to a video recording of their performance;
2. A description, in English or Italian, of no more than 500 words, presenting the recording project they intend to produce should they be awarded the Grand Prize.

The submitted video and project description constitute the only materials considered during the evaluation of Stage 1.

The video title must include the name of the performer or ensemble and the title(s) of the work(s) performed.

For chamber ensembles, choirs and orchestras, the video description must also include the names of all performers.

Video Requirements

1. The video should preferably be recorded in landscape format and must clearly show all performers throughout the entire performance.

2. The recording must consist of one continuous take. Video cuts, edits or visual manipulations that could compromise the authenticity of the performance are not permitted.
3. *The audio quality should represent the live performance as faithfully as possible. Poor audio quality may negatively affect the Jury's evaluation.*
4. *Introductory or closing title screens are permitted. If multiple works are performed consecutively, all titles must be listed in the video description or displayed on screen before each work.*
5. *Audio recordings containing edits or cuts intended to alter the performance may be excluded from the Competition.*
MusicForgeStudio reserves the right to verify recordings through technical audio analysis, including spectrogram analysis where necessary.
6. *Audio post-production that does not involve editing or cutting is permitted. However, pitch correction, auto-tuning, or any other form of pitch manipulation is strictly prohibited.*

HOW TO APPLY

7. Solo instrumentalists and vocalists may perform with backing tracks. Multi-track recordings used solely to produce the accompaniment are permitted, provided that the solo performance itself remains continuous and unedited.

Performance Duration

Stage 1

1. Maximum video duration: 12 minutes
2. There is no minimum performance duration.
3. No compulsory repertoire is required.
4. The Organization recommends submitting at least two contrasting works, as endurance or performance length is not an evaluation criterion.

Stage 2 – Final Round

The live performance must not exceed 30 minutes in total duration.

PAYMENT AND REFUNDS

Discounts for Music Schools, Institutions and Associations

Music schools, educational institutions, and music associations registering more than five participants may apply for an additional **20% discount** before completing the registration payment. Discount requests must be submitted by email to: info@musicforgestudio.it

3. Failure to attend the Final Round at the scheduled date and time, except in documented cases of medical or logistical emergencies occurring within 24 hours of the event.

Stage 2

Participants selected for the Final Round must confirm their participation by paying an additional €45.00 fee through the registration link provided by email.

Refund Policy

Registration fees for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 are non-refundable in the following cases:

1. Failure to comply with the requirements set out in Article 6, resulting in disqualification from the competition. Notification of disqualification will be sent by email within three days of the organization's decision.
2. Partial payment, incorrect submission of documentation, or the provision of false, inaccurate, or misleading information during the registration process.

PAYMENT AND REFUNDS

Registration fees for Phase 1 and Phase 2 are refundable upon written request sent to: info@musicforgestudio.it

The email subject line must read:
"Registration Fee Refund Request – Phase ..."

Refunds may be granted in the following cases:

1. Cancellation of the competition by the organizers.
2. Documented medical or logistical circumstances preventing participation in Phase 2, provided that supporting evidence is submitted within 24 hours of the scheduled performance.
3. Incorrect category selection during the registration process

Approved refunds, minus any bank transfer charges, will be processed by the organization within five working days of the acceptance of the refund request.

PARTICIPANT DISCOUNTS

50% Discount

Participants of the OGF – Orsara Guitar Festival or the OGF 2026 Deliceto Edition are entitled to a 50% discount on the registration fee.

20% Discount

Students enrolled in lower or upper secondary schools with a music curriculum are entitled to a 20% discount on the registration fee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PHASE 2 – FINAL ROUND

The Final Round will take place in Lucera (FG), Italy, on 17 October 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

1. Finalists will receive an email at least ten days before the event containing the date, time, and venue of their performance.
2. Participants must arrive at least one hour before the beginning of the Final Round.
3. Participants are responsible for providing any equipment required for their performance and must communicate any special technical requests to the organization in advance. The organization reserves the right to approve such requests.
4. The organization will provide music stands, chairs, a grand piano, percussion equipment, and audio support for percussionists, pianists, orchestras, chamber ensembles, and performances involving electronic music. Participants must submit all technical requirements, including a stage plot where applicable, at least ten days before the event.

The use of backing tracks is not permitted during the Final Round.

AWARDS

GRAND PRIZE – MUSICFORGE NEW ARTIST

The winner of the Grand Prize – MusicForge New Artist, selected during the Final Round, will be awarded a recording and artist management contract with MusicForgeStudio for the production, post-production, and release of a professional album.

The contract includes:

1. Artistic direction
2. Contract and payment of €3000,00
3. Professional recording sessions
4. Audio editing, mixing, and mastering
5. Graphic design and artwork production
6. International physical and digital distribution
7. Promotion through MusicForgeStudio channels
8. Inclusion in the MusicForgeStudio catalogue

Contract signing and the related production activities will commence within eighteen months of the award announcement.

MUSICFORGE YOUNG TALENT AWARD

A €500 scholarship awarded to a solo performer selected by the Jury.

MUSICFORGE CHAMBER MUSIC AWARD

A €800 scholarship awarded to a chamber ensemble selected by the Jury.

MUSICFORGE A CAPPELLA AWARD

A professionally produced promotional video recording to be published through MusicForgeStudio's official channels.

MUSICFORGE ORCHESTRA AWARD

A professionally produced promotional video recording to be published through MusicForgeStudio's official channels.

The Jury reserves the right not to award one or more prizes if the required artistic standards are not met.

PRIVACY

By completing the registration form available at: www.musicforgestudio.site and accepting these regulations through the dedicated checkbox, the participant, legal guardian, or ensemble representative declares and agrees that:

1. The submitted performance does not infringe upon any third-party rights, and the organizers shall be held harmless from any related claims or liabilities.
2. The organizers are authorized to make audio and video recordings of performances presented during the competition and to use the submitted biographical information, photographs, and audiovisual materials exclusively for promotional, educational, and communication purposes related to the competition and the activities of MusicForgeStudio.
3. The organizers are authorized to process personal data provided during registration in accordance with applicable privacy and data protection regulations.
4. The organizers shall not be held liable for matters arising from the participation of minors, whose registration and participation remain under the responsibility of their parents or legal guardians.
5. MusicForgeStudio reserves the right to amend, update, or supplement the provisions contained in this Article should organizational, legal, or operational requirements make it necessary.

PRIVACY

Participants further declare that they have read, understood, and fully accepted all provisions contained in these regulations and in the official competition documentation published on the MusicForgeStudio website.

For information, updates, and official communications regarding the competition, participants should refer exclusively to:

www.musicforgestudio.site

CONTACTS

 info@musicforgestudio.site

 www.musicforgestudio.site

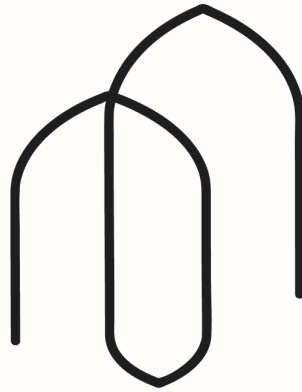
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