

# 2026 Orbifold International Music Competition

## Piano Competition Rules for both “online” and “in-person” participants

The Orbifold Global Music Competition Final Round will be held on July 19, 2026, at Pepperdine University. The Winners’ Concert and Award Ceremony will take place on July 25–26, 2026, at Raitt Recital Hall in Malibu, CA. Please review the detailed information about the competition and related events below and at the official website.

## Competition Format

- The competition consists of **preliminary** and **final rounds**, available in both **online** and **in-person** formats.
- **Preliminary Round (February–June 2026):**
  - Available in both online and in-person formats.
  - In-Person Auditions: Held at select locations in North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia between February and June 2026 (details on the official website).
  - Online Video Auditions: Participants must submit video recordings by June 7, 2026.
- **Final Round (July 2026):**
  - Open First, Second, and Third Prize winners from the Preliminary Round are eligible to apply.
  - Finalists may choose to compete either online, or in-person in Malibu, California on July 19, 2026.
  - The registration deadline for both formats is July 1, 2026.
  - Online and in-person finalists will compete separately for **First, Second, Third, and Special Prizes**.
- **Winners' Concert & Award Ceremony (July 25-26, 2026):**
  - Hosted in-person at the **Raitt Recital Hall**, Malibu, California, USA.

## Important Deadlines

- ✓ **Preliminary Round Registration:**
  - **In-Person Auditions:** Check the official website for location details.   
<https://www.orbifoldmusicfestival.com/>
  - **Online Video Audition:** Submission deadline is **June 1, 2026**.
- ✓ **Final Round Registration Deadline:**
  - **July 1, 2026** (for both online and in-person competition).

 For more details and registration, visit: [www.orbifoldmusicfestival.com](http://www.orbifoldmusicfestival.com)

## Registration Guidelines

- Open to participants of all nationalities.
- Ensure that all information on the registration form is accurate and valid. False information will result in disqualification.
- Participants must register in the correct group based on their year of birth.

## Registration Fees

|                          | <b>ONLINE</b> | <b>IN-PERSON</b>  |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Preliminary Round</b> | \$80 USD      | Fees vary by region; please check your local details.   |
| <b>Final Round</b>       | \$100 USD     | California: \$100 USD. <i>Final round fee is waived for participants of the 2026 Orbifold Global Music Festivals in California and Italy.</i> |

*\*\*Registration fees are non-refundable. First-prize winners do not have any fees to participate in the Winners' Concert. For other prize winners, please check the official website for more details on how to participate in the concert activities.*

## Competition Repertoire Requirements

- **Same requirements** for both **online** and **in-person** competitions.
- Participants must select **1–2 pieces** from **Baroque to Modern-era composers**.
- Only participants who place first, second, or third in the preliminary round will qualify for the final round.
- **Age groups** and **program length** remain the same for both **preliminary** and **final rounds** (see chart below).

|  |
|--|
| <b>Group A: Born in 2018 or later – Max: 4 minutes</b>           |
| <b>Group B: Born in 2015, 2016, 2017 – Max: 5 minutes</b>        |
| <b>Group C: Born in 2012, 2013, 2014 – Max: 7 minutes</b>        |
| <b>Group D: Born in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 – Max: 10 minutes</b> |
| <b>Group E: Born in 2007 or older – Max: 12 minutes</b>          |

### **NEW THIS YEAR!**

- The Orbifold Global Music Competition & Festival now includes a **Vocal Program**, with an opportunity to work with a **string chamber orchestra in Italy**. If your aria or song selection has an arrangement with a string quartet, quintet, or chamber orchestra reduction, you may submit your video online for

a discounted \$20 USD application fee. To apply, submit the concerto competition application form on the official website and include a video clip of one song of your choice. You must email us the score reduction at the time you apply. One winner will be selected to perform a selection with the **Orbifold String Chamber Orchestra** in Northern Italy (July 31-August 6, 2026) and will receive a \$1,500 orchestra fee waiver if the winner participates in the **2026 Orbifold Music Festival X Italy – Vocal Program**.

- **Additional Scholarships:** All finalists interested in the music festival will receive a \$200 music festival scholarship.

## Travel & Visa Information

- **Italy is part of the EU Schengen visa zone.** Check the US visa requirements based on your passport.
- Apply for a **visa** as early as possible.
- Review visa requirements at the **embassy of the country that issued your passport**. Make sure you apply early in advance.

## Competition Rules

1. All performances must be memorized.
2. If a participant exceeds the allotted time, the judges may interrupt the performance, but this will not affect the score.
3. If fewer than 10 participants register for a group, the organizing committee reserves the right to merge awards.
4. All participants must arrive 30 minutes before their performance time. Late arrivals will be considered a forfeit.
5. To maintain order, the use of mobile phones, cameras, or other electronic devices for recording is prohibited during the competition. All recordings will be done by professional staff.
6. Participants may not change their performance order.
7. If a participant is a student of a competition judge, the judge will not score that participant to ensure fairness.
8. All awards will be granted based on unanimous agreement among the judges. If no participant meets the award criteria, the organizing committee reserves the right to withhold the award.
9. All prize money is subject to U.S. tax laws.
10. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.
11. Final round only allows one first prize winner for each category.
12. Any situations or matters not covered above will be decided by the organizing committee.

## Final Round Prizes

- **First Prize (Groups G):** \$700 USD (\$300 cash + \$400 scholarship for the 2027 Orbifold Global Music Festival) + performance at the winners' concert.
- **First Prize (Groups A-D):** \$500 USD (\$200 cash + \$300 scholarship for the 2027 Orbifold Global Music Festival) + performance at the winners' concert.

- **Second Prize (Groups A-G):** \$300 scholarship for the 2027 Orbifold Global Music Festival.
- **Third Prize (Groups A-G):** \$200 scholarship for the 2027 Orbifold Global Music Festival.
- Special prizes will be granted with the discretion from the jury, and all finalists will receive certificates.
- All first-place winners will receive recommendation letters for future university applications. Past winners have been admitted to prestigious universities such as Stanford, Harvard, UC Berkeley, and USC.
- First and second prize winners and their teachers will receive certificates, and first-place winners will be featured on the official social media pages.

### **Scoring Criteria**

- First Prize: 97-100 points
- Second Prize: 93-96 points
- Third Prize: 90-92 points
- Fourth Prize: 87-89 points
- Fifth Prize: 84-86 points
- Sixth Prize: 80-83 points

*Only first, second, third, and special prizes are awarded in the final round. The jury reserves the right not to award certain prizes.*

### **Disclaimer**

- All prize money and fees are in USD.
- All participants must understand and assume certain unknown risks. Orbifold Global Music Festival & Competition will not be responsible for any loss, damage, virus transmission, personal safety, or other uncontrollable factors.
- The organizing committee reserves the right to interpret all competition rules and will strive to maintain fairness and impartiality.
- Orbifold Global Music Competition is not responsible for any uncontrollable factors (including health issues, mental health concerns, natural disasters, etc.) that may occur during the competition.