

# CANTUS FIRMUS

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Ministry  
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NATIONAL  
CULTURE  
FUND OF BULGARIA

## INTERNATIONAL VIOLIN COMPETITION

# CANTUS FIRMUS SOFIA

**FIRST EDITION, 9 – 11 MAY 2025**

### COMPETITION JURY

Prof. Mario Hossen (Chairman)

Prof. Michael Frischenschlager

Prof. Pavel Vernikov

Prof. Rūta Lipinaitytė-Savickienė

Prof. Joanna Kamenarska

Prof. Philip Draganov

[cantusfirmuscompetition.bg](http://cantusfirmuscompetition.bg)

The competition is open to violinists from all countries and nationalities not older than 30 years (born after 9 May 1995). The repertoire in the competition programme shall be performed from memory, with the exception of the sonatas in the first round and the contemporary piece by G. Arnaoudov in the final round.

## **PROGRAM**

### **PRE-SELECTION ROUND**

(Video Recording)

**I. N. PAGANINI:** one Caprice from 24 Caprices for Solo Violin, Op. 1 (Urtext Edition)

**II. J. S. BACH: Two movements from Partitas for Solo Violin:**

Partita No. 1 in B minor, BWV 1002; Partita No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1004; Partita No. 3 in E Major, BWV 1006 (excluding the Ciaccona from Partita No. 2, BWV 1004)

### **FIRST ROUND**

Violin and Piano (up to 20 participants)

**I. One of the following sonatas for violin and piano:**

**C. DEBUSSY** – Sonata in G minor, L. 140

**M. RAVEL** – Sonata No. 2, M. 77

**L. VAN BEETHOVEN:** Sonata Op. 12 No. 1 in D Major, Sonata Op. 12 No. 2 in C Major, Sonata Op. 12 No. 3 in E-flat Major

**II. A virtuosic piece up to 10 minutes in length** by one of the following composers: **N. PAGANINI, H. WIENIAWSKI, E. YSAÏE, P. SARASATE, M. RAVEL, C. SAINT-SAËNS**

**III. One of the following works by F. KREISLER** commemorating the composer's 150th anniversary: Caprice Viennois, Op. 2, Recitativo and Scherzo-Caprice, Op. 6 or Danse Espagnole from "La vida breve" (Manuel de Falla/F. Kreisler)

### **SEMI-FINAL**

Violin and Piano (up to 6 participants)

**First movement or Second and Third movements** from one of the following concertos for violin and piano:

- L. VAN BEETHOVEN:** Concerto in D Major, Op. 61  
**J. BRAHMS:** Concerto in D Major, Op. 77  
**N. PAGANINI:** Concerto No. 1 in D Major, Op. 6  
**J. SIBELIUS:** Concerto in D minor, Op. 47  
**P. I. TCHAIKOVSKY:** Concerto in D Major, Op. 35  
**F. MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDI:** Concerto in E minor, Op. 64  
**H. WIENIAWSKI:** Concerto in F-sharp minor, Op. 14 (I movement only)  
**P. VLADIGEROV:** Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 11

## **FINAL**

### **GALA CONCERT with Camerata Orphica NBU Orchestra**

Violin and Orchestra (up to 3 participants)

- I. First movement with cadenza from one of the following violin concertos by W. A. MOZART:** Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major, K. 216, Concerto No. 4 in D Major, K. 218, Concerto No. 5 in A Major, K. 219,  
**II. GHEORGI ARNAODOV: A new Bulgarian violin composition**  
(to be sent via email after pre-selection round)

## **AWARDS**

**First prize – 5000 EUR**

**Second prize – 3000 EUR**

**Third prize – 2000 EUR**

**Additional Awards: TBD**

### **Cantus Firmus Grand Prize**

Solo concert with Cantus Firmus Orchestra

### **Alma Mater – Classic A Radio Special Award**

Plaque and diploma

### **Scholarships from the Ministry of Culture**

Only for Bulgarian participants

### **Prof. Emil Yanev and Prof. Liliya Gyuleva special scholarship**

1000 EUR

### **Geza Anda Foundation Award**

A chamber music concert in Switzerland

### **Fritz Kreisler Society Diploma**

For Best Performance of a Work by F. Kreisler

# TIMETABLE

## 8 May 2025

5:30 PM Drawing of lots

## 9 May 2025, L. Pipkov NMS Concert Hall

9:30 AM – 8:30 PM First Round

## 10 May 2025, L. Pipkov NMS Concert Hall

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM First Round

## 10 May 2025, L. Pipkov NMS Concert Hall

3:30 PM - 8:30 PM Rehearsals with accompanist

## 11 May 2025, L. Pipkov NMS Concert Hall

9:30 AM – 1:00 PM Semi-Final

## 11 May 2025, Bulgaria Hall

3:30 PM – 6:00 PM Rehearsal  
with Camerata Orphica NBU Orchestra

## 11 May 2025, Bulgaria Hall

7:30 PM Finalists Gala Concert

# SIGN UP

To sign up for the competition, candidates must register at [www.cantusfirmuscompetition.bg](http://www.cantusfirmuscompetition.bg), fill out the online application form and submit the following required documents and recordings:

- **A short CV or artistic resume in English** (free format)
- **A current high resolution photo** (3000x3000 px)
- **A copy of an ID card or passport** proving age
  - **A declaration of informed consent**
  - **Proof of payment**
- **Video file for the preliminary round**

**Entry deadline: 20 March 2025**

**Application fee:** EUR 100 (paid no later than 20 March 2025)

**Bank account:** UniCredit Bulbank

Branch: Sofia 1000, 7 Sveta Nedelya Square

IBAN: BG13 UNCR 9660 1020 9398 02

BIC (SWIFT): UNCRBGSF

Account name: CANTUS FIRMUS EAD

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INTERNATIONAL  
VIOLIN COMPETITION

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SOFIA

**Organisation:** Cantus Firmus  
**President:** Vasil Dimitrov  
**Contact:** Daniela Handjieva  
**Email:** [info@cantusfirmuscompetition.bg](mailto:info@cantusfirmuscompetition.bg)

