



# 13<sup>th</sup> International String Quartet Competition Premio Paolo Borciani

exclusive partner

**MaxMara**

**June 8 / 16 . 2024**  
Reggio Emilia, Italy

Founders



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## 13<sup>th</sup> International String Quartet Competition

Premio Paolo Borciani

June 8 / 16, 2024

Reggio Emilia . Italy

### GENERAL RULES

#### 1. THE COMPETITION

Fondazione I Teatri of Reggio Emilia (Italy) is issuing a call for participation in the 13<sup>th</sup> "Premio Paolo Borciani" International String Quartet Competition.

The Competition will take place from June 8 to 16, 2024, at Teatro Municipale Romolo Valli in Reggio Emilia.

#### 2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Competition is open to String Quartets of any nationalities.

The combined age of the four members of each Quartet must not exceed 128 years. Single members can be no older than 35 years old as of June 7, 2024 (included).

#### 3. METHODS AND TERMS OF APPLYING FOR PARTICIPATION

To participate in the selection you must fill out this participation **application form**, also on the website <https://www.premioborciani.it/> by sending the following materials:

- a) Biography of the quartet in English

b) Personal biography in English of each quartet member specifying studies and teachers

c) Copy of a valid identity document for every member of the quartet bearing date of birth and home address;

d) No. 2 recent, full-color photos of the quartet, free of rights

e) No. 2 letters of presentation for the Quartet specifically prepared for the Competition by:

- a quartet teacher from the last three years
- and/or one or two musicians at least one of whom comes from a string quartet ensemble

f) Whenever exclusive agency contracts with agents, similar parties or record companies are in force, a statement by them that they agree to allow the quartet to fulfil every obligation arising from its participation in the Competition is required, with particular reference to the commitments in Art. 7.

g) No. 2 video with professional-quality recordings - via direct link and downloadable -, made after July 8, 2023 with fixed camera and no interruptions, not even between the different movements of the same piece, not edited or altered in any way, under penalty of exclusion, freely chosen by the quartet within the following repertoire:

1) a composition of your choice from the following:

F. J. Haydn: a quartet of your choice

*or*

W. A. Mozart: a quartet of your choice from String Quartet No. 14 in G major KV 387, String Quartet in D minor KV 421, String Quartet No. 16 in E-flat major KV 428

2) a composition of your choice from the following:

A. Webern, Five pieces for string quartet op. 5

*or*

I. Stravinsky, Three pieces for string quartet

The video shall be accompanied by a self-certification statement indicating the date and place of recordings.

The **application form** and all the materials requested and indicated above must be sent starting **from Monday, October 9, 2023 and no later than 18:00 CET on Monday, January 8, 2024.**

Partially filled out applications or applications submitted after the specified deadline will not be accepted.

Submitted materials will not be returned under any circumstances.

Incomplete documentation will be cause for exclusion from the Competition.

#### 4. SELECTION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURE

A maximum number of 10 (ten) quartets will be admitted to the Competition.

Admission to the Competition will be decided by the Preselection Committee referred to in Article 9, which will evaluate at its sole discretion, based on the materials requested at the time of registration.

Applicants will be notified of the preselection committee's decision via email by Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Eligible quartets must pay a registration fee of € 100.00 (one hundred/00) with no fees charged to the recipient, no later than Thursday, February 8, 2024, to the bank account payable to:

Fondazione I Teatri, n. 000 100 334 801  
Unicredit Banca, IBAN code: IT60D0200812834000100334 801;  
SWIFT code: UNCRITM1447.

The name of the quartet paying the fee must mandatorily appear on the current account form, which must be in single European currency only.

Proof of payment of the registration fee should be sent to **premiobornciani@iteatri.re.it**

## 5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The Competition includes four rounds for all quartets admitted to the Competition and a final round to which 3 quartets will be admitted:

- **1<sup>st</sup> round** > The eighteenth century / Beethoven
- **2<sup>nd</sup> round** > The nineteenth century
- **3<sup>rd</sup> round** > Carte blanche
- **4<sup>th</sup> round** > From the Twentieth Century to the Contemporary period / Gérard Pesson
- **Final round** > A quartet of your choice from the "Round Repertoire" not performed in previous rounds.

Each round includes a specific repertoire as outlined in Art. 6 of these rules.

At the end of the fourth round - Saturday, June 15, 2024 - the 3 quartets admitted to the final round will be announced.

The results of the final round - scheduled for Sunday, June 16, 2024 - will be officially announced the same evening at the conclusion of the Jury's work.

All rounds will take place at Teatro Municipale Romolo Valli of Reggio Emilia, will be open to the public, and will follow the alphabetical order of the letter that will be drawn in a public session, in the presence and/or streaming, in the weeks before the start of the Competition, in the presence of the Competition Management.

The rounds schedule, established by Fondazione I Teatri in agreement with the Jury, will be emailed to the selected quartets and made public on the website <https://www.premioborciاني.it/>.

All members of each quartet must report to the Competition Secretary's Office on June 8, 2024 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., presenting a valid ID.

All members of the admitted quartets are required to be present at the opening of the Competition, scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 2024 (time to be determined) at the Teatro Municipale Romolo Valli. No delay by participants will be allowed, under penalty of exclusion.

## 6. REPERTOIRE OF THE ROUNDS

### First round: *the eighteenth century / Beethoven*

#### 1) Ludwig van Beethoven

String Quartet No. 7 in F major, Op. 59, No. 1, I movement (Allegro)

*or*

String Quartet No. 8 in e minor, Op. 59, No. 2, I movement (Allegro)

*or*

String Quartet No. 9 in C major, Op. 59, No. 3, I movement  
(Introduzione. Andante con moto. Allegro vivace)

#### 2) a composition of your choice from the following:

##### **Franz Joseph Haydn**

String quartet in G major op. 74 no. 3 "Reiter-String quartett"

String quartet in G major op. 76 no. 1

String quartet in D minor op. 76 no. 2 "Quinten-String quartett"

String quartet in B-flat major op. 76 no. 4

String quartet in G major op. 77 no. 1

String quartet in F major op. 77 no. 2

##### **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

String quartet in G major KV 387

String quartet in D minor KV 421

String quartet in E-flat major KV 428

String quartet in B-flat major KV 458

String quartet in A major KV 464

String quartet in C major KV 465 "Dissonanzen"

String quartet in D major KV 499 "Hoffmeister"

String quartet in D major KV 575

String quartet in B-flat major KV 589

String quartet in F major KV 590



## **Second round: *the nineteenth century***

**A composition of your choice from the following:**

### **Ludwig van Beethoven**

- String quartet in E-flat major op. 74
- String quartet in F minor op. 95
- String quartet in E-flat major op. 127
- String quartet in B-flat major op. 130 (final: Grand Fugue op. 133)
- String quartet in B-flat major op. 130 (final: Allegro)
- String quartet in C-sharp minor op. 131
- String quartet in A minor op. 132
- String quartet in F major op. 135

### **Johannes Brahms**

- String quartet in C minor op. 51 no. 1
- String quartet in A minor op. 51 no. 2
- String quartet in B-flat major op. 67

### **Pyotr Il'ič Tchaikovsky**

- String quartet no. 1 in D major op. 11
- String quartet no. 2 in F major op. 22
- String quartet no. 3 in E-flat minor op. 30

### **Antonín Dvořák**

- String quartet no. 12 in F major "American" op. 96
- String quartet no. 13 in G major op. 106
- String quartet no. 14 in A-flat major op. 105

### **Felix Mendelssohn**

- String quartet in E-flat major op. 12
- String quartet in A minor op. 13
- String quartet in F minor op. 80

### **Franz Schubert**

- String quartet in A minor "Rosamunda" op. 29 / D 804
- String quartet in D minor "Death and the Maiden" D 810
- String quartet in G major op. 161 / D 887
- String quartet in E-flat op. 125 no. 1 / D 87

**Robert Schumann**

String quartet in A minor op. 41 no. 1

String quartet in F major op. 41 no. 2

String quartet in A major op. 41 no. 3

**Bedřich Smetana**

String quartet no. 1 in E minor "Z mého života"

**Giuseppe Verdi**

String quartet in E-minor

**Third round: *Carte blanche***

A proposal of pieces (one or more pieces), improvisations or performances of the string quartet's free choice, from any repertoire and era, lasting a maximum of 30'.

**Fourth round: *From the Twentieth Century to the Contemporary period / Gérard Pesson*****1) A composition of your choice from the following:****Bela Bartók**

String quartet no. 3

String quartet no. 4

String quartet no. 5

String quartet no. 6

**Alban Berg**

Lyrische Suite

String quartet op. 3

**Benjamin Britten**

String quartet no. 2 op. 36

String quartet no. 3 op. 94

**Claude Debussy**

String quartet op. 10

**Leoš Janáček**

String quartet no. 1 "Kreutzer Sonata"

String quartet no. 2 "Listy důvěrné" (Intimate Letters)

**Helmut Lachenmann**

Grido (2000-01)

**György Ligeti**

String quartet no. 1 "Métamorphoses nocturnes"

String quartet no. 2

**Witold Lutosławski**

String quartet no. 1

**Maurice Ravel**

String quartet in F

**Arnold Schoenberg**

String quartet no. 3 op. 30

String quartet no. 4 op. 37

**Dmitry Šostakovič**

String quartet no. 3 op. 73

String quartet no. 8 op. 110

String quartet no. 9 op. 117

String quartet no. 15 op. 144

**Anton Webern**

String quartet op. 28

Five pieces for string quartet op. 5 + Six Bagatelles for string quartet op. 9

**Alexander Von Zemlinsky**

String quartet no. 2 op. 15

## 2) Gérard Pesson

New composition for string quartet commissioned by “Premio Paolo Borciani” Competition.

### Final round

A quartet of choice from the “repertoire of the rounds”, not performed by the quartet in any of the previous rounds, nor in the preselection phase.

Editions conforming to the original scores are recommended.

The expected performance time for each chosen piece must be indicated on the participation application form.

The order of performance of the works for each round is left to the choice of the quartet and must be indicated on the participation application form.

The decision of whether to perform refrains is at the discretion of the quartet.

All rights regarding photos, audio and video recordings and broadcasts via radio, television, and internet (including the rights to present and future transmission anywhere and any time, and reproduction on any form of support and rights to all forms of reproduction of this Competition including photos) of the Competition’s rounds are the property of Fondazione I Teatri, without any obligation to award any compensation to others.

## 7. PRIZES

**First Prize** “Paolo Borciani” (indivisible)

. **€ 25,000** (twenty-five thousand/00)

. International tour coordinated by **Lorenzo Baldrighi Artists Management**

All updates on tour dates and venues will be posted on the <https://www.premioborციani.it/>

. Artistic Residency in Reggio Emilia within the 2024/2026 Seasons.

### **Second Prize**

**€ 10,000** (ten thousand/00)

### **Third Prize**

**€ 5,000** (five thousand/00)

### **Special Prize**

**€ 3,000** (three thousand/00) for the best performance of the new composition for string quartet commissioned by "Premio Paolo Borციani" Competition.

### **Audience Prize**

**€ 2,000** (two thousand/00)

The Audience Prize will be given to one of the quartets admitted to the final round, with voting arrangements defined by Fondazione I Teatri.

### **Under20 Prize**

**€ 1,000** (one thousand/00)

A Committee made up of young music students will be established to award the Prize to one of the quartets admitted to the final round.

### **Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland Prize**

Scholarship worth € 6,000 offered by Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland for participation in the International Chamber Music Campus Schloss Weikersheim scheduled for 2025.

All Prizes are understood to be before any tax deductions.

The winning quartet agrees to abide by the agreements made with the agency that will carry out the concert tour.

These agreements will take priority over other commitments made by the winning quartet (or its representative), for Seasons 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 subject to different arrangements agreed upon by the organizing agency and the winning quartet's representative, if any.

The winners will be announced and prizes awarded during the official ceremony at the end of the Competition.

Winners who wish to publicize their achievement should specify the prize obtained, strictly adhering to the official decisions of the Jury.

The Jury reserves the right to offer up to two of the quartets not admitted to the final round the opportunity to participate in the "Casa del Quartetto" Artistic Residency Programme for Young String Quartets, the fifth edition of which will be held in Reggio Emilia in June 2025.

## 8. JURY

The Jury is composed of at least five members, including the President, of clear reputation in the musical world, the majority of whom are foreign nationals.

Persons who are related by kinship or other forms of affinity to one or more competitors cannot serve on the Jury.

Each juror must make, on the appropriate form prepared by Fondazione I Teatri, a statement concerning their personal situation with respect to the competitors in relation to the above.

Fondazione I Teatri reserves the right to replace members of the Jury who are prevented by proven reasons of urgency from carrying out the planned activity.

Fondazione I Teatri adopts specific rules regarding the work method and operation of the Jury.

The Jury's decisions are without appeal, as are those of Fondazione I Teatri in matters not within the Jury's purview.

After the announcement of the quartets admitted to the final round, the Jury will be available to the excluded candidates for interviews and clarifications.

The Jury will be sworn in on Saturday June 8, 2024, at Teatro Municipale Romolo Valli in Reggio Emilia.

The Competition's Music Advisor participates in the works of the Jury without right to vote.

The operative coordination and recording of the works of the Jury are assigned to the Competition Secretary's Office.

## **9. Preselection OF PARTICIPANTS**

Fondazione I Teatri examines the competitors' fulfillment of the requirements of the rules.

Fondazione I Teatri designates a preselection Committee consisting of three members, none of whom are members of the Jury, and the Competition's Music Advisor, who chairs it.

The preselection Committee is responsible for evaluating the materials submitted by applicants for their admission to the Competition, according to an internal regulation defined by Fondazione I Teatri.

## **10. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES**

Fondazione I Teatri, organizer of the Competition, will cover the accommodation expenses (board and lodging) of the admitted quartets from June 8, 2024 up to and including June 16, 2024, and will contribute to travel expenses with a maximum contribution of € 500.00 (five hundred/00) net per quartet.

## **11. MISCELLANEOUS**

a) The Competition Rules are published in three languages (Italian, English, French);

- b) only the Italian text has official and legal validity;
- c) Fondazione I Teatri reserves in any case, and at its sole discretion, the decision to cancel the Competition and any decision on any matter pertaining to the conduct of the Competition rounds and the participation of the contestants;
- d) changes in the formation of the admitted quartet are not possible;
- e) for any legal disputes the court of Reggio Emilia will have exclusive jurisdiction.

## 12. ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION

Fondazione I Teatri / Premio Paolo Borciani  
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