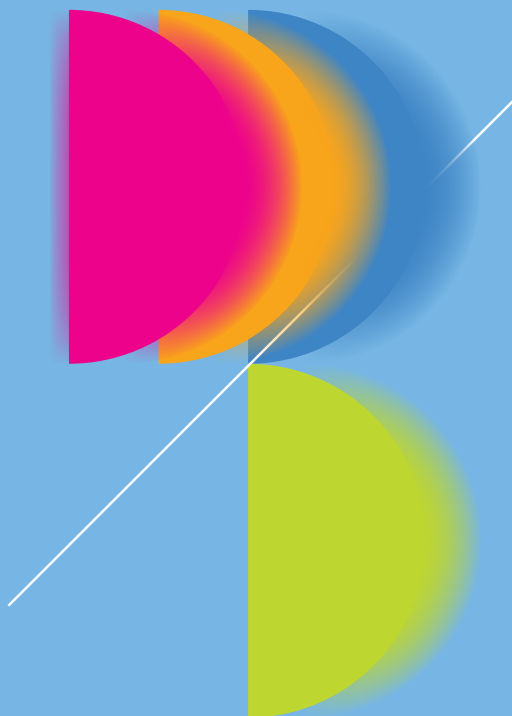




**14th International String
Quartet Competition
Premio Paolo Borciani**

May 29 / June 6 . 2027
Reggio Emilia, Italy

Exclusive partner

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WORLD FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITIONS

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viola

THE JURY

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Chair of the Jury
composer
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violin
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Barnabás Kelemen - Hungary
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Mariangela Vacatello - Italy
piano
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viola, Prometeo Quartet
Hannah Weirich - Germany
violin



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GENERAL RULES

1. THE COMPETITION

Fondazione I Teatri of Reggio Emilia (Italy) is issuing a call for participation in the 14th "Premio Paolo Borciani" International String Quartet Competition.

The Competition will take place from May 29 to June 6, 2027, 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 May 28, 2027 (included).

3. METHODS AND TERMS OF APPLYING FOR PARTICIPATION

To participate in the selection you must fill out the application form available as of September 8, 2026 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 the passport (or 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 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 1, 2026.

The two pieces may be recorded separately, but each recording must be made with fixed camera and without interruptions, not even between the different movements of the same piece. The videos cannot be edited or altered in any way, under penalty of exclusion.

The two pieces can be freely chosen by the quartet within the following repertoire:

1) 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. Webern, Five pieces for string quartet Op. 5

or

I. Stravinsky, Three pieces for string quartet

The two videos shall be accompanied by a self-certification statement signed by all members of the ensemble, indicating the date and place of recordings.

The **application form** and all the materials requested and indicated above must be sent starting **from Tuesday, September 8, 2026 and no later than 18:00 CET on Friday, January 8, 2027.**

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

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 **Friday, January 29, 2027.**

Eligible quartets must pay a registration fee of €100 (one hundred/00) with no fees charged to the recipient, no later than **Friday, February 12, 2027**, 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 made in Euros.

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

5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The Competition includes four rounds for the 10 selected quartets and a final round to which 3 quartets will be admitted:

- **1st round** > The eighteenth century / Beethoven
- **2nd round** > The nineteenth century
- **3rd round** > Carte blanche
- **4th round** > From the Twentieth Century to the Contemporary period / Francesca Verunelli
- **Final round** > A quartet of your choice from the "Repertoire of the rounds" not performed in previous rounds, neither during the pre-selection phase.

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

At the end of the fourth round - Saturday, June 5, 2027 - the 3 quartets admitted to the final round will be announced.

The results of the final round - scheduled for Sunday, June 6, 2027 - 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 May 29, 2027 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., presenting a valid ID. They are also required to be present at the opening of the Competition, scheduled for the same day, in the afternoon (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'ich 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 Op. 96 "American"
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 Op. 29 / D 804 "Rosamunde"
String quartet in D minor D 810 "Der Tod und das Mädchen"
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', not performed in any of the previous rounds, nor in the preselection phase.

"Carte blanche" is intended as a space for free artistic expression and originality.

FOURTH ROUND: FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY TO THE CONTEMPORARY PERIOD / FRANCESCA VERUNELLI**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"

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) Francesca Verunelli

New composition for string quartet commissioned by
Fondazione I Teatri for "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 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 application form.

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

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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.premioborciاني.it/>
- **Artistic Residency** in Reggio Emilia within the 2027/2029 Seasons.
- **GEWA Strings**: a supply of professional GEWA AIR cases for a string quartet (2 violins, 1 viola, 1 cello), with a total value of €4,200.
- **Larsen Strings**: a custom selection of Larsen strings, including a personalized consultation.

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 the Competition.

PROQUARTET - Centre Européen de Musique de Chambre PRIZE

€2,000 (two thousand/00)

Prize offered by ProQuartet for the best original proposal for the third round “Carte blanche”.

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 2027/2028 and 2028/2029, 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 final round of the Competition.

The winner of the "Paolo Borciani" Prize are required to announce the results in accordance with the instructions provided by the Competition Management.

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 seventh edition of which will be held in Reggio Emilia in June 2028.

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 final and binding, as are those of Fondazione I Teatri.

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 May 29, 2027, 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 May 29, 2027 up to and including June 6, 2027, 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
Piazza Martiri del 7 luglio, 7
42121 Reggio Emilia - Italy

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per Quartetto
d'Archi**

Premio Paolo Borciani