



International
Beethoven Piano Competition
Vienna

Jury Handbook

**17th International Beethoven Piano
Competition Vienna 2025**

„Even amongst the angels there is a hierarchy.“

(from the Jury Handbook of the International Tchaikovsky Competition 2011)

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Competition Office

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1. COMPETITION PHASES

Screening Auditions:

Several months before the actual competition in Vienna, distinguished jurors chose from all entrants (308 applicants from 32 nations) and their taped video recordings appropriate candidates for the International Beethoven Piano Competition Vienna 2025.

The jury members were:

- Jan Jiracek von Arnim
- Christopher Hinterhuber
- Heinz Medjimorec
- Jasminka Stančul
- Wolfgang Watzinger

The set number of chosen contestants was 50 candidates. These were invited to send new recordings for the Online Video Round. 44 recordings were received.

Online Video Round:

Members of the jury voted on 44 recordings (0 – 25), the 21 candidates with the highest points (divided by the number of voting jurors) were invited to participate in the Live Rounds in Vienna. The recordings of the 21 successful candidates remain online at beethoven-comp.at until the competition concludes.

The jury members were:

- Jan Jiracek von Arnim
- Hung-Kuan Chen
- HieYon Choi
- Robert Levin
- Ronan O'Hora
- Jasminka Stančul

The Three Live Rounds in Vienna, May 16 – 24, 2025:

The jury members are (as of April 4, 2025, subject to change):

- Jan Jiracek von Arnim (Chairman)
- HieYon Choi
- Ingrid Fliter
- Sofya Gulyak

- Robert Levin
- Hélène Mercier
- Ronan O'Hora
- Antti Siirala
- Jasminka Stančul

Round I, live in Vienna: May 16 / 17 / 18

The members of the Jury will listen to the candidates performing live in Joseph Haydn-Hall of mdw.

There will be no vote after the first round, all candidates will also perform in the second round (Semi Final Round). However, in justified exceptional cases, the jury may, at the request of the jury chairperson, vote to exclude a participant from the second round, whereby a simple majority decides. In this case, this participant is excluded from participation in the second round.

Round II (Semi Final Round), live in Vienna: May 20 / 21 / 22

The goal of the vote upon the completion of Round II will be to select three finalists.

Round III (Grand Finale), live in the Vienna Musikverein: May 24 – Begin: 14:30

The goal of the vote upon the completion of Round III (Grand Finale) will be to determine the three prize winners.

The three main prizes of the Beethoven competition 2025 are:

1. EUR 30.000,- and a Bösendorfer Grand Piano Model 214VC
2. EUR 12.000,-
3. EUR 6.000,-

Jury Dress Code for the Finale at Golden Hall: Business Formal.

There will be a prize winner ceremony on the stage of the Golden Hall after the voting procedure. All jury members will be on stage during the ceremony, followed by a photo session.

2. JURY RULES

1. Agreeing on being a juror at the Live Rounds of the International Beethoven Piano Competition Vienna includes being in agreement with these jury rules.
2. Jury members are asked for nondisclosure of all details concerning the adjudication process and all internal discussions. They are not permitted to discuss their opinion of a competitor's performance or any other aspect of their adjudication duties with anyone outside of official jury meetings.
3. Jury members must not discuss their opinions at any time during the competition with competitors who are still participating in the competition.
4. The Chairman of the Jury shall only have the right to vote if there is no relationship with a current or former student at issue.
5. Any juror who has or has had a teaching or professional relationship with a competitor within the past two years must declare this relationship and abstain from voting on the performance of that competitor if asked to do so by the Chairman of the jury.
6. At the discretion of the Chairman of the jury, the jurors may engage in discussions at any time during their deliberations. However, it is suggested that discussion should normally be reserved for those occasions when it appears to be necessary.
7. All official meetings of the jury for the purpose of briefing, discussion or voting will be closed to all but the jury members and the jury Chairman. At the discretion of the Chairman, key staff members (e.g., the University's legal advisors or the conductor of the Finale) may be invited to attend such meetings.
8. Other decisions not covered by these rules shall be made by motion and decided by a simple majority of the members of the jury. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
9. Any violation of these rules by a juror may result in the dismissal of that juror and/or the disqualification of a competitor.

3. VOTING

Candidates will be judged using a system of points.

The three main prizes will be awarded to those who reach the **highest total of points in Round III (Grand Finale)**.

Members of the jury will vote by submitting written scores for each competitor on the ballot sheets provided. **Jurors vote by giving points from 0 – 25, 25 points standing for the highest number of points a contestant can achieve.**

[For your consideration: The average performer should receive a score from each juror somewhere in the middle of the range – around 12. You can, of course, give the same number of points to more than one contestant if you wish.]

Scores will be mathematically rounded to two decimal figures.

All competitors advance automatically to the Semi Final Round (Round II) after performing in Round I – however the Chairman of the Jury may call for a meeting of the jury and request the exclusion of a candidate after the Round I performance in extraordinary cases. The members of the jury vote on this request by simple majority.

After Round II (Semi Final Round) and after Round III (“Grand Finale”):

Completed and signed ballots will be handed to the Chairman of the Jury or a person nominated by him.

After handing in the ballot sheet, a change of the vote by the juror is not possible.

Jurors may not disclose their scores to any person. Individual juror's scores will not be disclosed to other persons.

The Chairman of the Jury and a member of the University's staff are responsible for calculating the total score of each candidate. The Chairman is obliged not to disclose the points scored by the candidates while they are participating in the competition.

At the end of Round II, the actual number of total points of each competitor will not be announced to the jury, only the names of the candidates who pass on to the next round will be announced.

A. The procedure for determining the average points for each competitor:

The scores will be summed up and divided by the number of all voting Jurors.

If the highest or lowest score of a Juror is lower or higher by **more than** 4 points from the next lowest or highest score of a juror, this vote will be automatically changed to four points lower or higher to the next lowest or highest vote of another juror **before determining the average points of each competitor**. E.g.:

a) 2, 11, 12, 11, 12, 13 is being changed to: **7, 11, 12, 11, 12, 13**

b) 16, 15, 16, 15, 16, 25 is being changed to: **16, 15, 16, 15, 16, 20**

- c) 2, 11, 12, 11, 12, 25 is being changed to: **7, 11, 12, 11, 12, 16**
- d) 2, 4, 14, 15, 15, 24 is being changed to: **2, 4, 14, 15, 15, 19**
- e) 3, 13, 12, 13, 23, 25 is being changed to: **8, 13, 12, 13, 23, 25**
- f) 2, 3, 12, 12, 23, 24 *unchanged*

B. The Three Competition Rounds:

- After Round II, the three competitors with the best overall average score pass on to the Finale. Should the determination of the three best candidates be not possible this way (e.g. when there is a tie between the 3rd and 4th highest scored competitor), the Jury has to come together in an official gathering and vote on a petition (with simple majority).
- After concluding the Final Round, the scores of the jurors will be added together and the average score of the three finalists will be calculated by a member of the University's legal team. The candidate with the highest average score will be awarded with the 1st Prize, but only when at least a simple majority of the Jury votes is in favor of this candidate. Should this be not the case, the candidate with the highest average points will only be awarded 2nd prize, the next one with 3rd Prize, and so on.
- In the event of a tie between two finalists, or a tie of equal or less than 1.00 points, one prize will be awarded "ex aequo" and the prize money for the two prizes will be split in half. This will also be the case if there is a tie between the two competitors with the highest overall score. In this case, the Artistic Director of the Competition will decide which of the two candidates will be awarded the piano.
- Should a candidate in the Final Round have an average score below 10,00, this candidate will not receive a Prize.

II. DETERMINING THE PIANO CONCERTOS

Each Finalist will have prepared two Piano Concertos (one from the group 6a: op. 15 op. 19 or op. 37, one from the group 6b: op. 58 or op. 73). To determine which of these Piano Concerto will be performed at the Grand Finale, there will be a lottery conducted by the Chairman of the Jury together with a member of the legal staff of the University. The jury will be present.

The system of this lottery will be as follows:

Candidates will be referred to as A, B and C. The Piano Concertos will be labeled 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. On eight lottery tickets all possible combinations will be noted. Exception: Tickets like A2, B2, C2 will not be used in the lottery, so that the possibility of a Finale with the same Piano Concerto being performed three times is eliminated.

Example for Lottery Tickets:

<u>LT 1</u>	<u>LT 2</u>	<u>LT 3</u>	<u>LT 4</u>	<u>LT 5</u>	<u>LT 6</u>	<u>LT 7</u>	<u>LT 8</u>
A 1	A 1	A 1	A 1	A 5	A 5	A 5	A 5
B 2	B 4	B 4	B 2	B 2	B 4	B 4	B 2
C 1	C 1	C 5	C 5	C 1	C 1	C 5	C 5

III. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS

After completion of the competition, the competitors will not be informed about the individual scores of the members of the Jury.