

26th LAMS MATERA AWARD

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

Edition 2026 — Live & Online

21 – 24 October 2026 · Matera

Soloists · Chamber music · Ensemble · Special Schools Section

in the context of Matera 2026 Mediterranean Capital of Culture and Dialogue

Total Awards € 5,000

PAID CONCERTS · SCHOLARSHIPS · SPECIAL AWARDS (LIVE&ONLINE)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 10th

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LAMS – Laboratorio Arte Musica e Spettacolo, Social Cooperative — Matera (Italy)

The LAMS

The LAMS – Laboratorio Arte Musica e Spettacolo, a social cooperative active since 1989, operates in the fields of music production, training, and the promotion of young talents, promoting musical culture as a tool for personal growth, social inclusion and intercultural dialogue.

The activity is developed in three main areas: the production of concert seasons with internationally renowned artists and the support of young performers; the valorization of emerging talents through the LAMS Matera Award and the International Composition Competitions; training, with the School of Music, the Advanced Training Courses, the educational projects for schools and the programme “Sistema Abreu” for the creation of youth and children's orchestras in Basilicata and Taranto.

Among the awards and partners: participation in the official program of **Matera European Capital of Culture 2019** with the commission of new works — including that of **Georg Friedrich Haas**, winner of the **Abbiati Prize** as “best new work for Italy”; the **Plaque of Representation of the President of the Republic** for the International Composition Competition “Italia 150”; recognition as a **Subject accredited** of the Coordinated System for the Promotion of “Themes of Creativity” of the Ministry of Education and Merit and the Ministry of Culture. LAMS has collaborated with Filarmonica della Scala, Rai Radio Tre and Casa Ricordi, among others, and is supported by the Ministry of Culture – FUS, the Basilicata Region, the Province and the Municipality of Matera.

REGULATION

Art. 1 — Purposes and manners of carrying out

The 26th LAMS Matera Award – 2026 Edition (called the Rosa Ponselle Award until 2018) is promoted by LAMS as part of its activities aimed at enhancing young talents and spreading musical culture. The Award aims to:

- promote the artistic training of young musicians and the comparison between performers from different educational and cultural backgrounds;
- value merit through a transparent, qualified and impartial evaluation system;
- support the launch of concert careers through paid concerts, scholarships and artistic recognition;
- contribute to the cultural promotion of Matera and Basilicata in the national and international context.

The 2026 edition will take place from October **21st to 24th of 2026** and will present, at the candidate's discretion, two alternative participation options: **A) Live**, with in-person auditions in Matera; **B) Online**, by submitting an audiovisual recording.

The two modalities are subject to the same evaluation criteria.

Art. 2 — Sections, Categories, programs, durations and registration fees

The Award is opened to musicians of all ages and nationalities, graduated and/or students of Conservatory, of Music Institutes, of Music Schools. The program is free and it prefers original pieces. The candidates of any section and category can (with regard to their preparation) enroll in a category or section above their age. Execution from memory is not required.

Section 1 — Chamber Music and Ensemble Live and Online modalities

Training of any staff (instrumental and/or vocal) with original repertoire from the Baroque to contemporary music.

Category	Average age	Maximum duration	Fee
A	up to 13 years	10 minutes	€ 25 / component
B	up to 16 years	15 minutes	€ 25 / component
C	up to 23 years	20 minutes	€ 30 / component
D	without age limits	25 minutes	€ 35 / component

The fee is unique for Live Modality and Online Modality

Live Soloists' Sections — 2) Piano · 3) Strings · 4) Wind Instruments · 5) Guitar · 6) Percussion, Accordion and Harp

Category	Average age	Maximum duration	Fee
A	up to 13 years	7 minutes	€ 30
B	up to 14 years	10 minutes	€ 35
C	up to 18 years	15 minutes	€ 45
D	up to 23 years	20 minutes	€ 50
E	without age limits	20 minutes	€ 55

Online Soloists' Sections — 2) Piano · 3) Strings · 4) Wind Instruments · 5) Guitar · 6) Percussion, Accordion and Harp

Category	Average age	Maximum duration	Fee
A	up to 13 years	7 minutes	€ 20
B	up to 14 years	10 minutes	€ 25
C	up to 18 years	15 minutes	€ 25
D	up to 23 years	20 minutes	€ 30
E	without age limits	20 minutes	€ 35

EDUCATIONAL PATH — SCHOOLS

Section 7 Live — Music No Limits

Track dedicated to educational institutions (Preschools, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools I and II Grade), with training, educational and inclusion purposes. It constitutes an autonomous path with respect to the 1–6 international competitive sections, with its own evaluation and recognitions (Art. 6). For soloists, choirs, groups.

Category	Description	Maximum duration	Fee
A1	Soloists from Preschools, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools I Grade	7 minutes	€ 25
A2	soloists from Secondary Schools II Grade	10 minutes	€ 30
B	Choral and instrumental ensemble groups up to 20 components	10 minutes	€ 10/component

Art. 3 — ACCOMPANYING PIANIST

The Organization does not provide accompanying pianists. The competitor who needs it must provide for it independently.

Art. 4 — Application Form

The application must be completed exclusively via the online form on the Award's official website no later than **October 10th of 2026**, attaching the receipt for the registration fee, to be paid by bank transfer made out to:

LAMS – COOPERATIVA SOCIALE — IBAN IT95 S020 0816 1010 0010 2118 691 — BIC/SWIFT (for foreign): UNCRITM1H48

Reason for payment: **“LAMS Matera Award – Sec. ... – Cat. ...”**, with the contestant's first and last name. Bank charges are to be borne by the competitor. For Section 1 (Chamber and Ensemble Music) the ensemble presents a single application — inserting all the components into the appropriate function of the module — and a single cumulative payment. The organization reserves the right to accept, in exceptional cases, any applications sent after the registration deadline.

Art. 5 — Audition schedule (Live modality)

Auditions will take place in Matera from October 21st to 24th of 2026, at the **Giovanni Paolo II Auditorium** (Via degli Aragonesi 11) for the qualifying stages; the **Final “LAMS Matera 2026 – Concert for Young Talents”** will be held on **Saturday, October 24th of 2026, at 7:00 PM**, at Palazzo Viceconte (Via San Potito 7).

Provisional calendar

- **Wednesday, October 21st** — Section 4 Wind Instruments · Section 6 Percussion, Accordion and Harp · Section 7 Music No Limits
- **Thursday, October 22nd** — Section 3 Strings · Section 5 Guitar · Section 7 Music No Limits
- **Friday, October 23rd** — Section 2 Piano
- **Saturday, October 24th (morning)** — Section 1 Chamber and ensemble music
- **Saturday, October 24th, 7:00 PM** — Final “Young Talents Concert”

The calendar is provisional and may be modified. The final calendar, with the call times, will be published on the official website by **October 15th of 2026**. Each competitor must bring a valid identity document and three copies of the scores (two returned at the end, one on the records). The executions follow the order of the published calendar. All rehearsals are open to the public.

Art. 6 — Live Modality: evaluation, charts and awards

The Commission assesses executions with a score in hundredths. The following awards apply to each category:

Score	Award
98 – 100/100	First Absolute Award + Diploma
95 – 97/100	First Award + Diploma
90 – 94/100	Second Award + Diploma
85 – 89/100	Third Award + Diploma
Less than 85/100	Diploma of participation

The First Absolute Award may not be assigned if the artistic level is not adequate.

Awards to the Absolute Winners of Sections 1–6

The top competitor in each section (score not less than 98/100) will receive a prize of **€100 (€ 200 for the Chamber Music Section)**.

Final “LAMS Matera 2026 – Young Talents Concert”

The competitors from sections 1–6 with a score of **98/100** or higher are admitted to the Final on 24 October 2026, in which the Commission awards:

Ranking	Award
1 st classified	€ 1,000
2 nd classified	€ 750
3 rd classified	€ 500

Prizes are paid as a fee for one or more concerts in the 2026/27 season by LAMS or partner organizations, or as scholarships. The **Public Award (€ 100)** is also awarded to the competitor chosen by the Final audience, and a prize of **€ 100 to the youngest finalist**.

Section 7 — Music No Limits

Award of **€ 100** for the best soloist, **€ 150** for the best group, in the form of vouchers for the purchase of instruments, accessories and scores at the Casa Musicale Cassano in Ginosa (TA). The amount of all cash awards is gross of withholding tax required by law.

Art. 7 — Online Modality: Video Recording and Submission Requirements

Participation Online is made by sending a single audiovisual recording. Registration must:

- be built starting from October 2025 and respect the maximum duration of the category;
- be in a fixed and single take, without editing, cutting or audio/video manipulation during execution and without mirror effect;
- clearly show the entire figure of the performer and the hands (for pianists also keyboard and pedalboard);
- be uploaded to YouTube (setting “Public” or “Not listed”) and accessible via a single link (URL) to be inserted into the form.

A break is permitted only between pieces, even if recorded in different locations; not between movements of the same composition. Video Title — Soloists: “LAMS Matera Award 2026 – First Name Last Name – Instrument – Age – Program”; Ensemble: “LAMS Matera Award 2026 – Ensemble Name – Group staff/Organic – Middle Age – Program”.

Art. 8 — Modalità Online: domanda di iscrizione Online Modality: application form

The application must be completed on the online form by **October 10th of 2026**, attaching: valid ID; YouTube link to the video (single; Yes link to YouTube, NO WeTransfer, or similar); scores in a single PDF; receipt of payment (transfer according to Art. 4). For Section 1, a single application and a single payment for the ensemble.

Art. 9 — Online Modality: calendar

The videos will be posted on the official LAMS YouTube channel from October 21st to 24th of 2026, according to the schedule announced by **October 15th of 2026**. The order of publication does not determine any right of precedence or affect the evaluation.

Art. 10 — Online Modality: Evaluation and Awards

The recordings are evaluated with the same criteria as Live Modality (Art. 6). For each Section 1–6 an Online Absolute Winner may be proclaimed (score not less than 98/100).

The Commission awards one or more Award Concerts “LAMS – Matera 2026” worth € 500 to the absolute winner of the online sections, valid as a fee for concerts in the 2026/27 season or as scholarships. Diplomas are transmitted exclusively by e-mail. The Organization may not award prizes in the absence of an appropriate artistic standard.

Art. 11 — Jury

The Jury is composed of at least five personalities of recognized competence —musicians, concert performers, conductors, artistic directors, teachers, musicologists and critics — whose names are published on the register before the start of rehearsals. Members who have kinship or affinity relationships, or ongoing teaching relationships with one or more competitors, abstain from the relevant evaluation, in compliance with the principles of impartiality, transparency and fairness.

Each component shall give one score in hundredths. The final score is the arithmetic mean of the grades. The Commission's decisions are definitive, unappealable and unquestionable; the Commission may not award one or more prizes. The results are communicated: for Live Modality at the end of the auditions of each category/section; for Online Modality on the official LAMS website and channels.

Art. 12 — Use of images, recordings and results

By registering, the competitor authorizes LAMS, free of charge and without time limits, to create, reproduce, publish and disseminate photographs, audio recordings and video footage taken as part of the Award — as well as videos broadcast for Online Modality — for institutional, cultural, promotional, dissemination and documentary purposes related to the Award, through websites, digital platforms, social media, radio and television broadcasters and publications. The competitor waives any economic claim arising from such dissemination and consents to the publication of names, rankings, scores and prizes awarded.

Art. 13 — Processing of personal data

Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Legislative Decree 196/2003 as amended by Legislative Decree 101/2018, personal data are processed exclusively for purposes related to the organization and performance of the Award, in compliance with the principles of lawfulness, correctness, transparency, minimization and confidentiality. The contribution is mandatory for the purposes of participation. Interested parties exercise the rights referred to in Articles 15 et seq. of the GDPR according to the information published on the official LAMS website.

Art. 14 — Final dispositions

Participation shall entail full and unconditional acceptance of this Regulation. The Organization may make changes due to organizational needs, force majeure, or subsequent regulatory provisions, publishing them on the official website with effect from publication. Although not foreseen, any decision is up to the Artistic Director and the Commission, based on their respective responsibilities. The Organization disclaims all liability for damage to persons or property during the demonstration, except as provided by law. The possible nullity of a single clause does not affect the remaining ones. The Forum of Matera has exclusive jurisdiction for any dispute.