

1 International Competition Piano and Chamber Music Écho Award

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The association Échos de la Luz, based in Luzech (France), with the constant desire to continue to care for and support young musicians, offers various artistic events. One of them is the Echo International Piano and Chamber Music Competition. The main mission of the Echo International Piano and Chamber Music Competition is to discover new artists with real talent, authenticity and the ability to move and tell stories through music in an authentic way. The Echo International Piano and Chamber Music Competition aims to find, support, assist and accompany the careers of artists by offering them prizes ranging from paid concerts to festivals, financial awards, record production, masterclasses and scholarships, among others.



Rules of the Écho Prize International Piano and Chamber Music Competition

1. General provisions

The Echo International Piano and Chamber Music Competition is a global artistic event that takes place online in this first edition and allows musicians from all over the world to participate. The aim of this competition is to celebrate musical excellence and promote cultural exchange through fair and professional competition..

2. Categories and repertoire

Free repertoire : Participants may perform the works of their choice, within the time limits of each category.

Beginner Artist (Piano) - Free repertoire of 10 minutes maximum.

Young Artist (Piano) - Free repertoire of 15 minutes maximum.

Promising Artist (Piano) - Free repertoire of 20 minutes maximum.

Chamber Music - Free repertoire of 30 minutes maximum.

Technical requirements :

Chamber music ensembles may use sheet music. All chamber music formats with at least two members are accepted, including four-hand piano and piano-voice. Pianists in the solo piano categories must play from memory.

3. Applications and key dates

Registration period : From 1 May 2025 to 1 December 2025.

Finalists : The 10 finalists in each category will be announced by 31 December 2025.

Winners : The winners and the distribution of prizes will be announced in January 2026.

Age of participants : The age shall be determined as of 1 January 2025.

4. Registration fees

Registration fees vary according to the category:

Beginner Artist (Piano) : 40 €

Young Artist (Piano) : 50 €

Promising Artist (Piano) : 60 €

Chamber Music : 100 € per ensemble.

Entry fees are non-refundable, except in case of cancellation of a category by the competition.

5. Evaluation criteria and jury decisions

The jury's decisions are final and are based on criteria of artistic interpretation, technical mastery and originality. In case of doubt or equality of points, the vote of the chairman of the jury counts double in deciding between the candidates.

Participants may ask questions to the jury to clarify the decisions taken.

Prizes not awarded : The jury reserves the right not to award certain prizes if the required level is not reached.

Cancellation of categories : If a category is cancelled due to an insufficient number of participants, the entry fees will be refunded to those registered in that category.

Prizes awarded : All cash prizes or scholarships will be paid into the same bank account used for registration.

6. Assistance and contact

For any questions or technical assistance, please contact us at: echodelaluz@gmail.com

7. Honesty policy

Honesty policy. All participants must respect the principles of integrity and transparency. Any attempt to cheat, alter audio or not follow the rules will result in immediate disqualification. These rules reflect Echo Contest's commitment to providing an enriching, fair and inclusive musical experience for all participants.

Consultation with the Jury : Participants will be able to ask questions to the jury to clarify the decisions taken.

Public results : All results will be published and available on the official website of the competition.

Catergories and Awards

PIANO

Beginner artist (under 10 years old)

First Prize

Concert at the Thalberg Piano Festival in Mitrovica (Kosovo)
200 € and diploma

Second Prize

Partial scholarship for a masterclass at Leon Piano Meeting (Spain) and diploma

Third Prize

Masterclass and mentoring by the artistic director of 'Écho de la Luz', Alejandro Céspedes Martín and diploma

Young artist (10-under 14)

First Prize

Concert at the Thalberg Piano Festival in Mitrovica (Kosovo)
300 € and diploma

Second Prize

Partial scholarship for a masterclass at Leon Piano Meeting (Spain) and diploma

Third Prize

Masterclass and mentoring by the artistic director of 'Écho de la Luz', Alejandro Céspedes Martín and diploma

Promising Artist (14-18 years old)

First Prize

Concert at the Thalberg Piano Festival in Mitrovica (Kosovo)
400 € and diploma

Second Prize

Partial scholarship for a masterclass at Leon Piano Meeting (Spain) and diploma
200 € and diploma

Third Prize

Masterclass and mentoring by the artistic director of 'Écho de la Luz', Alejandro Céspedes Martín
100 € and diploma

ECHO PIANO" SPECIAL PRIZE

Paid concert in the second edition of “Echo de la Luz” for one of the finalists in one of the three categories.

Prize awarded by the President of the jury.

CHAMBER MUSIC

Professional chamber music (16 years old - no age limit)

First Prize

Production of a CD of 200 copies under the label Écho de la Luz* (valued at 3.000 €)
Concert prize at the Thalberg Piano Festival in Mitrovica (Kosovo)
600 € and diploma

Second Prize

Partial scholarship for a masterclass at Leon Piano Meeting (Spain)

400 € and diploma

Third Prize

Masterclass and mentoring by the artistic director of 'Écho de la Luz', Alejandro Céspedes Martín

200 € and diploma

* Once the mastering is received with the music produced by the artist, the label Echo de la Luz will carry out the entire production process of the CD: pressing, graphic design, administrative procedures, creation of DDP, copyright declaration to Sacem, promotional video, accompaniment and mentoring, as well as distribution in all Echo de la Luz networks and shipment of the 200 copies. All royalties from the sale of the 190 copies belong to the artist. The label keeps the remaining 10 copies for distribution and registration. Prize valued at €3,000.

SPECIAL PRICE 'ECHO CHAMBER MUSIC'.

Paid concert in the second edition of "Echo de la Luz" for one of the finalists in one of the three categories.

Prize awarded by the President of the jury.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Best French Chamber Ensemble/Pianist

Best Spanish Chamber Ensemble/Pianist

Best European Chamber Ensemble/Pianist

Best North American Chamber Ensemble/Pianist

Best South American Chamber Ensemble/Pianist

Best Asian Chamber Ensemble/Pianist

Best Australian Chamber Ensemble/Pianist

Best African Chamber Ensemble/Pianist

Best Baroque Performance

Best Classical Performance

Best Romantic Performance

Best 20th Century Music Performance

Best Spanish Performance

Registration for the competition

To register for the piano or chamber music competition it is necessary to fulfil the following conditions and to send all the required documentation by email before 1/12/2025 to:

echodelaluz@gmail.com

Payment of registration fees. **Make the payment corresponding to your category:**

- Beginner Artist (piano): 40 €.
- Young Artist (Piano): 50 €.
- Promising Artist (Piano): 60 €.
- Chamber music: 100 € per ensemble

Bank information for payment:

Bank: Crédit Mutuel

IBAN: FR76 1027 8022 5000 0208 5690 191

BIC: CMCIFR2A

Keep the payment receipt to add to your email

Necessary documents and information

- Name and surname (Name and surname of all the members of the chamber music group)
- Category :
- Identity card/passport (for chamber music, the identity card of all the members of the ensemble)
- Telephone number :
- E-mail (For chamber music, the e-mail address of the representative of the ensemble)
- Address :
- Repertoire to be performed:
- Video links:
- Proof of payment.
- CV (Maximum 250 words). Word/PDF format.
- Artistic photograph.
- PDF of the scores.

Deadline :

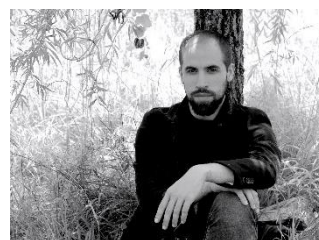
All documents must be submitted by: 1/12/2025.

Jury

Alejandro Céspedes Martín

President of the Echo de la Luz Association (France) and President of the 'Echo Prize' competition.

Pianist and choir conductor, winner of international competitions and teacher of piano, chamber music and piano accompanist at the Grand Cahors Conservatoire.



Giuseppe Devastato

President and CEO of WPTA Spain

Concert pianist and composer, professor at the Academy of Musical Arts in Madrid and at the Accademia Musicale Europea in Naples, guest professor at the Talent Music Masters Academy in Brescia and at the Euro Arts Academy in Germany.



Cécile Cardinot

Co-director of the international festival 'Le temps de Guitares'.

Singer, state-certified classical guitarist and choir conductor. She began her concert career with Olivier Bensa, forming the Bensa-Cardinot Duo. Her concerts have taken her to various countries (China, Italy, Switzerland, England among others) to perform programmes from her 4 CDs recorded on the French label Les Disques Rouges.



Eric Lesage

Artistic director of the Frontonnais Music in the Vineyards festival

Pianist, teacher, musicologist and concert pianist, Éric Lesage is Professor of Artistic Education at the Conservatoire Départemental de Montauban. He holds a Certificate of Aptitude for Piano Teaching and a Master 2 in Musicological Research dedicated to contemporary piano creation.



Xavier Julien

International violinist

International violinist Xavier Julien has won numerous competitions, including those in Austria and Italy.

Recorded on Indesens Calliope Records. Violinist in orchestras such as the National Orchestra of Lille, University of Music of Detmold (Germany), National Orchestra of Montpellier, Philharmonic Orchestra of Monte Carlo, Orchestre Colonne, among others.



Xavier Julien plays a German violin from 1894 by the luthiers Neuner & Hochsteiner and a contemporary French violin by the luthier Pascal Quinson, with bows by François Grimaux.