

05 / 2026

ZF Music Award 2026

In just a few days, the piano competition for the ZF Music Award 2026 will begin. From June 4 to 7, six multi-award-winning musicians from five nations will compete in the piano competition for the ZF Music Award.

On June 7, 2026, the ZF Art Foundation will present the ZF Music Award for the twelfth time. The award honors the outstanding achievements of highly talented pianists. Previous winners include piano virtuosos such as Herbert Schuch (2004), Alexej Gorlatch (2008), Claire Huangci (2012), Aaron Pilsan (2014), Raúl da Costa (2016), Dmytro Choni (2018), and Xiaolu Zang (2022).

From June 4 to 7, 2026, six musicians from five countries—each already the recipient of multiple awards—will rise to the challenge and compete in the piano competition for the ZF Music Award 2026: Luis Benedict Alfsmann (Germany), Jacopo Giovannini (Italy), Jooyeon Ka (South Korea), Emin Kiourktchian (Spain), Sohta Miura (Japan), and Vivien Walser (Germany).

In three competition concerts, a four-member jury will determine the prize winners of the ZF Music Award, which is endowed with €10,000, €5,000, and €3,000 for first, second, and third place. As in previous years, the jury will be chaired by Peter Vogel, Artistic Director of the ZF Music Award. Other jury members are Özgür Aydin, Prof. Yuka Imamine, and Seonghyeon Leem.

Each of the three public competition concerts focuses on a specific repertoire that demands a high level of artistry from the participants: At the first concert on Thursday, June 4, at 6:30 PM, the six young performers will present works by Johann Sebastian Bach and sonatas from the Viennese Classical period at the Münzhof in Langenargen. The second competition concert will take place on Friday, June 5, at 6:30 PM, also at the Münzhof in Langenargen. The four remaining participants will perform works of German Romanticism and a piece of contemporary music. The final concert with the three finalists will be held on Sunday, June 7, at 7:00 PM in the Ludwig-Dürr Hall at the Graf-Zeppelin-Haus in Friedrichshafen. The repertoire will include concert études—among others by Frédéric Chopin—as well as a representative work of the 19th or 20th century of the performer's choice. Following the performances, the jury will determine the final ranking based on all three competition rounds and announce the winners.

Another special feature of the ZF Music Award: during each of the three public competition concerts, the audience can vote for their personal favorite and award a €500 Audience Prize. In addition to the curated repertoire themes that give each concert its distinct character, this audience involvement makes the piano competition an especially exciting musical event.

For 28 years now, the ZF Art Foundation and Peter Vogel have been working together to establish outstanding musical projects in the Lake Constance region. The ZF Music Award and the International Piano Festival of Young Masters not only enrich the regional cultural landscape but also offer audiences new and diverse insights into the world of piano music—at the highest level.

Admission to all three concerts is free of charge. Ticket reservation is required and available via the Reservix webshop of the ZF Art Foundation: [ZF Musikpreis Ticketshop - Alle Events](#).

Press Contact

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Participants / Press Photos:

Luis Benedict Alfsmann



Luis Benedict Alfsmann © Joachim Hoppe

Born 2001 in Herdecke (Germany)

Luis Benedict Alfsmann began piano lessons at the age of seven with Nana Gvasalia. After studying at the *Detmold University of Music* with Prof. Elena Margolina-Hait and with Rainer M. Klaas, he is currently studying with Prof. Gilead Mishory at the *Freiburg University of Music*. He has attended masterclasses with Jerome Rose, Klaus Hellwig, and Nina Tichman, among others. He has performed piano concertos by Mozart, Beethoven, and Grieg. His awards include first prizes at the *Westphalian van Bremen Piano Competition* and the *international Young Euregio Piano Award*.

Jacopo Giovannini



Jacopo Giovannini © Corinna Raupach

Born 1997 in Rome (Italy)

Jacopo Giovannini won his first international competition at the age of five, gave his first public recital at six, and his orchestral debut at eleven with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic. At age 14, he graduated with highest honors from the *Conservatorio di Musica Santa Cecilia*. After studying with Prof. Bernd Goetzke in Hanover and Prof. Boris Kusnezow in Leipzig, he is currently studying with Prof. Claudio Martínez Mehner in Cologne and Prof. Angelika Merkle in Frankfurt.

Jooyeon Ka



Jooyeon Ka © Artist

Born 1995 in South Korea

Jooyeon Ka is a prize winner of numerous international competitions, including the *65th International Piano Competition Premio Jaén* (Spain) and the *New York International Piano Competition* (USA). She twice reached the main round of the *Chopin Piano Competition* in Warsaw. She has performed with the *Suwon Philharmonic Orchestra* and the *Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra*, among others. She studied at *Yonsei University* in Seoul, with Prof. Jacques Rouvier at the *Mozarteum University Salzburg*, and is currently studying with Prof. Björn Lehmann at the *Berlin University of the Arts*.

Emin Kiourktchian



Emin Kiourktchian © Artist

Born 2004 in Córdoba (Spain)

Emin Kiourktchian received his first piano lessons from Larisa Tedtoeva and has been studying with Prof. Milana Chernyavska at the *Reina Sofía School of Music* in Madrid since 2021. He made his concerto debut in 2019 performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 in Murcia under the direction of Manuel Hernández Silva. Since then, he has performed regularly as a soloist and chamber musician, including with the *Neue Philharmonie Hamburg* and the *Orchestra of Córdoba*. His competition successes include first prizes at the *Frechilla Zuluaga Competition* and the *Intercentros Melómano Competition*.

Sohta Miura

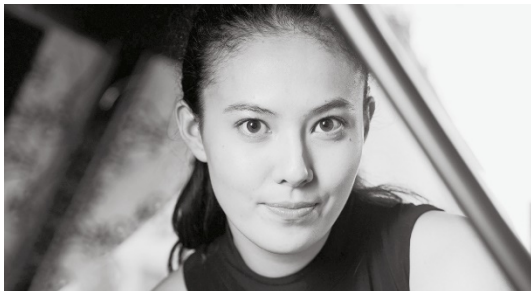


Sohta Miura © Shigeto Imura

Born 2000 in Osaka (Japan)

Sohta Miura has won first prize at the *Giovani Musicisti Città di Treviso Competition*, third prize at the *Rina Sala Gallo Piano Competition* in Monza in 2024, and is a laureate of the *89th Japan Music Competition*. He has performed as a soloist with the *Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra* and the *Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano* and has given concerts in Tokyo, Osaka, Hamamatsu, Kassel, Walsrode, Heidelberg, and Munich. After graduating from the *Toho Gakuen School of Music*, he is currently studying with Prof. Roland Krüger in Hanover.

Vivien Walser



Vivien Walser© Kai Neunert

Born 2004 in Munich (Germany)

Vivien Walser studies with Prof. Antti Siirala at the *University of Music and Performing Arts Munich*. A scholarship holder of the *Liechtenstein Music Academy* and the *Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben*, she has won numerous international competitions, including the *Valencia International Performance Academy* and the *Steinway Classical Promotion Award*. In 2024, she performed in Hamburg with the *Kammersinfonie Hamburg* and at the *Prinzregententheater* in Munich with works by Clara Schumann and Rachmaninoff. She has appeared at festivals such as *Highlights of Classical Music* and the *Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival*.