



THE "CASAGRANDE" INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION 2019 IS COMING ALIVE

The 31st edition of the historic international award that boasts true icons of music in its Hall of Fame is gearing up. Online registrations are in progress (expiring on 31st October 2018), the pre-selections will be in November and the final rounds in Terni from May 19th to 25th, 2019. A prestigious international jury will select and award the new talents: for them a prize of 35,000 euros and a tour of concerts.

The 31st edition of the International Piano Competition "Alessandro Casagrande" held in Terni is gearing up. Named after the pianist and composer of Terni, born in 1922 and prematurely passed away at the age of 42, the historic competition in the past has awarded young talents who are top concert pianists today, such as Ivo Pogorelich, Alexander Lonquich, Boris Petrushansky, Roberto Prosseda, Giuseppe Andaloro, Herbert Schuch, and many other international music icons.

The new edition was presented at the Fazioli Show Room in Milan on October 4th, 2018 by Elena Benucci, President of the Casagrande Foundation, and by the artistic director Carlo Guaitoli, an acclaimed pianist, among the winners of the 1994 edition. Online registrations are in progress, open until October 31st, 2018. In November, for the first time in the history of the competition, there will be a pre-selection based on videos and curricula sent by the candidates. In this phase the jury will be formed by three well-known pianists, teachers at the "Giulio Briccialdi" Institute of Musical Studies in Terni: Carlo Guaitoli, Angelo Pepicelli and Mariangela Vacatello.

A maximum of 28 candidates will have access to the final rounds that will take place from May 19th to 25th, 2019 at the Teatro Sergio Secci in Terni. The prizes will be given by an international jury after three solo piano rounds and a final round with the Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese.

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The **competition rules and regulations** are on the **website**, which has been **completely renewed**: www.concorsocasagrande.org.

The prestigious international jury that will have the task of selecting and awarding these new talents consists of seven important concert performers and teachers. The President will be **Julian Martin** from the USA, Professor at the Juilliard School in New York and winner of prestigious international competitions (Montevideo, "Ravel-Casadesus" today Cleveland, "Bachauer", "Kapell"). With him: **Christian Debrus** from France, concert artist with a dense international agenda, founder and president of the Vigan Festival; **Eteri Andjaparidze**, Steinway artist and teacher at NYW Steinhardt and at Mannes School of Music in New York City; **Carlo Guaitoli**, one of the most brilliant Italian musicians and among the graduates of the "Casagrande" of which today he is artistic director, winner of prestigious awards at "Busoni", "Rubinstein", "Tokyo IMCJ"; **Alexey Lebedev** from Russia, one of the most acclaimed performers of the new generation, who won international competitions such as "Maria Canals", "Iturbi", "Busoni"; the great Italian virtuoso **Andrea Lucchesini**, winner of the "Dino Ciani Competition", Professor at the School of Music of Fiesole, artistic director of the Accademia Filarmonica Romana; **Graham Scott** from England, winner of the Competition of Jaen, now director of the Piano School of the Royal Northern College of Music, artistic director of the RNCM Mottram International Piano Competition.

The prize money is of great importance: 35,000 euros. The winner will be awarded 20,000 euros, the second place prize will be 7,000 euros, and the third place prize will be 4,000 euros; several special prizes will also be awarded. Established as a formidable springboard for new pianistic talents, the competition **also guarantees the winner a tour of concerts at prestigious institutions**, among which are: **Società dei Concerti di Milano, IUC-Istituzione Universitaria Concerti di Roma, Fazioli Concert Hall di Sacile, Gioventù Musicale Italiana, Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese, Associazione Filarmonica Umbra, Amici della Musica di Foligno.**

For the first time, the Competition has established a partnership with **Fazioli Pianoforti**, which has been producing grand pianos and concert pianos since 1981. Founded by the engineer and pianist Paolo Fazioli, the company is an Italian excellence characterized by

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passion for music and scientific expertise, craftsmanship, technological research and strict selection of materials.

The previous edition took place in 2014, attracting 121 competitors from all over the world and crowned the young Chinese virtuoso **Julian Zhao Jia**. The recent history of the competition unfortunately registers the sad disappearance in 2017 of **Maria Tedesco Casagrande**, for more than ten years President of the Foundation and soul of the Competition. Her nephews - **Elena Benucci, President of the Casagrande Foundation, and Michele Benucci, Vice President** – wish to keep her memory alive, together with that of **Adriana Morelli Casagrande**, the composer's widow, and to continue their generous commitment to young musicians.

From 1966 to today, the Competition has consolidated its leadership and visibility on the international music scene. It is part of international circuits of absolute prestige such as the ***Alink-Argerich Foundation***.

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