

COMPETITION RULES

LIX “FRANCISCO TÁRREGA” INTERNATIONAL GUITAR COMPETITION

From 27 August to 4 September 2026

BENICÀSSIM

Spain

COMPETITION RULES

ANNOUNCEMENT

- 1.** The town of Benicàssim, Spain, the organiser of the FRANCISCO TÁRREGA INTERNATIONAL GUITAR COMPETITION, hereby announces the LIX edition of this competition that will take place from 27 August to 4 September 2026.
- 2.** The competition is open to any classical guitarists and aims to encourage the performance of guitar pieces, with a special emphasis on the composer FRANCISCO TÁRREGA.
- 3.** All guitarists are welcome to take part, except past winners of the first prize at the competition. The age limit is set at 35; competitors must not have reached the age of 36 while the competition is being held.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- 4.** The competition's organising committee is chaired by the mayor of the town of Benicàssim.
- 5.** The specific tasks of the organising committee are to:
 - a) Accept competitor applications. Any competitors may be excluded, even when previously accepted, if the organising committee believes they are relatives up to the third degree of kinship of, or current students of, any member of the jury, and this also applies to anyone that, without just cause, fails to be present at the time specified by the organisation in order for the competition to continue.
 - b) Answer any questions regarding situations not covered by these competition rules.
 - c) Set the time and place for holding the competition preselection and shows.

THE JURY

- 6.** The panel of judges will be proposed by the organising committee and approved by the local governing body of the town of Benicàssim.
- 7.** The jury's decisions will be final. Any prize may be declared void.
- 8.** When awarding the first, second and special prize for the best performance of FRANCISCO TÁRREGA's work, the jury will take into account the competitor's playing and programme at the competition shows and the final show. Only competitors performing at the final show are eligible for the special prize for the best performance of FRANCISCO TÁRREGA's work.

REGISTRATION

9. To apply for registration please use the form attached at the end of the competition rules.

Together with the registration fees, competitors will provide the following documents:

- PDF copies of the scores to be performed at all stages of the competition.
- A current photo in PDF or JPG format.
- Photocopy of ID or passport.
- Curriculum Vitae. (Not exceeding 2000 characters, in Times New Roman 12p)

Registrations and documents will be sent to the following email address:

guitarra@benicassim.org

- Registration deadline:

Registration will close **on 1 August, 2026**

Payment of the entry fee (€30) will be made by credit card at the meeting with the competitors on 27 August.

Competitors eligible for the prize for the best Spanish performer born or living in the Valencian Community shall indicate so when registering. A birth certificate shall be provided as proof for anyone born in the Valencian Community; for residents, a certificate from the city/town hall shall be provided showing that residency began before the date these competition rules were approved. Both documents shall be attached to the application for registration.

10. Competitors shall perform all pieces from memory.

11. The Organising Committee will provide all competitors with lodgings (room and breakfast) at hotels to be specified, for 27, 28 and 29 August with departure on 30 August, and any participants who pass the preselection audition and perform in the competition shows will be able to extend their stay until 12 pm on 5 September. The twelve competitors who pass the preselection phase will be provided with full board and lodgings on 31 August and 1, 2, 3 and 4 September.

AUDITIONS

PRESELECTION

12. A public drawing of lots shall be held, in the presence of a notary at the town hall of Benicàssim on 5 August 2026 at 12 pm, to establish the running order at the preselection and shows of all registered competitors, who shall be present at the competition venue (Espai de la Música, 132 Dolores Street) 27 August before 7 pm.

13. According to the running order set by the drawing of lots, the selected competitors will perform the following works at the specified place and time:
A repertoire chosen by competitors that includes pieces (or movements) and that shall necessarily include Francisco Tárrega's *"Preludio nº1 en Re menor" (2ª serie) Ed. Bèrben* and *"Studio-Scherzo" (T. Damas) Ed. Bèrben*. This audition will not exceed 15 minutes.

Competitors may be interrupted at any point in their audition if the jury sees fit.

14. After the preselection auditions are over, the jury will announce the names of the competitors who passed (maximum of 12), and those selected will perform at the show sessions.

SEMI-FINAL SESSIONS

15. Competitors who pass the preselection auditions will perform the pieces of their choice at the competition venue on 1, 2 and 3 September. Said pieces shall necessarily include **"Danza Mora" by FRANCISCO TÁRREGA and a freely chosen work by the same composer.**

The programme to be performed will last a minimum of 25 minutes and a maximum of 30 minutes, and may not include the pieces played during preselection.

16. After the third semi-final session the jury will announce the names of the competitors (maximum of 4) that will perform at the final session on 4 September following the order established by a new drawing of lots by the Organising Committee.

17. Guitarists that play at the semi-final sessions but do not reach the Final sesión, will take part in the *"Tárrega Day' concert"* (the Thursday before the Final) where they will mainly perform shorter pieces by the great musician Tárrega.

18. Only competitors that have passed the preselection stage shall be eligible for the Prize for the Best Spanish Performer Born or Living in the Valencian Community.

FINAL SESSION

19. On 4 September, at the place set by the Organising Committee, competitors will perform:

As a tribute to Maestro Joaquín Rodrigo (1901-1999) in commemoration of the 125 anniversary of his birth

a) A guitar and orchestra concerto to be chosen from among the following works:

Fantasia para un Gentilhombre Ed. Joaquín Rodrigo	Joaquín Rodrigo
Concierto de Aranjuez Ed. Joaquín Rodrigo	Joaquín Rodrigo
Concierto para una Fiesta Ed. Joaquín Rodrigo	Joaquín Rodrigo

b) Competitor's choice of pieces by FRANCISCO TÁRREGA that have not been performed at previous stages in the competition, and that do not exceed 9 minutes.

PRIZES

20. The prizes are as follows:

- **FIRST:** €12,000

CD recording of at least 60 minutes.

Several concerts to be set by the competition organisation.

- **SECOND:** €4,808

- **SPECIAL PRIZE FOR THE BEST PERFORMANCE OF FRANCISCO TÁRREGA'S WORK:** €2,404

- **AUDIENCE PRIZE:** €1,653

- **PRIZE FOR THE BEST SPANISH PERFORMER BORN OR LIVING IN THE VALENCIAN COMMUNITY,** who passed the Preselection auditions: €811

21. Competitors who participate in the show Sessions are ensured €571, which may not be combined with other prizes.

22. Competitors who participate in the Final show are ensured €1,202, provided they are not awarded one of the top two prizes.

23. Competitors who participate in the “Tárrega Day” are ensured €300.

24. Prizes will be awarded by a majority of the members of the jury. Prizes will be indivisible, and one of them may not be awarded.

The Special Prize for the Best Performance of Francisco Tárrega’s Work, the Prize for the Best Spanish Performer Born or Living in the Valencian Community and the Audience Prize are independent and combinable with any other prize.

25. All prize winners shall collect their prize in person at the place and time communicated to them.

26. The income tax as required by current legislation will be deducted from prizes above €300.

FINAL PROVISIONS

27. All auditions will be public and audio and video recordings of them may be made.

28. THE FRANCISCO TÁRREGA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION reserves the right, both during and after the event, to broadcast by radio, television, video or any other means of playback each and every audition and show, including the final show, for which competitors will receive no royalties whatsoever. The first prize winner will sign away any phonographic rights derived from this subject in order to record the CD.

29. The concerts forming part of the First Prize will take place the year after the LIX Competition is held. The organisation will not be held liable for any cancellations or variations that, for reasons beyond its control, could happen in the schedule of these tours.

30. The organising committee is not liable for compensation for possible damage caused or suffered by contestants because of the LIX Competition being held.

31. By applying for registration, competitors agree to be bound by these competition rules.

Benicàssim, April 2026.