

31st
Heran Cello
Competition



April 29 – May 2, 2026
Ústí nad Orlicí
Czech Republic

Compulsory compositions

1st category: year of birth 2016 and younger, one round

Bohuslav Martinů: Suite Miniature No. 4

+ optional programme in minimum length of 3 minutes

Maximum length of the entire performance is 8 minutes.

2nd category: year of birth 2015 and 2014, two rounds

Round 1: Jan Křtitel Vaňhal: Variations in C Major + one etude by S. Lee No. 1, 2 or 3*

Round 2: optional programme 6-12 minutes

3rd category: year of birth 2013 and 2012, two rounds

Round 1: Josef Mysliveček: Sonate in G Major + one etude by S. Lee No. 10, 18 or 28*

Round 2: optional programme 7-15 minutes

4th category: year of birth 2011 and 2010, two rounds

Round 1: Bohuslav Martinů: Variations on a Slovak Folk Song or Variations on a Theme by Rossini + one etude by S. Lee No. 20, 21 or 40*

Round 2: optional programme 8-18 minutes

*Sebastian Lee: op. 31, Forty Melodic and Progressive Etudes For Cello Book 1

The definite classification of the competitors will be determined by the year of birth.

All pieces must be played from memory.

The points from both rounds are added together to make one score.

The organizers do not arrange the piano accompaniment.

The deadline for submitting the entry form is February 28, 2026.

Jury

Prof. Miroslav Petráš, Music Faculty of AMU Prague, Prague Conservatory, chairman

MgA. Věra Bartoníčková, Brno Conservatory

Prof. Marek Jerie (Switzerland), professor emeritus, Hochschule Luzern, member of Guarneri Trio Prague

Jakub Tylman (Germany), principal cellist of Robert Schumann Philharmonie, Chemnitz

MgA. Kamil Žvak, Kroměříž Conservatory, member of Piano Petrof Trio

Awards

The Award from Master Jaroslav Kocian Foundation Fund for the laureate of the competition: **prize money 10 000 CZK and original bobbin-lace by Czech artist Dana Benešová**

The Award from Czech National Radio for the laureate of the competition: **Radio recording with Czech Radio**

The Award from Czech Musical Instruments company for the laureate: **instrument accessory package**

The Award from Master Jaroslav Kocian Foundation Fund for the best interpretation of Bohuslav Martinů Variations on Slovakian folk song or Variations on a Theme by Rossini (contestant from any category): **prize money 10 000 CZK**

The Award from Master Jaroslav Kocian Foundation Fund for the winner of 1st and 2nd category: **prize money 3 000 CZK**

The Award from Master Jaroslav Kocian Foundation Fund for the winner of 3rd and 4th category: **prize money 5 000 CZK**

The award from Violin Schönbach company for the winner of 2nd category: **master 3/4 bow**

The Award from Bärenreiter Prague music publisher for the laureate: **music sheet purchase in Bärenreiter Prague publisher and Bärenreiter-Verlag Kassel worth 5 000 CZK**

The Award from Bärenreiter Prague music publisher for the laureate's teacher: **music sheet purchase in Bärenreiter Prague publisher and Bärenreiter-Verlag Kassel worth 3 000 CZK**

The Award from František Kinský, the New Chateau owner in Kostelec nad Orlicí and of the KINSKÝ Art Media Agency, for the best competitor of each category from the Czech Republic: **a ceremony concert invitation to perform in the Mirror Hall of the New Chateau**

The Award from the Smetana's Litomyšl Festival for the best participant from the Czech Republic in each category: **an invitation to perform at a concert in the Festival Gardens**

Znojmo Music Festival Award for competitor from the 1st or 2nd category for an extraordinary music performance: **Invitation for the Little Prodigies Concert at Znojmo Music Festival 2026**

The Award for the youngest participant

The Award of the children jury

Tobíáš Balkovský CZE,
laureate 2025



Children jury
Live broadcast of the competition

Seminar for teachers

The open lessons (masterclass) will be led by MgA. Marek Novák (Czech Philharmonic, Music School Řevnice). With advanced and intermediate students he will demonstrate his teaching methods and, in a subsequent commentary, explain the principles and reasons behind his approaches and opinions for effective instruction.

List of Laureates

1968

Ramute Kalnenaite
SSSR
Christopher Vanderspar
Velká Británie

1971

Ulrika Schäfer
Rakousko
Jaroslav Mikuš
Československo

1974

Ute Wiesenhütter
NDR

1977

Ute Wiesenhütter
NDR

1980

Hana Jersáková
Československo

1982

Jana Králová
Československo

1984

Alexandr Bagrinev
SSSR

1986

Diljana Momčilová
Bulharsko

1988

Nikolaus Römisch
Západní Berlín

1990

Sergej Novikov
SSSR

1992

Peter Jarůšek
Československo

1994

Edvardas Armonas
Litva

1996

Petra Holubcová
ČR

1997

Claudius Popp
Německo

1999

Georgij Lomakov
Německo – Ukrajina

2001

Tomáš Jamník
ČR

2003

Damjan Saramandić
Srbsko

2005

Haga Sandra Lied
Norsko

2007

zrušena pro malý počet
soutěžících

2009

Gayane Khachatryan
Arménie

2011

Joachim Birman
Francie

2013

Vilém Vlček
ČR

2015

Jee In You
Korea

2017

Tomáš Prchal
Nizozemí

2019

You Wu
Maďarsko

2021

Fryderyk Leon Midor
Polsko

2022

Júlia Sofia Nagyová
Slovensko

2023

Kamila Šitinová
ČR

2024

Fryderyk Leon Midor
Polsko

2025

Tobiáš Balkovský
ČR

Sponsors:

Promoter and main sponsor of the competition

[ou] Město Ústí nad Orlicí

General partner



Main partners



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Media partners



Partners

**smetanova
litomyšl**
festival a generace



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Soutěž, která otvírá cestu. / Competition that paves the way.