



RULES

Olimpico Jazz Contest 2026 – 6th edition

Competition for soloists (trumpet) and emerging jazz groups

22 – 25 May 2026 Vicenza

Deadline for applications: 10 March 2026

INTRODUCTION

2026 marks the centenary of the birth of **Miles Davis** (1926–1991), a revolutionary figure in 20th-century music and an absolute symbol of the evolution of jazz. The sixth edition of the Olimpico Jazz Contest pays tribute to him by choosing the **trumpet** as the solo instrument.

The competition is part of **New Conversations – Vicenza Jazz**, an event promoted by the **Municipality of Vicenza** and organised by the **Fondazione Teatro Comunale Città di Vicenza**, with the support of **Trivellato S.p.A.** and **Brutal srl**.

Confirming its commitment to **supporting young jazz talent**, the 2026 edition introduces two important new features:

- the launch of a **section dedicated to emerging groups** (3 to 5 members);
- the establishment of the **Audience Award**, a symbolic prize awarded to the performance most appreciated by the audience during the final evening.

The **Marco Birro Composition Award** has also been confirmed. This prize is awarded to the best original composition submitted by the candidates and is named in memory of the young and talented pianist who passed away on 8 March 2020.

ART. 1 – SUBJECT AND TARGET AUDIENCE OF THE COMPETITION

The Olimpico Jazz Contest, promoted by the Fondazione Teatro Comunale Città di Vicenza as part of the 'New Conversations – Vicenza Jazz' Festival, is a music competition aimed at young musicians active in the field of jazz.

The sixth edition, scheduled for 2026, is divided into three sections:

- **Soloists Section:** reserved for trumpet players;
- **Group Section:** open to jazz ensembles composed of 3 to 5 musicians;
- **Marco Birro Composition Award:** for the best original composition presented by one of the candidates. Participation is reserved for candidates enrolled in one of the two main sections of the competition (Soloists or Groups). Exclusive candidacy for this section is not permitted.

The following may participate in the competition:



Media partner:





- For the **Soloists section**: trumpet players aged between 18 and 30 (on 10 March 2026), Italian and foreign, **who do not have current recording or publishing contracts.**
- For the **Groups section**: all members must be aged between 18 and 35 (on 10 March 2026) and meet the same residency requirements as above; **all members must be free from current recording or publishing contracts.**

ART. 2 – REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

Registration for the Olimpico Jazz Contest 2026 will be open from the date of publication of this announcement **until Thursday 10 March 2026 at 23:59 (CET).**

Registration is free and must be done exclusively online via the website: www.olimpicोजazzcontest.it

2.1 REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION (SOLOISTS SECTION AND GROUPS SECTION)

Each candidate (or group representative) must complete the registration form and upload the following materials, **under penalty of exclusion** from the competition:

- personal details and contact information (telephone number, primary and secondary email addresses);
- **copy of a valid identity document** (identity card or passport);
- **recent high-resolution photograph** (no passport photo);
- **brief artistic CV**;
- **PDF file listing** the titles, authors and duration of the pieces presented;
- **3 good quality video performances**, to be provided in one of the following ways:
 - **direct upload** of files in mp4 format;
 - **insertion of links** to streaming or file sharing platforms (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, Dropbox).

The pieces should preferably be performed in a jazz combo formation, demonstrate musical skills and include a variety of forms and tempos, solo moments and interplay. Soloists may optionally include a solo piece. In general, it is recommended that at least **one original piece be performed.**

2.2 ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS – “MARCO BIRRO” AWARD

Original compositions submitted for participation in the competition (by soloists or groups) may automatically compete for the **“Marco Birro” Composition Award**, provided that the candidate also sends:



- **a score in PDF format** (Key Concert), containing the musical instructions necessary for performance. The file must be sent by email to: info@olimpicोजazzcontest.it, indicating in the subject line: “**Marco Birro Award – [Name and Surname of the author] – [Title of the piece]**”.

The piece may be one of the three already submitted for selection or may be proposed as additional material exclusively in PDF format (no additional audio/video files are required).

2.3 DECLARATIONS AND AUTHORISATIONS

Upon registration, candidates must:

- **declare** that the performances submitted are free from any current recording or publishing restrictions, relieving the organisation of any liability in the event of disputes;
- **accept these rules in their entirety**;
- **authorise the processing of personal data**, in accordance with Legislative Decree 196/2003 and EU Regulation 679/2016.

ART. 3 – STAGES OF THE COMPETITION AND PROCEDURES

Activity	Period
Registration opening	10th November 2025
Registration deadline	10th March 2026 at 23:59 (CET)
Announcement of the semi-finalists	10th April 2026
Live Semi-Finals and Final	22-25 May 2026

3.1 PRELIMINARY SELECTION (ONLINE)

All submitted materials will be evaluated by an artistic committee composed of musicians and experts in the field, appointed by the festival’s artistic direction. The following will be selected:

- **up to 4 soloists (trumpet)** for the individual section.
- **up to 3 groups** for the section dedicated to ensembles (3 to 5 members).

The list of selected candidates will be published on the official contest website (www.olimpicोजazzcontest.it) starting **on 10 April 2026**, and communicated directly to those concerned via the contact details provided during registration.

The selection of the best original composition will take place at the same time as the evaluation of the applications, but according to separate criteria. The winner of the “Marco Birro” Award may also be a candidate who has not been selected for the live semi-final.



3.2 LIVE SEMI-FINALS AND FINAL

Live performances will take place at the **Teatro Comunale in Vicenza** from 22 to 25 May 2026, as part of the “New Conversations – Vicenza Jazz” Festival.

- **Soloists:** accompanied by a professional rhythm section provided by the organisation. An additional guest may be admitted by prior agreement.
- **Groups:** will perform with their own line-up.

Each candidate or group must present **a maximum of 3 pieces, for a total duration not exceeding 20 minutes (soloists) and 25 minutes (groups).**

The repertoire must reflect the artistic profile of the participants and may **include original pieces and arrangements.**

The organisation guarantees the provision of **a professional sound/lighting system**, basic backline, technical assistance and sound engineer. Specific technical requests must be agreed upon at least 15 days in advance.

ART. 4 – AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Soloists Section - “Trivellato” Award

- **1st place:**
 - Cash prize: **€ 1,500**
 - **Paid engagement** within the programme of Vicenza Jazz 2027

Group Section – “Brutal” Award

- **1st place:**
 - Cash prize: **€ 1,800**
 - **Paid engagement** within the programme of Vicenza Jazz 2027

“Marco Birro” Composition Award:

- **€ 500** for the best original composition

The award ceremony will take place during the final evening of the Olimpico Jazz Contest. The winner will be contacted in advance, and their name will be published on the official competition website and on the festival’s social media channels.

The public performance at the award ceremony is free of charge (with possible reimbursement of documented expenses).



Audience Award

- **Certificate of recognition awarded** to the performance most appreciated by the audience during the final evening, based on a vote cast in the theatre.

All cash prizes will be paid in accordance with current Italian legislation on the traceability and transparency of payments and are gross of any taxes and contributions that may be applicable.

ART. 5 – COMMUNICATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

The names of the **semi-finalists, finalists and winners** will be published on the official competition website and on the social media channels linked to the Vicenza Jazz Festival.

They may also be used in communication, documentation, archiving and promotional initiatives organised by the organisers.

All candidates admitted to the “live” stages will perform free of charge.

Expenses and hospitality will be reimbursed in accordance with the provisions of the relevant article.

ART. 6 – MATERIALS AND DOCUMENTATION FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANTS

Soloists and groups selected for the semi-finals and finals must submit the following documentation **within 15 days** of the dates set for the performances:

- **copy of a valid identity document** (identity card or passport);
- **proof of residence, Italian tax code** (if available);
- **bank details** (name of the institution, IBAN) for the payment of any prizes;
- **for foreign nationals:** any other declaration from the artists' authorities of origin relating to their **social security and/or employment and/or tax treatment (e.g. form A1 for EU citizens, form Taja for US citizens, etc.)**.

Failure to submit the documentation within the deadline will result in **automatic exclusion** from the final stages.

For organisational and promotional purposes, the following may also be requested:

- **updated bio/CV and high-resolution photos;**
- **technical specifications and set list for the performance;**
- **complete scores for the rhythm section** (soloists only).

All participants must sign a release form for the use of images and the processing of personal data, in accordance with current regulations.

ART. 7 – ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSFERS

The organisation will cover the following expenses for participants selected for the semi-finals and finals:

- **Accommodation and meals** during the period of the planned activities (22–25 May 2026), based on the performance schedule;





- **Local transport**, limited to transfers to/from railway stations or airports located in North-East Italy (e.g. Venice, Verona, Treviso), as well as between hotels and the performance venue;
- **Dinner on the day of the performance**, offered to all scheduled candidates.

No reimbursement will be provided for domestic or international travel incurred by participants to reach Vicenza, nor for transfers from airports located outside the North-East area (Verona, Venezia, Treviso).

ART. 8 – PERFORMANCES AND ORGANISATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The official performance schedule (dates, times, venues and names of participants) will be published in the promotional materials for the **'New Conversations – Vicenza Jazz' Festival** and on the competition website.

Selected candidates are required to:

- **arrive on time for rehearsals**, sound checks and performances;
- **bring valid identification with them**;
- **bring the personal musical instruments required for their performance**.

ART. 9 – WITHDRAWALS AND REPLACEMENTS

In the event of withdrawal by a soloist or selected group, for personal reasons or unforeseen circumstances, the artistic director reserves the right to find a replacement, at their sole discretion.

ART. 10 – ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES AND RESPONSIBILITY

Participation in the competition implies full and unconditional acceptance of these rules.

By registering, participants:

- **release the organisation from any direct or indirect liability arising from false statements or disputes relating to the authorship of the songs submitted**;
- **authorise the use of their name and image in association with the name, logo and promotional activities of the festival and its institutional, technical and media partners**.

The organisation declines all responsibility for **any accidents, damage, theft or unforeseen events** occurring to persons or property before, during or after the event, when such events are beyond the control of the organisers.

ART. 11 – AUTHORISATION FOR THE USE OF AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDINGS AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

By accepting these rules, participants authorise the audio and video recording of performances during the competition. No compensation shall be due for the use, dissemination or publication of such materials by the organisation or by the festival's technical partners (including television and radio broadcasters, digital media outlets and accredited photographers).



The organisation also reserves the right to:

- use the audiovisual materials for the purpose of promoting the initiative;
- include songs, photos, CVs and other content provided by participants in promotional and informational materials for the competition and the festival, both in print and digital format.

This is without prejudice to the authors' right to claim intellectual property rights over the compositions submitted, as well as to independently protect and register them with the SIAE or other competent bodies, in accordance with current regulations.

ART. 12 – PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The personal data collected will be processed in accordance with the provisions of Legislative Decree 196/2003 (Personal Data Protection Code) and EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR), as provided for in Article 13 of the respective regulations.

For further information, please refer to the Privacy Policy available on the official competition website.

ART. 13 – CHANGES TO THE RULES

The organisation reserves the right to make changes and/or additions to these rules if necessary for artistic, technical, organisational or regulatory reasons.

In cases of force majeure, the organisation may also modify the overall structure of the competition. Any changes will be **promptly communicated**:

- on the official website: www.olimpicोजazzcontest.it
- and **through direct communication to the selected competitors.**

ART. 14 – LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

The following individuals are not eligible to participate in the competition:

- collaborators, consultants and members of the Festival and Contest organisational staff;
- relatives up to the second degree, including those by marriage of the members of the artistic or technical jury;
- individuals who, for any reason, may generate situations of conflict of interest.

Should a **situation of incompatibility arise**, or a **violation of the conditions be detected**, the organisation reserves the right **to take the necessary measures** at any time to protect the regularity and transparency of the competition.

FOR INFORMATION

Olimpico Jazz Contest Organising Secretariat

info@olimpicोजazzcontest.it



Media partner:

