

10° INTERNATIONAL BOTTESINI COMPETITION

Announcement of the Competition for Candidates Aged 18–34

Crema e Cremona (Italia) - from 19st to 25th October 2026



First prize “Walter Stauffer”

Franco Petracchi - Honorary Chairman

Enrico Fagone - Artistic Director

Francesco Daniel Donati - General Director

COMPETITION NOTICE

The Giovanni Bottesini Musical Association is pleased to announce the 10th International Bottesini Competition - IBC.

The competition will take place in Crema and Cremona **from October 19 to 25, 2026**, and will be open to double bassists of all nationalities between the ages of **16 and 34**, specifically those born between **October 26, 1991, and October 19, 2010**.

JURY

The composition of the jury will be published on social media and on the competition's official website.

The members of the Jury will formulate a set of internal guidelines in order to establish the criteria, which allow them to carry out their duties. In the case of a tie, the Jury President's vote will count for two. Any member of the Jury who is related to or who is/was the teacher of a competitor within the last two years is not allowed to vote for that competitor.

The Jury's decisions are final.

PRIZES

The **total prize pool** for IBC 2026 is estimated at **€ 66,000**.

- **First Prize "Walter Stauffer":**
a double bass made by **Marco Nolli** luthier*
- **Second Prize:**
a double bass made by **Richard Gonon** luthier*
- **Third Prize:**
a bow made by bow maker **Marco Pasquino**, as well as a "Imperator 4/4" hard case/flight case for double bass by **Bogaro & Clemente**
- **Under 25 Award:**
€ 1.000 (one thousand/00)**
- **Award for the best performance of G. Sollima's piece**
€ 1.000 (one thousand/00)**

Special Prizes:

- **050 Rosin Award:**
Every candidate who passes the first round will receive a set of three pieces of 050 Rosin
- **Bogaro & Clemente Award**
The top three finishers will receive a Bogaro & Clemente bow case
- **D'Addario Award**
The top three finishers will receive a set of D'Addario strings

- **Premio Pirastro**

The top three finishers will receive a set of Pirastro strings

- The organizers may offer additional prizes or prize concerts

It is the Jury's right not to award the prizes.

*In order to offer the best possible product, the double basses to be awarded will be custom-made for the winners. For this reason, the instruments will be crafted once the recipients of the prize have been determined.

** Cash prizes will be paid out by the organisation within 60 days of the competition finals by bank transfer.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the competition implies full acceptance of all the rules that govern its performance.

a. Registration for the first round (online)

By **4:00 p.m. (CET) on September 2, 2026**, each applicant must complete the registration form (available in the “Registration” section of the website www.bottesinicompetition.it) and submit the following documentation:

1. the registration form completed in all its parts;
2. a photocopy of a document certifying the identity of the candidate;
3. a recent photograph;
4. a short curriculum vitae (in Italian or in English);
5. the list of selected pieces from the musical program that the competitor has chosen;
6. 1 recent video showing a performance of the piece selected from the Music Program (under the “First Round” section). The video must be uploaded to YouTube (not WeTransfer). The video must be filmed with a single camera, and the candidate must be visible from head to toe throughout the entire recording. Each candidate must ensure that both hands are also clearly visible. A clock, alarm clock, or stopwatch must be placed clearly visible within the camera’s frame to demonstrate that the video has not been edited;
7. a scan of the receipt of the payment of € 30.00 (thirty/00) as the registration fee for the first round (online selection) of the competition. Any costs of the transaction are at the expense of the competitors.

The payment of the fee will validate the registration for the first round (online selection) and can be made by bank transfer to the bank account in the name of the Giovanni Bottesini Musical Association at Banco BPM - Crema headquarters.

Account holder: ASSOCIAZIONE MUSICALE GIOVANNI BOTTESINI
IBAN: IT91S050345684100000000612 - SWIFT/BIC: BAPPIT21R01

Specify in the purpose of transfer "First Round International Bottesini Competition Fee 2026" followed by the name and surname of the candidate. If you prefer to pay via PayPal the fee is € 31.50 (thirty-one/50) and you can do it from the link DONAZIONE in the homepage of the website www.associazionebottesini.com or www.bottesinicompetition.it

All of the above documentation must be submitted in digital format, fully completed and accompanied by all required attachments, via the online form, no later than **4:00 p.m. (CET) on September 2, 2026.**

Please note: Under no circumstances will fees paid for the first round be refunded. Once submitted, the application cannot be modified.

Video auditions for the first round will be conducted by the Competition Management.

The secretariat will publish the names of the candidates who have passed the First Round on social media (Facebook and Instagram) and will contact only those candidates admitted to the in-person rounds via email.

ONLY FOR THOSE WHO PASS THE FIRST ROUND

b. Registration for those who pass the first round

Candidates admitted to the in-person stages (October 19–25) will have 10 days from the date of notification to send the secretariat at ibc@associazionebottesini.com a copy of the payment made by bank transfer (using the same bank details used for the pre-selection fee. See above.) of € **120.00** (one hundred twenty/00) as the registration fee. The payment description must include the text "IBC 2026 Registration Fee" followed by the candidate's first and last name. If you wish to pay via PayPal, the amount must be €126.00 (one hundred twenty-six/00), and you may do so by clicking the DONATE button located on the homepage of the websites www.bottesinicompetition.it or www.associazionebottesini.com.

Please note: under no circumstances will registration fees be refunded. Failure to pay by the above deadlines will result in the candidate's exclusion from the competition

SCHEDULE OF IN-PERSON STAGES OF THE COMPETITION

The in-person auditions for the competition will take place in Crema and Cremona between October 19 and 25, 2026, and will be organized as follows:

- a) Rehearsals with pianist (19 October)**
- b) Second Round (20, 21 October)**
- c) Third Round (22 October)**
- d) Semi final (23 October)**
- e) Rehearsals with the Orchestra Bottesini (24 October)**
- f) Final with the Orchestra Bottesini (25 October)**

It is possible to express a date preference between the 20th and the 21st of October for the second round, justifying the request. For logistical reasons, the organisation cannot guarantee to be able to accommodate all requests.

Each competitor will be given the opportunity to rehearse the competition pieces before the audition with the official pianists provided by the organisation at the times communicated by the Secretariat at the official convocations.

It will not be possible to be accompanied by a pianist other than those provided by the Competition.

The organisation will provide rehearsal rooms, which are indicated at the time of the convocation.

MUSIC PROGRAM

Preliminary regulation

- The musical instrument must have a string length of at least 100 cm.
- The candidates must play all their repertoire using solo tuning.
- To prepare for G. Sollima's piece, each candidate may purchase and download the sheet music at the following link: <https://www.ricercareditions.com/giovanni-sollimas-works>
The piece will be available within 6 weeks of the competition, and the organization will officially announce via social media (Instagram and Facebook) when it will be possible to purchase it.
- The jury may decide to listen to the entire program, each piece or just an excerpt of the program or piece.
- For each piece recommended editions are requested (the suggested list of compositions and their related editions are listed below in alphabetical order), but performances based on original manuscripts are always allowed.
- No memory execution required

ONLINE AUDITIONS

First round (selection via video)

- One of the following compositions of your choice:
 - Allegretto Capriccio (International Music Company, Yorke Edition)
 - Introduzione e Gavotta (Deutscher Verlag für Musik)
 - Tarantella (Billaudot, Costallat, Yorke Edition)

LIVE AUDITIONS (October 19-25, 2026)

a. Second round (Crema)

- G. Sollima "The Atlas Syndrome" (Capriccio for Solo Double Bass), 2026
- *Elegia No. 1 in Re* (International Music Company, Recital Music, Ricordi, Yorke Edition)
- One of the following compositions of your choice:
 - Allegretto Capriccio (International Music Company, Yorke Edition)
 - Introduzione e Gavotta (Deutscher Verlag für Musik)

- Tarantella (Billaudot, Costallat, Yorke Edition)

b. Third round (Crema)

- One of the following *Elegies* of your choice:
 - *Elegia No.2 Romanza Drammatica* (International Music Company, Recital Music, Yorke Edition)
 - *Elegia No.3 Romanza Patetica-Mélodie* (International Music Company, String Virtuoso, Yorke Edition)
- One of the following *Fantasie* of your choice:
 - *Beatrice di Tenda* (Akkord Music, Billaudot)
 - *I Puritani* (Yorke Edition)
 - *La Sonnambula* (Billaudot, Costallat, Deutscher Verlag für Musik)
 - *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Akkord Music, International Music Company, String Virtuoso, Yorke Edition)
 - *Variazioni su La Straniera* (String Virtuoso)

c. Semifinal (Cremona)

- *Grande Allegro di Concerto* (Deutscher Verlag für Musik, International Music Company)
- One of the following compositions of your choice:
 - *Bolero* (Yorke Edition)
 - *Capriccio di Bravura* (International Music Company, Zanibon)
 - *Nel cor più non mi sento* (Deutscher Verlag für Musik, Yorke Edition)
 - *Variazioni dal Carnevale di Venezia* (Billaudot, Costallat, International Music Company)

d. Final with "Orchestra Bottesini" Conductor Enrico Fagone (Crema)

- *Concerto No. 2 in Si minore* (LIM, Yorke Edition)

FINAL REGULATION

Candidates waive all fees, including for any registrations or for transmissions made by public or private radio-television organizations, for which they give their consent. It will not be possible to complete registration for the Competition without granting authorization for audio recordings, photographs, and video footage. In addition, candidates must make themselves available for any concerts scheduled as a result of the Competition.