COMPETITION GUIDE · 2026

5TH INTERNATIONAL ANKARA GUITAR COMPETITION

5–6 December 2026 · Municipality of Çankaya Yaşar Kemal Cultural Center, Ankara

KEY FACTS

APPLICATIONS CLOSE	20 November 2026, 23:59 (Türkiye time, UTC+3)
INSTRUMENT	Classical guitar — Nylon strings only
VENUE	Municipality of Çankaya Yaşar Kemal Cultural Center · Oran, Zülfü Tiğrel Cd. No:3, 06450 Çankaya/Ankara

CATEGORIES & FEES

CATEGORY	ELIGIBILITY	FREE PROGRAMME	FEE
A	11 & under Born on or after 1 January 2015	3–5 minutes	€20
B	13 & under Born on or after 1 January 2013	5–8 minutes	€25
C	15 & under Born on or after 1 January 2011	8–10 minutes	€30
D	18 & under Born on or after 1 January 2008	12–15 minutes	€35
E	No age limit	Free programme in both rounds Preliminary round 5–8 minutes Final round 15–17 minutes	€50

Passive participation — Required for competitors who are not active participants: **€60**

Fees are added together — for example, a competitor in Category B who is not an active participant pays €60 + €25.

RULES & REGULATIONS

ELIGIBILITY & CATEGORIES

- The 5th International Ankara Guitar Competition will be held from 3 to 6 December 2026.
- The application deadline is 20 November 2026 at 23:59 (Türkiye time, UTC+3). Applications made after the deadline will not be accepted.
- The competition is international and open to all guitarists, regardless of citizenship or professional status.
- Contestants may perform only on nylon-string classical guitars.
- Each category has a limited number of participants; applications may close once the quota is full.
- The competition has five categories:

CATEGORY	ELIGIBILITY
A	Born on or after 1 January 2015
B	Born on or after 1 January 2013
C	Born on or after 1 January 2011
D	Born on or after 1 January 2008
E	No age limit

- Contestants may compete in more than one category, provided they meet the age requirements.
- A First Prize winner from a previous edition may not compete again in the same category, but may enter a higher category if eligible.
- If a category has fewer than three participants, it will be cancelled and the fee refunded.
- Contestants under the age of 18 must submit a signed parental consent form with their application.

PROGRAMME & PERFORMANCE

CATEGORY	FREE PROGRAMME
A	3–5 minutes
B	5–8 minutes
C	8–10 minutes
D	12–15 minutes
E	Free programme in both rounds Preliminary round 5–8 minutes Final round 15–17 minutes

- All pieces must be played from memory.
- No changes can be made to the competition programme after the application form has been submitted.
- The time limit refers to the total time on stage. If the maximum is exceeded, the jury or the competition secretary may stop the performance; if a performance is more than 10% shorter than the minimum, the jury may take this into account.
- The jury may request the score of any composition performed; contestants must be able to provide it.
- Pieces performed in the Category E preliminary round cannot be repeated in the final.
- In Category E, competitors scoring at least 88 points in the preliminary round may qualify for the final. A maximum of five advance; if more than five reach 88, the five highest scores go through.
- The performance order in each category is alphabetical by surname; the order for the Category E final is decided by draw.
- A contestant who does not appear at the designated time may forfeit their right to compete.

JURY & SCORING

- Jury members are appointed by the Festival Organisation and score each contestant on a scale from 50 to 100.
- A jury member may not score current or former students, or contestants with whom they have a family relationship; the average is calculated from the remaining valid scores.
- In the event of a tie affecting the allocation of physical prizes, the jury will make the final decision based on the contestants' overall artistic performance. Physical prizes will not be shared.
- The decisions of the jury are final and not subject to appeal.

RESULT	POINTS
First Prize	93.00 – 100
Second Prize	86.00 – 92.99
Third Prize	80.00 – 85.99
Participation certificate	50.00 – 79.99

Scores range from 50 to 100. The highest and lowest jury scores are discarded, and the final score is calculated as the arithmetic mean of the remaining scores, rounded to two decimal places.

RESULTS & PRIZES

- Results are announced after each category.
- Physical prizes, including guitars, strings and other gifts, will be awarded to the three contestants with the highest final scores in each category.
- Concert awards are available only to contestants who achieve a final score of 93.00 or above.

ORGANISATION, FEES & DATA

- All competition rounds are open to the audience. Audience members must be registered as active or passive festival participants.
- The registration fee is non-refundable, and applications are only considered once it has been received.
- The Festival Organisation may make reasonable changes to the schedule, venue or timetable; significant changes will be communicated to registered contestants as soon as possible.
- By applying, contestants grant the Festival Organisation permission to photograph, record, broadcast and use excerpts of their performances for archival, promotional, educational and non-commercial purposes, without additional payment.
- The Festival Organisation is not responsible for loss, theft or damage to personal belongings at the venue.
- Personal data collected through the application process is processed in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.
- The organisers reserve the right to reject any application, and to extend the registration deadline or close registration earlier.

PRIZES

CATEGORY A

1st Free participation in Ankara Guitar Competition 2027 for the next category, sponsor gift, certificate

2nd Sponsor gift, certificate

3rd Sponsor gift, certificate

CATEGORY B

1st Free participation in Ankara Guitar Competition 2027 for the next category, sponsor gift, certificate

2nd Sponsor gift, certificate

3rd Sponsor gift, certificate

CATEGORY C

1st Kozmos IC-100 NA classical guitar, free participation in Ankara Guitar Competition 2027 for the next category, sponsor gift, certificate

2nd Sponsor gift, certificate

3rd Sponsor gift, certificate

CATEGORY D

1st Free participation in Ankara Guitar Competition 2027 for the next category, Kozmos KCG-25G classical guitar, sponsor gift, certificate

2nd Sponsor gift, certificate

3rd Sponsor gift, certificate

CATEGORY E

1st Concert at the 6th Ankara International Guitar Festival, free accommodation, travel grant up to €300, sponsor gift, certificate

2nd Martinez MC-20C classical guitar, sponsor gift, certificate

3rd Free "Active" participation in the 2027 Ankara Guitar Festival, sponsor gift, certificate

JURY

CATEGORIES A · B · C

Alejandro Córdova (Head of the jury)
Luis Leite
Sevda Daysalı
Cem Çeliksırt
Danguolė Lingytė

CATEGORY D · CATEGORY E

Kristina Vårlid (Head of the jury)
Florian Palier
Erdem Sökmen
Cem Küçümen
Kerim Altınörs

SCHEDULE

5 December Saturday	Categories A, B, C and D · Category E preliminary round
6 December Sunday	Category E final round

The detailed schedule, including individual performance times and venue information, will be announced after the application deadline.

APPLICATION & PAYMENT

Complete the application form at ankaraguitarfestival.com/apply, upload the receipt of your bank transfer and, for applicants under 18, the signed parental consent form.

Bank	Vakıfbank
Account holder (both accounts)	Sabit Dağsuyu Bilim Sanat ve Eğitim Vakfı Bilim Sanat Eğitim Organizasyon Hızm. İktisadi İşletmesi
Euro account (EUR)	**TR27 0001 5001 5804 8026 0651 19**
Turkish lira account (TRY)	**TR59 0001 5001 5800 7363 8241 08**

In the transfer description, please write the applicant's full name, the name of the parent or guardian if they are also attending, and the type of participation — for example: *Name Surname – Active participation – Competition Category D*. Upload the receipt with your application.

Fees are listed in euros. If you pay in Turkish lira, please transfer the amount shown in the application form, calculated at the CBRT euro selling rate of the day.

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