



THE
FRYDERYK
CHOPIN
INSTITUTE

XIX MIĘDZYNARODOWY
KONKURS PIANISTYCZNY
IM. FRYDERYKA CHOPINA
WARSZAWA 2025

19TH INTERNATIONAL
FRYDERYK CHOPIN
PIANO COMPETITION
WARSAW 2025

2 - 23
PAŹDZIERNIKA
2025

2 - 23
OCTOBER
2025





During the Chopin Competition, Warsaw is the most extraordinary city in the world, magical, intoxicated by music. And that's worth seeing!

Jerzy Waldorff, 'Osiem razy Chopin' [Eight times Chopin], Nasza Ojczyzna, 1970/10.



International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw 2–23 October 2025

In 2025, the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition once again broke popularity records – both in terms of interest in participation among pianists, and in terms of its visibility and recognition, as well as the size of the audience in Poland and worldwide.

Record number of applications and participants

A record number of applications was submitted – 642 pianists from 54 countries applied to participate in the competition.

Ultimately, 84 pianists from 20 countries took part in the October auditions – with China, Japan, and Poland being the most represented.

A seventeen-person jury, chaired by Garrick Ohlsson, qualified 40 and 20 participants, respectively, for the next stages, and allowed eleven pianists to advance to the finals.

Winner and laureates

The competition results were announced on the night of October 20–21. The winner of the 19th edition is American Eric Lu, followed by 2nd place – Kevin Chen (Canada), 3rd place – Zitong Wang (China), 4th place – ex aequo – Tianyao Lyu (China) and Shiori Kuwahara (Japan), 5th place – ex aequo – Piotr Alexewicz (Poland) and Vincent Ong (Malaysia), and 6th place – William Yang (USA). The jury also awarded five special prizes: Yehuda Prokopowicz from Poland received the Polish Radio Prize for the best performance of mazurkas, Tianyao Lyu – the National Philharmonic Prize for the best performance of a concerto and the Fryderyk Chopin Society Prize for the best performance of a polonaise, the Krystian Zimerman Prize for the best performance of a sonata went to Zitong Wang, and the Bella Davidovich for the best performance of a ballad – to the Pole Adam Kałduński.



International tour of the laureates



Winning the 19th Chopin Competition and receiving the title of its laureate entails participation in a major international tour organized by the Fryderyk Chopin Institute in cooperation with the Liu Kotow agency. The concert tour, encompassing Europe, Asia, and America, began on October 24th – the day after the laureates' third concert at the Warsaw Philharmonic. Multiple concerts have already been performed in Poland and abroad, including in Katowice, Wrocław, Berlin (the first three place winners performed at the prestigious home of the Berlin Philharmonic), and Italy – with several dozen performances planned for the coming months, including in Munich, Seoul, Shanghai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Taipei, Vancouver, and São Paulo.



Media interest and broadcasting channels

The 19th Chopin Competition attracted to Warsaw an unprecedented number of reviewers, journalists, and reporters from around the world, representing all types of media – from the largest and most respected, such as the Financial Times and the New York Times, to the popular Japanese breakfast television channel Fuji TV.

In Poland, the event was reported and covered by all major professional media outlets. Data confirms that approximately 50,000 press, television, radio, and online materials were devoted to the competition, generating an AVE of PLN 285 million. The auditions were broadcast on ten channels – television, radio, and online: TVP Kultura, Polish Radio Programme II, Polish Radio Chopin, the Fryderyk Chopin Institute's YouTube channel, social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, Weibo, Medici TV, Mezzo, and the official competition website, Chopincompetition.pl. The broadcasts lasted a total of 147 hours and 10 minutes.

Broadcasts on YouTube and social media

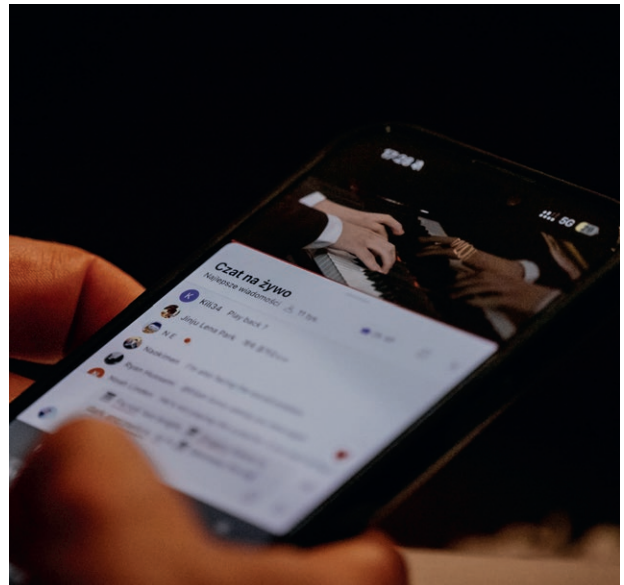
The greatest reach was recorded on the Fryderyk Chopin Institute's YouTube channel (currently boasting 700,000 subscribers): the competition was watched by 8.5 million unique viewers, 84.7% of whom visited the Institute's channel for the first time. Followers of the broadcasts discussed the competition live, sending a total of 916,000 messages. The final session on October 20th garnered the most views, with over 1.5 million; that evening also saw the highest number of simultaneous broadcasts: 73,000. It is worth noting that also the 'Chopin Talk' studio, hosted between sessions by pianist Rachel Naomi Kudo and internationally renowned music critics Ben Laude and Jed Distler, generated significant interest. A new feature compared to previous editions was the availability of the competition on the TikTok platform: 28 broadcasts – each watched by an average of 2,000 to 3,000 people – lasted 133 hours, gaining 8.5 million likes and 2.8 million views on the NIFC account.

Broadcasts on TVP and Polish Radio

The competition broadcasts and accompanying materials achieved record audiences on TVP, reaching almost 6 million viewers; during this period, TVP Kultura's market share was four times higher than on a daily basis.

The first medium listeners turned to was Polish Radio ('Dwójka' and Radio Chopin), continuing the excellent, decades-long tradition of involvement in the Chopin Competition, which broadcasts the signal through the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

According to a Polish Public Opinion Research Centre (CBOS) study¹, awareness of the competition was exceptionally high in Polish society: 81% of Poles knew that the event was taking place, with 44% of those surveyed following it.



¹ Conducted at the beginning of November on a sample of nearly 4,000 respondents by CBOS on behalf of the Fryderyk Chopin Institute.

Recordings from the 19th edition of the competition and new phonographic items in NIFC releases

The Fryderyk Chopin Institute traditionally prepares a series of CD releases with musical portraits of both the winner of the Chopin Competition and selected participants.

The collaboration with Deutsche Grammophon is also continuing: this prestigious label, part of the Universal Music group, will release (as in the previous two editions) an album by the 1st Prize winner in the coming weeks, containing a selection of his competition performances. The second part of Eric Lu's recordings and performances by the other finalists and distinguished participants will be included on the Chopin Institute's 'Blue Series' CD.

The Institute's phonographic series is currently enriched by three albums featuring historical recordings: performances by the doyen of the Polish piano school, Lidia Grychtołówna, at the 1955 competition; the Japanese Mitsuko Uchida, who won second prize in the 1970 competition; and Mihaela Ursuleasa, a Romanian pianist (who died prematurely) beloved by the public who received a jury distinction and the Polish Radio listeners' award in 2000.

The 19th edition of the competition is also accompanied by the inauguration of a new, extraordinary series of NIFC albums: archival recordings of performances by the most distinguished Chopinists are – and will be – released on vinyl, featuring the highest sound quality and sophisticated artwork. The first three albums feature recordings by Maurizio Pollini, Artur Rubinstein, and Janusz Olejniczak.

Accompanying events

This year's edition of the Chopin Competition was packed with an exceptionally large number of accompanying events – its special status contributed to this, as it serves as a kind of opening celebration for the 100th anniversary of the Competition, which falls in 2027 and which we will be celebrated through a series of projects over the next five years, culminating in the 20th edition in 2030.



The events began several weeks before competition's inauguration.

The artistic and educational project 'Chopin Effect' has been underway since June and involves presentations of our genius composer's music performed by pianists associated with the Chopin Competition outside of major cultural centres, as well as educational concerts for children. By the end of the year, we plan to hold over 300 concerts in total.

During the summer, the park surrounding Chopin's Birthplace in Żelazowa Wola hosted concerts as part of the 'Chopin meets jazz' series by renowned jazz musicians, including Leszek Możdżer, Adam Makowicz, Kuba Więcek, and Artur Dutkiewicz. Chopin's folk inspirations were highlighted by regional culture festivals held in Żelazowa Wola.

Furthermore, the 10th edition of the 'Chopin był z UW!' (Chopin was from the University of Warsaw!) Piano Festival took place in the second half of September, and the movie 'Chopin! Chopin!', directed by Michał Kwieciński and starring Eryk Kulm, premiered at the 50th Gdynia Film Festival. It is worth noting that Chopin's works and improvisations on period instruments were performed for the movie by Tomasz Ritter, winner of the 1st Chopin Competition on Period Instruments, and Kamil Borowski. The movie is playing in cinemas across Poland.

In the last days of September, the Polish History Museum in Warsaw hosted the Piano Congress – an initiative of the Polish Piano Tuners Association – during which visitors could see the largest exhibition of keyboard instruments in Poland and participate in over 40 lectures, seminars, concerts, and workshops.

An unprecedented project was a multimedia laser show set to the sounds of Chopin's music, originally arranged by Michał Lamża, at the Legia stadium before the match against Jagiellonia Białystok. With a capacity of over 30,000, the stadium is probably one of the largest spaces in which one could ever listen to Chopin.

It can be said without hesitation that during the competition, all of Warsaw was captivated by Chopin's music – thus harking back to the unforgettable competition excitement of the 1960s and 1970s, when the event reached its peak popularity in the 20th century. This above-average interest was driven by both traditional projects, naturally maintaining the status of a high-culture event, and new projects, capitalizing on the competition's exceptionally strong emanation reaching into the realm of pop culture.

As in the 18th edition, the competition partners organized music lover zones – places where one could watch broadcasts of the auditions, listen to additional live concerts, and participate in workshops.

Recitals by competition participants were held in three Warsaw cultural centres – the Saska Kępa Cultural Centre ‘Prom’, the Ursynów Cultural Centre ‘Alternatywy’, and the ‘Kadr’ Cultural Centre.

A special place among the events organized around the competition belongs to two temporary exhibitions prepared by the Fryderyk Chopin Museum: from May to the end of October, the Museum in Warsaw hosted the exhibition ‘Romantic Life. Chopin, Scheffer, Delacroix, Sand’ (visited by over 52,000 people), organized in cooperation with the Museum of Romantic Life (Paris Musées). At the Fryderyk Chopin Birthplace in Żelazowa Wola, the exhibition ‘A Theatre Well Buttoned Up’ (held thanks to the cooperation established by the Fryderyk Chopin Institute with the George Sand House in Nohant) was an additional attraction for music lovers.

From September 19th (scheduled to run until the end of January 2026), the immersive exhibition ‘Romantic Chopin’ has been held at Art Box Experience. Its scenario is based on the composer’s letters and music, supported by modern technologies such as interactive musical sculpture and virtual reality. The Warsaw Philharmonic hosted an exhibition dedicated to Janusz Olejniczak, who passed away a year ago, featuring, among other things, the outstanding pianist’s private photographs and documents. Outdoor exhibitions showcased the nearly 100-year history of the Competition: beautiful archival photographs from the collections of the Fryderyk Chopin Institute were displayed near to the Philharmonic, posters from last year’s competition for the graphic identity of the musical tournament were on display in front of the Academy of Fine Arts, and Wojciech Grzędziński’s Competition photographs were on display at the Koszyki Hall.

An additional portion of pleasure for Warsaw residents and visitors was provided by the initiative of over 30 Warsaw cafés, restaurants, pastry shops, and stylish bars, which actively participated in creating a Chopin atmosphere by broadcasting auditions and serving original menus, desserts, and cocktails inspired by the figure, work, and era of the outstanding composer.

A powerful summary of the Competition will be the seven-episode documentary ‘Pianoforte. The Series,’ directed by Jakub Piątek, Marek Kozakiewicz, and Marta Prus – its premiere is scheduled for 2027. The series will not only provide a return to this year’s excitement but will also serve as a strong highlight of the Chopin Competition’s centennial celebrations.



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Honorary Patronage
of the President of the Republic of Poland
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CO-FINANCED FROM THE FUNDS OF THE MINISTRY
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