

Press Release

10th International Violin Making Competition 2027 in Mittenwald

Registration opens in January 2027

Press images: <https://my.hidrive.com/share/we6s19jc7i>

Mittenwald – With its centuries-old tradition of violin making, Mittenwald will once again become a meeting place for the international art of violin making in 2027. The 10th International Violin Making Competition will take place from 14 to 22 May 2027. The award-winning instruments will be presented to the public from 23 to 30 May 2027 at the Mittenwald Violin Making Museum.

Around 160 violin and bow makers from more than twenty countries are expected to present their work at one of the most prestigious competitions of its kind.

Every four years, leading makers of string instruments and bows compete in nine categories at the international competition for violins, violas, cellos and bows in Mittenwald. Although registration will only be possible from January 2027 onwards, the organizers are already informing the public at this stage, as many potential participants require a long lead time to decide on participation and to develop or build a new instrument specifically for the competition.

The Competition

After submission, the instruments and bows are anonymized and evaluated in a multi-stage process. First, they undergo a technical and aesthetic assessment. In subsequent rounds, the focus shifts to tonal quality: the instruments are played and evaluated by professional musicians and members of the jury.

The winners will be announced on **Saturday, 22 May 2027**. The musical highlight will be the final concert performed on the award-winning instruments, which traditionally takes place immediately before the award ceremony.

Submitted Instruments and Categories

The requirements for participation are clearly defined. Instruments and bows are eligible if they:

- are no more than two years old
- have not previously won a prize in a competition
- meet professional standards of craftsmanship
- were manufactured without machine processing
- do not feature eccentric shapes or decorations

The competition comprises the following **nine categories**:

- Violin
- Violin Replica / Imitation
- Viola
- Viola Replica / Imitation
- Cello
- Cello Replica / Imitation
- Violin bow
- Viola bow
- Cello bow

For the second time, historically inspired instruments may be submitted in the “**Replicas and Imitations**” categories. Copies of historical instruments are also expressly permitted.

The Jury Process

The international jury consists of renowned violin makers, bow makers and musicians – all masters of their craft. They evaluate the submitted works independently and anonymously according to defined criteria such as precision of craftsmanship, model selection, varnish, sound, durability and playability.

A special program highlight will be the **public presentation** of the preselected instruments on **Friday, 21 May 2027, at 11 a.m.** The instruments will be performed by the international members of the jury themselves.

Supporting Program

The competition will be accompanied by a diverse supporting program in Mittenwald. Planned events include:

- concerts
- workshop visits to local master violin makers
- specialist lectures
- guided local and thematic tours

All award-winning string instruments and bows will be exhibited at the **Geigenbaumuseum (Violin Making Museum) Mittenwald** from the end of the competition until **Sunday, 30 May 2027**.

Registration and Participation

Registration for participants will open in **early 2027**. Information on the terms of participation, submission deadlines, fees and organizational details will be published in good time via the official competition channels.

The Violin Making Competition in Mittenwald underlines the international significance of the town as a center of violin making and promotes exchange between craftsmanship, music and culture.



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