

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL COMPETITION “LUIGI MOZZANI” FOR PLUCKED INSTRUMENTS

Bologna, 12-17 May 2026

Organised by Eufonica and AssiMusica c/o BolognaFiere

REGULATIONS

Art. 1 – Introduction

The first international biennial competition for plucked instruments “Luigi Mozzani” aims to compare and highlight the very best of contemporary lutherie worldwide.

The Competition will take place in Bologna and will be divided into three categories, each with its own jury and prizes.

Within the Classical Guitar category, the **“Mario Maccaferri” Prize** will be awarded for the best Manouche guitar.

Please note that the competition for Categories A and B – Classical Guitars and Ukuleles – will take place in 2026, while the competition for Category C – Mandolins – will take place in 2027.

An Organising Committee has been established for the organisation of the Competition.

On the one hand, the Committee receives, verifies and validates applications; on the other, it confirms the admissibility of the instruments prior to the practical evaluations carried out by the juries.

CATEGORY	INSTRUMENT
A	Classical Guitars
B	UkuleleS
C	MandolinS

At the conclusion of the Jury's work, all instruments will be exhibited to the public. The exhibition will take place at BolognaFiere from **15 to 17 May 2026**. During this entire period, instruments may not be withdrawn or replaced.

Art. 2 – Participation requirements and registration

The following may take part in the Competition:

- all persons who practise the profession of luthier continuously and professionally, either as self-employed or employees, without distinction of nationality or gender, with an age limit of **35 years completed by 31/12/2025** (for mandolins: **31/12/2026**);
- students enrolled in any public or private institution certifying a training programme in the art of lutherie and issuing a diploma or certificate attesting their education. For this category of participants, instruments may be made by one or more students. In such cases, the identity of each author must be specified at the time of registration. There is no limit to the number of students involved in the construction of the instrument.

Persons who are related by blood or affinity up to the **4th degree** to a member of the jury are excluded.

Each participant may submit **no more than two instruments**. The instruments must have been built **from 2024 onwards** (from **2025 onwards** for mandolins).

Applications must be submitted **exclusively online** via the website www.eufonica.it, starting from **01/12/2025** and no later than **15/04/2025**.

Incomplete applications may not be accepted. Confirmation of acceptance will be sent by email.

Submission of the application implies acceptance of all rules set out in these Regulations.

The organisers reserve the right to carry out all necessary checks and to exclude participants where appropriate.

Within **7 days** of receipt of the application, the organisers will inform the applicant by email whether they have been admitted to the Competition and may request any additional clarifications.

Art. 3 – Registration fees

Together with the application, duly completed in all its parts and signed, payment of the participation fee must be made, net of any banking service charges.

Fee per instrument delivered or sent <u>without</u> participation in Eufonica 2026	<p>€ 200,00 for one instrument</p> <p>€ 100,00 for a second instrument</p> <p>(net of any banking service charges)</p>
<p>Fee per instrument delivered or sent <u>with</u> participation in Eufonica 2026</p> <p>Participation in Eufonica includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a commercial space to exhibit and allow testing of one's instruments (maximum 3); • private audition and consultation sessions with the jurors. 	<p>€ 330,00 for one instrument</p> <p>€ 80,00 for a second instrument</p> <p>(net of any banking service charges)</p>

The registration fee must be paid by bank transfer payable to:

Studio Broker & C. – Credem Spa

IBAN: **IT63L0303211400010001142300**

BIC: **BACRIT21194**

Payment reference: *Concorso Luigi Mozzani – Eufonica 2026*

La quota di iscrizione non verrà restituita in caso di rinuncia dopo la comunicazione di ammissione da parte della Organizzazione. Le documentazioni incomplete non saranno accettate e le quote d'iscrizione non saranno restituite.

Art. 4 – Instrument requirements

Model

The model of the instrument, its silhouette and string length are free. Reproductions of historical models, instruments inspired by them, as well as original creations and innovations are permitted.

Materials

The main parts of the instruments must be made of wood. The varieties and species of wood are free, provided they comply with the official regulations governing the use of wood in force within the European Union at the date of the Competition.

The main parts are considered to be: soundboard, back, sides, neck and headstock.

All other parts may be made from materials of free choice.

Manufacturing techniques

Candidates undertake to ensure that all wooden parts of the instruments entered in the Competition have been hand-finished. The use of manual or digital machines is permitted only during the initial stages of manufacture.

Manufacturing techniques for all other materials are unrestricted.

Strings

Competitors are free to fit the strings they deem suitable for the instrument entered in the Competition.

Art. 5 – Anonymity

All works submitted to the Competition must be strictly anonymous.

Each instrument and its case or container must bear no marks or elements that could lead to the recognition or identification of the author.

Labels, brands burned into the wood, trademarks or monograms of any kind must not be present on any visible internal or external surfaces of the instrument, even if covered.

Instruments that do not comply with these provisions will be excluded from the Competition.

Art. 6 – Delivery of instruments

Instruments must be delivered to the Competition Secretariat Desk at the Bologna Exhibition Centre, BolognaFiere FAIRGROUND, Hall 33, Aldo Moro entrance, on Tuesday 12/05/2026 from 10:00 to 18:00.

Delivery may be made personally, by a trusted person of the author, or by a transport company appointed by the participant.

Upon delivery, in the presence of the person delivering the instrument, the state of conservation of each instrument will be examined. For this purpose, a specific report will be drawn up and signed by the reception staff and by the luthier (or their representative), indicating the date and time of delivery and bearing a stamp marked "ORIGINAL".

In the case of instruments delivered by courier, the opening of the packages will be carried out at a later time in the presence of three persons appointed by the organisers, with the drafting of a similar report.

The report must be retained and returned at the time of collection of the instrument. The return of the receipt releases the organisers from any and all liability.

Together with the instrument, the following must be delivered:

- a sealed envelope containing the name of the luthier who built the instrument; this envelope will be placed inside a second envelope provided by the organisers, bearing the registration number of the instrument and sealed. Only after the scoring process has been completed will the President of the Jury open the sealed envelope to identify the maker;
- an envelope containing a set of strings identical to those fitted on the instrument, which will be returned at the end of the Competition;
- a high-definition photograph of the top and back of the instrument on a white background, to be used for identification upon return in the event of disputes;
- a printout of the email containing the registration number received upon confirmation of enrolment.

Cases or containers will not be stored by the organisers during the Competition, except for instruments arriving by courier, which will be returned to the person collecting the instrument.

Each courier chosen by the competitors must guarantee correct handling of both delivery and return procedures. Shipping and return costs are entirely borne by the participant.

Art. 7 – Juries

Each jury will consist of a President and members equally divided between luthiers and musicians.

For the Maccaferri Prize, the jury will consist of a President, one luthier and one musician.

The names of jury members will be announced by 28 February 2026.

Jury decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Art. 8 – Evaluation criteria

The President will ask the jury members (see Art. 7) to express a score from ONE to TEN for each instrument, based on the following criteria:

Artistic and construction qualities

- a) level of technical execution
- b) design concept adopted
- c) quality of varnish
- d) style and character of the work
- e) set-up and adjustment

Acoustic qualities

- a) sound expressiveness (parameters equally linked to subjectivity but quantifiable through tests of dynamics, sustain, timbral variety and ornamentation techniques such as legato, vibrato, etc.)
- b) power of the instrument
- c) balance between the strings
- d) ease of play

The scores will be recorded in the final report in a special register; the final result will be obtained by summing the scores expressed by the jurors.

Art. 9 – Prizes

CATEGORY	PRIZE
A	Gold medal and certificate Certificate for Best Manouche Guitar and plaque
B	Silver medal and certificate
C	Bronze medal and certificate

CATEGORY	PRIZE
A	€ 5.000,00 to the first-place winner
B	€ 4.000,00 to the first-place winner
C	€ 3.000,00 to the first-place winner

The jury reserves the right not to award all prizes in each category if no works are deemed worthy.

All admitted participants will receive a certificate of participation.

The organisers undertake to publish a full-colour catalogue of all admitted works. One copy of the catalogue will be provided free of charge to each participant.

ART. 10 - Publication of results

At the end of the Jury's work and once the rankings have been completed, the envelopes containing the names of the participating luthiers will be opened. The Competition results will be published and disclosed after the awards ceremony.

On the occasion of Eufonica 2026, the exhibition of the participating instruments will be open to the public, with labels displaying the author's full name.

Opening hours of the exhibition:

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 May 2026: 10:00–19:00

Sunday 17 May 2026: 10:00–14:00

Each candidate may download from the website an evaluation sheet showing the score obtained. All individual and overall scores will be published on www.eufonica.it, listed by Competition registration number.

The envelopes relating to instruments not admitted to the Competition will be kept sealed until publication of the results.

On Friday 15 May, jurors will be available to meet competitors who wish to do so, at times to be communicated before the end of the Competition.

Art. 11 – Proclamation and awards ceremony

The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday 16 May at 7:30 pm in the Eufonica 2026 exhibition spaces, followed by a concert featuring the winning instruments.

Art. 12 – Collection of instruments

After the exhibition closes, instruments may be collected, together with spare strings and photographs previously submitted, by those presenting the ORIGINAL delivery receipt.

Instruments must be collected on Sunday 17 May from 14:00 to 18:00.

If instruments are not collected within this time frame, they will be stored at a location to be communicated later. Storage costs will be €20.00 per week or part thereof.

Art. 13 – Insurance

For insurance purposes, the instruments are covered by the Competition organisation with an insurance policy against fire, theft and damage with the following maximum amounts:

- classical guitar: €5,000.00
- mandolin: €4,000.00
- ukulele: €3,000.00

Insurance coverage is effective from the moment the instrument is delivered to the organisers until it is collected or, in the case of uncollected instruments, until they are deposited at an organisers' location.

Art. 14 – Image rights

Candidates authorise the organisers to photograph the works submitted to the Competition for dissemination and archiving purposes.

Candidates also authorise the organisers to distribute, by any means, images of the instruments submitted to the Competition and images of the candidates taken during the Competition, where applicable.

Art. 15 – Disputes

For any disputes arising from the interpretation or application of these Regulations, the Court of Bologna shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

Art. 16 – Translation of the regulations

The English translation of these Regulations is provided solely for the convenience of competitors. In the event of any dispute of interpretation, only the Italian text shall be considered valid.

Any requests for information should be sent to:
eufonica2026@assimusica.it