



Youth Guitar Competition 2026

Venue: Nikolaus Monastery (Nikolauskloster), 41363 Jüchen

November 14th & 15th (Solo and Ensemble)

Saturday: Age Groups 3 & 4

Sunday: Age Groups "Bambini", 1 & 2



Jury and Master Class teachers

Prof. Hubert Käppel
Prof. Hany Heshmat
Josip Dragnic
Ema Kapor
Juan M. Molano
Johann Jacob Nissen
Arne Harder

Prof. Tomasz Zawierucha
Prof. Eduardo Inestal
Dr. Denis Bizhga
Corinna Schäfer
Andreas Weitkämper
Thomas Oldenburg
Daniel März

Register via the QR code:



Terms and Conditions of Participation:

Open to everyone up to the age of 20. Participants may choose their own program (free choice of repertoire). Each participant may only compete within their respective age group. The reference date for age group classification is October 23, 2026. For ensembles, the average age of all members will be calculated. Mixed ensembles are permitted, provided they include at least one guitar (e.g., Guitar + Flute).

Age groups (AG):	Maximum performance time:	Points(0-25):
AG „Bambini“ : 6 – 8 years	AG „Bambini“: one self-selected piece	24 - 25: 1. prize
AG 1: 9 – 11 years	AG 1: 3 – 6 minutes	22 - 23: 2. prize
AG 2: 12 – 14 years	AG 2: 6 – 9 minutes	20 - 21: 3. prize
AG 3: 15 – 17 years	AG 3: 9 – 12 minutes	18 - 19: p. with good success
AG 4: 18 – 20 years	AG 4: 12 – 15 minutes	0 - 17: participated

If the time limit is exceeded, the Chairman of the Jury may interrupt the performance. This will not result in a point deduction. No jury member is permitted to evaluate their own students. The competition will take place in person. Prizes: Certificates, vouchers, and non-cash prizes. Award Ceremonies will take place during the Evening Concert on Nov 14th and the Midday Concert on Nov 15th.

The number of participants is limited. Registration is processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration is completed via the QR code on the front page. It is only valid once the registration fee has been transferred to the following account:
Fee: €30 (Ensembles: €15 per person)
Arne Harder and Daniel März, Sparkasse Neuss, IBAN: DE12 3055 0000 0093 5385 77

Registration fees are non-refundable. By registering, participants agree to the competition rules, the decisions of the jury, and the publication of photos and videos on the Guitar Festival's website and online presence.

Special Prizes:

-The DTKV Niederrhein is presenting a special prize in 2026 for the interpretation of a work of Contemporary Music. The composition must clearly diverge from the techniques of traditional music in at least one musical dimension—including, but not limited to, its tonal, thematic, motivic, metric, rhythmic, or formal properties, its performance technique, or its notation."

-EGTA NRW (European Guitar Teachers Association): Special prize for the best participant from North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW).

-Verein zur Förderung der klassischen Gitarrenmusik in Jüchen e.V.:

Special prize for a participant selected by the jury.

-Prof. Hubert Käppel: Special prize for a participant selected by the jury.

Festival Program (Nikolaus Monastery and Dyck Castle)

13.11., 19.30 Uhr: Jüchen Guitar Night - Duo quattordici corde, Quartett Rheinsaiten

14.11., 18.30 Uhr: Luthiers' Concert

19.30 Uhr: Classic meets Fado" with Tomasz Zawierucha and the Ensemble "Geracoes." Includes the Award Ceremony for Age Groups 3 & 4.

15.11., 14.00 Uhr: Midday Concert with Juan Manuel Molano (2025 First Prize Winner).

Includes the Award Ceremony for Age Groups Bambini, 1, & 2.

16.30 Uhr: International Competition Final (Held in the Ballroom at Schloss Dyck).

„Jugend musiziert“ - Courses and Masterclasses:

Individual and ensemble masterclasses.

Fee: €40 per 45-minute session. (Please transfer to the bank account mentioned previously)

Location: All courses take place at Nikolauskloster Jüchen.

Registration Details: When registering for a masterclass, please list two preferred master class teachers.

Registration: Use the QR code provided above.

Registration Deadline: October 23, 2026.

Artistic Direction:

Daniel März and Arne Harder