



The Stradivari Trust String Competition 2026

THE STRADIVARI TRUST

Founded in 1985 by Cambridge entrepreneur and philanthropist Nigel Brown OBE, The Stradivari Trust has enabled some of Britain's finest string players to acquire instruments of the highest calibre. The Trust's inaugural scheme supported violinist Nigel Kennedy in acquiring the 'La Cathédrale' Stradivari violin, an acquisition that laid the foundations for a model of syndicated ownership that has since become unique in its field. Over the past four decades, the Trust has facilitated more than 60 such schemes, with instruments collectively valued in excess of £30 million, benefiting leading artists such as Steven Isserlis, Lawrence Power, Jennifer Pike and Natalie Clein.

COMPETITION RULES AND INFORMATION

APPLICATION

- All applicants (but not accompanists) must be engaged in full-time study at the University of Cambridge during all the rounds of Competition.
- Application forms must be submitted by **16 November 2025** at the latest, together with an application fee payment of £20 (see below).
- Applicants must perform on violin, viola, 'cello or double bass, solo and/or with accompanist.
- A 7 to maximum 10-minute unedited video of the applicant's playing, recorded in the current year and in standard format, must be submitted as part of the application.
- The repertoire is of the applicant's own choice, but must be composed music and should reflect the current level of their playing.
- Applicants should state repertoire choices for the Semi-Final and Final rounds of the competition on the application form (12'- 15' performance length).
- On submission of the form the application fee of £20 should be transferred to the following account: The Stradivari Trust, Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-64-42, Account No). Reference: Your surname, STSC26

COMPETITION

- The Organiser will not provide instrument other than a piano for accompaniment purposes.
- The repertoire is of the competitor's own choice, but must be composed music and suited to their playing standard.
- Competitors are to provide for the adjudicators a clean copy of the sheet music for their chosen repertoire (to be sent to the Trust's office in advance).



- The competition is open to the public, so any competitor's performances in connection with the competition may be filmed or recorded. By entering, the competitor grants the Organiser, free of charge, all rights to film and audio record of the competitor's performance and to use any and all images and audio recordings of the competitor made during the competition for any and all current and future media without restriction.
- Each competitor is responsible for any and all costs that may be incurred by participation in the Competition.
- Participation in the Competition constitutes acceptance of these Rules.
- To comply with GDPR the Stradivari Trust will ensure that competitors' personal data is only used for the purposes of the competition and not passed onto third parties.
- The decision of the jury is final.

For further information please contact: admin@stradivaritrust.org