

Arte Solidale Festival

Young Artists Residency 2026

About Us

Arte Solidale is a charity festival dedicated to 19th-century chamber music performed on period instruments.

The festival is conceived as a convivial and immersive experience: 8–9 core festival artists, all under the age of 35, live, rehearse, and perform together over a period of around ten days, presenting six concerts in some of the most beautiful villas and historic residences around Lake Como.

The festival is not only a cultural event but also an important charitable initiative: all proceeds go towards supporting social and community causes, with particular attention to children and young people in difficulty. In this way, Arte Solidale Festival combines musical excellence with social commitment, offering the public a truly unique and now well-established experience.

Since 2025, the festival has also offered a residency programme for younger instrumentalists under the age of 25. These residents take part alongside the festival artists in concerts and rehearsals, gaining first-hand experience of the festival's artistic environment, the preparation of multiple programmes in a short time, and the opportunity to collaborate with musicians from across Europe.

Applications open on 15th February 2026 via a Google Form, which will be made available on our [Residency page](#) on that day. No fee is required to apply. The **deadline is 15th March 2026**, and the results will be communicated to participants at the beginning of April, allowing sufficient time to make travel arrangements well in advance.

Objectives of the Young Artists Residency

- To offer young musicians the opportunity to perform and collaborate with ASF musicians for the duration of the September festival
- To foster new connections between young artists of different ages, through shared living and rehearsal experiences during the festival
- To explore Romantic repertoire on original instruments, working together on rubato, historically informed techniques, and approaches distinct from modern performance practice
- To perform major 19th-century masterpieces—both well-known and lesser-known works—in the most important villas around Lake Como
- To enjoy the perspective of a charity festival: supporting children and minors in need while performing, and getting to know the social organisations involved in the project.

When

3–13 September 2026

Arrivals and preliminary rehearsals from **3 September**.

Concerts will take place from **6–13 September**, with rehearsals scheduled between concerts.

If you have any issues with these dates, you are still welcome to apply—please include any relevant details in the notes section of your application.

Young Artist Residencies – Who Can Apply

- Musicians under 25 who are currently enrolled in a study programme or who have recently graduated
 - Applications are possible up to the age of 30, although priority will be given to younger applicants
 - Violinists or violists
 - Modern-instrument players are welcome, provided you are curious and ready for a challenge
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What We Offer

- €450 net as an expense allowance
 - Free board and lodging in shared rooms for approximately 10 days. All participating artists live together in a shared residence in Griante, Lake Como.
 - Participation in various festival concerts (4 or more) in different ensemble formations, with or without piano
 - One live recording (social media quality, recorded with two iPhones/cameras and mics) of one of the selected pieces from your application
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Requirements

- Gut strings
- Romantic or Classical bow, if possible
- A high level of creativity and flexibility for the chamber music setting of the festival
- Willingness to play at different pitches, ranging approximately from 425 Hz to 441 Hz, depending on the pianos used for each concert
- Willingness to live alongside the other participating artists, sharing space, opinions, and thoughts, while helping to build a strong sense of community at ASF.

Audition Requirements

1. Video Recording

One video recording of **5–10 minutes**, featuring one or more works from the 19th century (or the final decade of the 18th century).

The video must be uploaded to YouTube as **unlisted**.

Ideally, the recording should feature violin/viola with piano or in an ensemble. Alternatively, other chamber works or excerpts are acceptable, as long as the violin or viola part is clearly prominent. Please be aware that the festival covers the entire nineteenth century, so try to choose a repertoire that showcases your interests and abilities accordingly.

We are aware that access to period pianos can be difficult; therefore, recordings with modern piano are accepted. Please note, however, that selected artists will perform with period instrumentalists during the festival.

2. Cover letter

A **short statement** (maximum 200 words), written or spoken directly to the camera in the required video, in which you explain your interest in the project—both its musical and charitable aspects—and why you would be a good fit for the festival.

3. Programme Proposals (Four works Total)

Programme proposals are **as important as the video recording**.

We strongly recommend reviewing the concert programmes from the last two editions of the festival, both to avoid works already performed and to gain a sense of ASF's programming style. Creativity, lesser-known repertoire, and interesting ensemble combinations are highly encouraged.

The four proposals should include:

- **Two main proposals** for your instrument with piano or chamber ensemble (up to piano quintet). From these, one work will be selected to be performed in full and recorded (e.g. a complete sonata with all movements). These should be works you are particularly eager to perform or that you feel would be a valuable addition to the festival. One of these proposals may be intended for the closing concert, which will feature a Beethoven Symphony chamber transcription. It can include repertoire for duo with piano to piano quintet with early Viennese Romantic piano.
- **One proposal from 1850 onwards**
- **One proposal on the theme:**
"The English Regatta on Lake Como"

This should feature music by English composers for piano ensemble or string ensemble, connected thematically to water, regattas, boats, or sailing.

Instrumentation and Available Pianos

The festival ensemble will include: one or two violins, viola, cello, and piano.

Any combination of these instruments is welcome. The programming may also include single movements and shorter works.

Please ensure that your repertoire proposals are compatible with the available instruments and pianos:

- English/German square piano, late 18th century (suitable for early 19th-century works)
- Viennese piano, circa 1828
- English-action piano from the 1870s (with sound and action suitable for repertoire from approximately 1845 to the 1860s)
- Late Romantic piano from circa 1890 (for the opening concert)

You can read more about the festival here: <https://en.artesolidalefestival.com/il-progetto-benefico>

Check the last editions here: <https://en.artesolidalefestival.com/eventi-2025>

Check the setting of the concerts on our Instagram page here:
<https://www.instagram.com/artesolidale/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to drop us an email at artesolidalefestival@gmail.com