

Terms and conditions of participation in the masterclasses 2026



Please read through the following terms and conditions carefully before filling out your application. These are intended to ensure the application procedure is followed correctly and to aid the administrative process.

1. APPLICATION

When calculating the fees (different booking periods), the **date of receipt of all documents** is decisive. Please ensure that the following requirements are included in your application.

- Completed application form
- Links to videos or recordings
- A photo for the festival pass
- Appropriate application fee

Please note: Without decent quality recordings (videos) it is difficult for the professors to determine which candidates to admit to the masterclasses. You are welcome to provide links to uploaded videos via YouTube. Privacy settings can be used so that these are not available for general viewing („not listed“ – don't use „private“, because then we cannot see the videos).

2. DEADLINES AND DATES MASTERCLASSES

Booking period 1 (until May 30, 2026):	€440
Booking period 2 (May 31 – June 30, 2026):	€490
Course fee individual lessons & participation at the concerts:	€470
Total (depending on booking period):	€910 / €960

Confirmation of active participation will be announced by the 1st of August 2026 per email. Payment of the course fee (active participants) should be received in full by 30th of August 2026 at the very latest.

The application fee guarantees participation on a passive basis*. If this offer is not taken up, the application fee **will be refunded minus a €110 administration charge**.

*Private accommodation subject to availability.

3. REFUNDS WHEN CANCELLING PARTICIPATION OF THE MASTERCLASSES

- All cancellations made before the application deadline (June 30, 2026): Application fee **less €110** administration charge.
- All cancellations made after the announcement of active participants (1st August 2026): Application fee **less €210** administration charge (only with positive notification of active participation, otherwise € 110)
- Cancellations made after the September 20, 2026: A refund of the course fee is only possible if the professors have selected a replacement participant (the registration fee is non-refundable in any case).

4. THE COURSE FEE ENTITLES ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS OF THE MASTERCLASSES TO THE FOLLOWING

- 3 hours of lessons with piano accompaniment.
- Access to listen to all master classes given during the course of the academy.
- Access to all concerts given throughout the duration of the festival.
- Accommodation provided by host families for the duration of the academy.
- Ensemble lessons with Denis Severin
- On request and subject to availability: individual string consultation with one of the leading string manufacturers (Thomastik, Larsen).

5. MANDATORY PARTICIPATION MASTERCLASSES

All active participants are obliged to be present for the entire duration of the festival.

Arrival: 24.10.2026 | Departure: 1.11.2026

Late arrival or early departure is possible only in exceptional cases and in consultation with the student office.

6. TIMETABLES

The timetables are carefully designed in order to provide each student with the best possible opportunities.

These timetables are binding. Alterations will only be made in exceptional circumstances and with the festival administration's approval.

All students must submit their repertoire for each lesson.

7. ENDPIN PROTECTION IN ALL ACADEMY BUILDINGS

In all academy buildings, the cello may only be taken out of its case with an endpin protector (rubber tip) attached.

The endpin must be protected at all times – including when transporting the instrument داخل the buildings.

When playing, the use of a cello board is also mandatory.
The endpin protector and the cello board must always be used together.

Please note: For special endpins that do not fit a standard rubber protector, a suitable protection must be brought by the player.

Cello boards can be borrowed on site for a deposit of €15 (refundable upon return; otherwise, the deposit will be considered the purchase price).

8. PRACTICE FACILITIES

Practice rooms will be provided.

Please bear the following rules in mind:

- Please bring your own spike-holders to the academy.
- In all rooms, only play with spike protection that ensures the floor is fully protected.
- It is also possible to practice in the teaching rooms until 1 hour before concert begins. All buildings will close at that time.
- The festival will accept no responsibility for instruments or private property left overnight in festival buildings.
- In the interest of all students we kindly remind participants that it is not permitted to block off rooms for long periods of private practice.

9. MEALS IN THE MENSA

In principle, all participants are responsible for their own meals. The host parents decide independently whether they offer meals or not. There is a kiosk in the school cafeteria that offers snacks and drinks throughout the day.

10. ACADEMY CONCERT

Professors will select students from their classes to perform in the chamber music concert as part of the festival. Active participation does not automatically entitle students to perform in this concert.

11. FINAL CONCERT

The final concert provides the best students from the academy with the chance to perform a solo-concerto with a professional orchestra. The selection for this performance will be made by professors based upon the quality of the submitted recordings.

12. ACCOMMODATION WITH HOST FAMILIES

We offer all active participants **aged 16 and older** the possibility of staying with host families free of charge. Of course, this is not a mandatory requirement and upon request we are happy to help you find a hotel nearby (not included in the course fee) should you prefer.

Host families open up their homes primarily because they seek to support the international culture and the character of the Academy. We would like to remind all participants to value this generosity.

Please note however, that host families are under no obligation to provide transport, meals or other additional subsistence.

Rules regarding accommodation with host families:

- It is not permitted to invite personal guests to stay with your host family. Any requests in this regard must be made through the festival office.
- You are expected to respect the house rules of the host family.
- Visits made by students to another host-family residence require the expressed permission of the respective host family. It is forbidden to spend the night with other students at host-family residences.

13. EXPULSION FROM THE ACADEMY

All participants should endeavour to promote the atmosphere of the festival and make it a special experience for both artists and concert-goers alike. There has not been a single expulsion from the academy in 16 festival years and we really want it to stay that way.

Behaviour that could lead to expulsion from the academy includes:

- Complaints made by host families, including the refusal of a host family to accommodate a student further.
- Underage alcohol consumption on festival property.
- Theft.
- Damage to floors caused by the cello spike.
- Spending the night with other students at host-family residences.

In the event of expulsion from the academy, the course fee will not be refunded and the participant's return journey will be made at his or her own expense.

14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY COPYRIGHT

The Cello Academy Rutesheim will photograph participants and make audio and video recordings throughout the duration of the festival.

By taking part in the festival, participants agree to the publication of all such recordings and photos and relinquish their copyright to the ownership of "Cello Akademie Rutesheim e.V" for promotional purposes, including but not limited to Flyers, Postcards, Website, Posters etc.

15. REQUESTS, COMPLAINTS OR SUGGESTIONS

In the event of any problems arising during the festival, we kindly ask you to report these to the festival office.

16. LEGAL DISCLAIMER

In the event of any dispute of these terms and conditions the original German version is binding.