



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, June 12, 2026
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Revised June 23, 2026

Participants and Jury Announced for the 12th Quadrennial Indianapolis Violin Competition

INDIANAPOLIS – The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) is pleased to announce the 40 violinists who have been invited to participate in the 12th Quadrennial Violin Competition, as well as the nine members of the jury. The participants will attend Opening Ceremonies on Thursday, September 17, 2026, followed by 16 days of Preliminaries, Semi-Finals, a Classical Finals round with the East Coast Chamber Orchestra, and a Finals round (underwritten by Eli Lilly and Company) with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Leonard Slatkin.

PRIZES

The participants will compete for a prize package valued at over \$350,000. Included are several awards for the Gold Medalist: a cash prize of \$75,000, a Carnegie Hall recital debut, a CD recording contract, and website development and maintenance for four years following the Competition. The Gold, Silver and Bronze Medalists receive the invaluable prize of career management and international concert engagements for four years. All six Laureates receive cash prizes and the opportunity to use one of several concert instruments in the IVCI collection, including the 1683 “ex-Gingold” Stradivari violin, until the next Quadrennial Competition in 2030.

APPLICATION PROCESS

To ensure the highest caliber of applicants, each violinist was required to record and submit an extensive and broad range of repertoire in an IVCI screening round: two contrasting solo Bach Sonata or Partita movements, one Paganini caprice, the first movement of a Mozart concerto, and a full concerto from the Romantic or Post-Romantic period. Each submitted video recording was reviewed by a three-member screening panel: Jaime Laredo, IVCI Jury President and Artistic Director; Malcolm Lowe (former Concertmaster of the Boston Symphony Orchestra); and Stephen Rose (Principal Second Violin of The Cleveland Orchestra).

JURY

The 12th Quadrennial Competition will consist of nine jury members, presided by IVCI Artistic Director and Jury President **Jaime Laredo**. Jury members are **David Chan** (1994 Bronze Medalist), **Jinjoo Cho** (2014 Gold Medalist), **Pamela Frank**, **Yuzuko Horigome**, **Bella Hristova** (2006 Laureate), **Dong-Suk Kang**, **Cho-Liang Lin**, and **Svetlin Roussev** (1998 Laureate).

PARTICIPANTS

For the 2026 Competition, the IVCI received 167 applications from 30 countries. Individuals selected for the Competition represent 10 countries across three continents, and range from ages 16 to 27. Most participants come from South Korea (11), followed by the United States (10), followed by China (8).

The participants are listed here in alphabetical order, including their nationality and age at the start of the Competition:

Leah Amory (22), USA	Alice Lee (26), Canada
Non Aoyama (21), Japan*	Chaeyeon Lee (22), South Korea
Zachary Brandon (27), USA	Jiyeon Lee (27), South Korea
Anton Carus (18), USA	Yesong Sophie Lee (22), USA
Yige Chen (26), China	Yoonseo Lee (24), South Korea
Zekai Chen (16), China	Yun Lee (25), Taiwan
Karisa Chiu (27), USA	Hairui Lei (21), China
Sungmin Cho (25), South Korea	Dongmin Lim (25), South Korea
Elli Choi (25), USA	Haewon Lim (22), South Korea
Bade Daştan (19), Turkey / Belgium	Chaowen Luo (25), China
Corina Deng (18), Canada	Lina Nakano (21), Japan
Hawijch Elders (27), Netherlands	Christina Nam (23), USA
Elina He (17), Hong Kong, China	Audrey Park (23), USA
Ria Honda (26), USA / Japan	Maria Sottriffer (26), Austria
Semi Hong (26), South Korea	Julian Walder (25), Austria
Miray Ito (23), USA	Sophie Wang (26), Taiwan
Wenlan Jackson (24), USA	Sara Watanabe (21), Japan
Yeyeong (Jenny) Jin (23), South Korea	Aozhe Zhang (18), China
Donghyun Kim (27), South Korea	Jingzhi Zhang (25), China
Hyunseo Kim (16), South Korea	Xunyue Zhang (22), China

**Non Aoyama (Japan) replaces Seonglan Hong (South Korea), who has withdrawn.*

To learn more about the 12th Quadrennial Competition, visit www.violin.org/competition.

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The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI) recognizes, rewards and promotes the world’s finest young classical violinists and encourages understanding, appreciation and support of the violin repertoire by a large and diverse audience. The IVCI utilizes its world prominence to bring international attention to Indianapolis and maintains its efforts to be a visible and collaborative member of the arts communities in Indianapolis and Indiana.

For information about the IVCI, visit www.violin.org.

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