



Mark Zemlianskyi from Ukraine has won the European prestigious guitar competition in Kutná Hora

PRESS RELEASE

Kutná Hora, July 15th, 2026 - *On Saturday, July 4th, 2026, last guitar tones of the participants of prestigious International Guitar Biennial with Mastercourses Kutná Hora 2026 were played. 63 participants from 20 countries worldwide sent their registrations to the 23rd edition of the contest, which was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.*

Within four days the participants were presenting their guitar performing mastery to the international jury led by its chairman Štěpán Rak. The jury appointed the best ones, after hearing 30 hours of performances. The members of the jury were: Campbell Diamond (Australia), Thomas Offermann (Germany), Johannes Monno (Germany), Michal Nagy (Poland), Marek Nosal (Poland), Oman Kaminsky (Mexico), Gabriel Bianco (France), Jesse Flowers (Germany), Martin Krajčo (Slovak Republic), Andrea De Vitis (Italy), Bogdan Mihailescu (Romania), Petr Saidl, Anna Hronová (Czech Republic) and above mentioned jury chairman, Štěpán Rak (Czech Republic).

The winner and the laureate of the 1st category (up to the age of 20) is **Raphaël Grevin** (France), second prize goes to **Uros Jacevic** (Serbia) and third prize goes to **Nadia Czerska** (Poland).

The winner and the laureate of the prestigious 2nd category (without age limit) is **Mark Zemlianskyi** (Ukraine), second prize goes to **Nikica Polegubić** (Croatia) and third prize goes to **Davide Mascia** (Italy). **Prize for the best Czech participant** in the 1st category goes to Ema Adamková, in the 2nd category to Filip Novák. The prize Young guitarist of the year goes to **Matouš Sedláček**.

Besides competition rounds there were wonderful evening guitar recitals. An unique and one-of-a-kind concert in the Czech Republic was held in the industrial space of the Central Bohemian Region Congress Center Gallery, featuring the French guitar virtuoso Antoine Boyer and harmonica virtuoso Yeore Kim from South Korea. In the coming days there were six wonderful concerts held in the Gallery of Central Bohemian Region – Refectory, featuring Bogdan Mihailescu (Romania), Evangelina Mascardi (Italy), Andrzej Grygier (Poland), Gabriel Bianco (France), Andrea De Vitis (Italy) and Leon Ravnikar (Slovenia).

Today's leading guitar pedagogues have taught dozens of hours of masterclasses held in the pleasant setting of the Club House Kutná Hora.

In the Club House there were also selling exhibitions of Czech and foreign guitar makers – Petr Matoušek, Petr Láska, Tomáš Honěk, Petr Vančata, Lukáš Trvaj and Jean Marquet. In addition, the companies Music Mania and IKA exhibited guitars and thermocases. The event also featured a lecture by Martin Krajčo on the topic "J. K. Metrz - Guitarist and Composer of European Significance," as well as presentation of guitar makers.

The International Biennial was held – this year for the fifth time – in newly reconstructed and exclusive Dačický House. The building's disposition is fully suitable for this prestigious event and both participants and the jury truly enjoyed it. Dačický House employees contributed the organising team to create a perfect and respectable setting. Big thanks go also to the Gallery of Central Bohemian Region (GASK), providing the evening Biennial concerts with its exceptional premises.

The next Biennial, 24th edition, will be held again in 2028, celebrating 48 years of its existence. The Town of Kutná Hora, as the main organiser, thanks to all the sponsors and partners. Owing to their huge support the Biennial can be organised.

COMPLETE RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL GUITAR BIENNIAL KUTNÁ HORA 2026

1st category – until the age of 20

1. Raphaël Grevin (France)
2. Uros Jacevic (Serbia)
3. Nadia Czerska (Poland)

4. Polina Ventskovska (Ukraine)
5. Jiashi Lyu (China)
6. Ema Adamková (Czech Republic)
7. Marie Balcarová (Czech Republic)
8. Peter Priskin (Hungary)

IInd category (without age limit)

1. Mark Zemlianskyi (Ukraine)
2. Nikica Polegubić (Croatia)
3. Davide Mascia (Italy)
4. Yuri Santangelo (Italy)
5. Oliver Jungbauer (Austria)
6. Yuheng Zhou (China)

Best Czech participant in the 1st category: Ema Adamková

Best Czech participant in the IInd category: Filip Novák

Audience prize: Nikica Polegubić (Croatia)

Jury prize for an exceptional performance of a piece in the final round:

1st category: Raphaël Grevin (France) for interpretation of Variations on a theme of Mozart's Don Giovanni by Giulio Regondi

2nd category: Yuri Santangelo (Italy) for interpretation of Estudio Capricho by Miguel Llobet

Number of participants in the 1st category – until the age of 20:

23 guitarists

Number of participants in the IInd category – no age limit:

40 guitarists

Participants' countries:

Czech Republic, Austria, Poland, France, Sweden, The Netherlands, Serbia, Romania, China, Hungary, Ukraine, Slovak Republic, Lithuania, Croatia, South Korea, Chile, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Greece

Main organiser:

The Town of Kutná Hora

Under the auspices of:

Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic

Partners:

Ministry of Culture, Mittelbohemian County, Petr Matoušek – luthier, Petr Láška – luthier, CCcases, Kantare – classical guitars, IKA thermocases, Guitar centre Pavel Vitáček, Meridaextrema, Musical instruments Music city, D'Addario, Henry's Strings, Savarez, Stretta Music, Nadace Život Umělce, Italian Culture Institute, Le Support, Czech-German Fund for the Future, Ut Orpheus, Bärenreiter Prague, GASK, Dačický House in Kutná Hora, Hotel U kata, Romanian Culture Institute, French institute, Austrian Culture Forum, Slovak Institute, Music Mania, Brewery Kutná Hora

International Biennial Guitar Competition Kutná Hora is an art project with a long tradition of more than 40 years. Around 1976, PhDr. Václav Korběl, founder and chief editor of the magazine Musical instruments and director of Czechoslovak violin competitions and Milada Lesevová, Mittelbohemian regional music school inspector, decided to start organizing a guitar contest. Jaroslav Kormunda, professor at Pedagogical faculty in České Budějovice and Conservatory Plzeň and Jaroslav Škopek, guitarist and teacher in Kralupy nad Vltavou joined later in order to develop this exceptional event.

The Biennial consists of a competition in interpretation of pieces for the classical guitar from different music periods (Renaissance till Contemporary music), concerts of world-famous artists, lectures, selling exhibitions, presentation of guitar makers and masterclasses led by world leading classical guitar pedagogues. Despite the title of a competition, the idea is to share exceptional artistic

performances in a friendly atmosphere of the inspiring historical town of Kutná Hora. Owing to this the Biennial has become one of the most important events of its kind in central Europe.
