

INTERNATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION

AT THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS IN BRATISLAVA

September 5 – 11, 2025, Bratislava

COMPETITION CONDITIONS AND REPERTOIRE





INTERNATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION

AT THE ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS IN BRATISLAVA

September 5 - 11, 2025
Bratislava, Slovakia

Competition president:

prof. PhDr. Martin Šmatlák
Rector of the Academy of Performing Arts

Jury Chairman:

Peter Dvorský - Slovakia

Contact:

Music and Dance Faculty
Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava
Zochova 1
811 03 Bratislava
Slovakia

Mirka Lovaszová
e-mail: competition@vsmu.sk
www.facebook.com/VSMUcompetition
www.vsmu.sk/htf

International Vocal Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava September 5 – 11, 2025 Bratislava, Slovakia

ORGANIZER

The main organizer of the **International Vocal Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts** in Bratislava is the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava.

Deadline for submitting application forms: **May 15, 2025.**

CATEGORIES

Category I – up to the age of 24, including / three rounds

contestants born after January 1st, 2001

Category II – up to the age of 32, including / three rounds

contestants born after January 1st, 1993

- In each category, women and men compete separately.
- There is no minimum age limit for either of the categories.
- Contestants may compete in both categories; however, no piece from the competitive repertoire of one category may be used in the other.
- A contestant under the age of 18 is entered into the competition by his / her legal representative.

COURSE OF THE COMPETITION

- The vocal competition in Category I (up to the age of 24) and Category II (up to the age of 32) consists of three rounds.
- Approximately 20 contestants from each category are selected to the second round.
- Six contestants per category qualify for the third round.
- The competition is preceded by a preliminary selection round, evaluated based on submitted recordings.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Category I – up to the age of 24

September 5	opening ceremony, Competition round I
September 6	Competition round I
September 7	acoustic rehearsals with piano for round 2
September 8	Competition round II
September 9	rehearsal with orchestra for round 3
September 10	Masterclass for singers. Feedback session with the jury.
September 11	Competition round 3 with orchestra, announcing the winners, awarding prizes

Category II – up to the age of 32

September 6	opening ceremony, Competition round I
September 7	Competition round I
September 8	acoustic rehearsals with piano for round 2
September 9	Competition round II
September 10	rehearsal with orchestra for round 3
September 11	Competition round 3 with orchestra, announcing the winners, awarding prizes

- Rounds 1 and 2 for both categories take place in DVORANA concert hall at the Music and Dance Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts. Round 3 with the orchestra takes place in one of the concert halls in Bratislava.
- The organizer reserves the right to make any changes in the above-stated schedule.
- A more detailed schedule will be sent to contestants not later than two weeks before the competition.
- Competition performances are public.
- The compulsory repertoire and the supplementary repertoire of arias for the third round will be made available on the website on January 15, 2025.

FINANCIAL PRIZES

The following prizes will be awarded in both categories of the International Vocal Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts:

Category I – up to the age of 24 – women

1st prize	1000 EUR
2nd prize	600 EUR
3rd prize	400 EUR

Category I – up to the age of 24 – men

1st prize	1000 EUR
2nd prize	600 EUR
3rd prize	400 EUR

Category II – up to the age of 32 – women

1st prize	1500 EUR
2nd prize	1000 EUR
3rd prize	500 EUR

Category II – up to the age of 32 – men

1st prize	1500 EUR
2nd prize	1000 EUR
3rd prize	500 EUR

1. The jury reserves the right not to award individual prizes if interpretation performances fail to reach the required level.
2. If the level of contestants is equal, the jury may award more prizes of the same degree, dividing the financial reward according to places and points awarded.
3. All winners of main prizes in category I – up to the age of 24 (first, second, third prize) will be awarded title “Laureate of the International Vocal Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava” and a certificate with their name, title and place.
4. All winners of main prizes in category II – up to the age of 32 (first, second, third prize) will be awarded title “Laureate of the International Vocal Competition at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava” and a certificate with their name, title and place.
5. Holders of honorary certificates and other awards will also be awarded certificates but they are not entitled to the Competition Laureate title.
6. A prize will also be awarded for best interpretation of a Slovak composition.
7. Such financial prizes will be taxed in accordance with legal regulations valid in the Slovak Republic.
8. No contestant has a legal right to the financial prize.
9. The decisions of the jury are final, cannot be appealed against and cannot be reviewed by a court or any other body.

COMPETITION REPERTOIRE

Category I – up to the age of 24

Preliminary selection round

Video recording – one song and one aria from different stylistic periods.
The repertoire in the recording may be repeated in the competition.

Round 1 – Duration up to 10 minutes

1. A vocal piece from the Baroque or Classical period
2. An opera aria of the competitor’s choice

Round 2 – Duration up to 12 minutes

1. A vocal piece in the style of Romanticism or Neo-Romanticism, with allowance for works composed up to the first half of the 20th century
2. A mandatory vocal composition by a contemporary Slovak composer (up to 3 minutes).
3. An aria of the competitor’s choice

Round 3 – Final Round

1. An aria with orchestra selected from the repertoire appendix.
 2. The repertoire appendix will be provided as a separate PDF document.
- Singing by heart is required. The contestant may choose the order of compositions.
 - Contestants are prohibited from repeating the same song or aria during the first two rounds of the competition.
 - In the third round, contestants may repeat an aria from either the first or second round; however, adherence to the specified repertoire attachment is essential.

- The third round will be held in cooperation with an orchestra during a ceremonious concert after which competition results will be announced. Laureates´ concert does not take place in this case.

Category II – up to the age of 32

Preliminary selection round

Video recording – 2 arias from different stylistic periods.

The repertoire in the recording may be repeated in the competition.

Round 1 – Duration up to 12 minutes

1. An aria from the Baroque or Classical period.
2. A mandatory vocal composition by a contemporary Slovak composer (up to 4 minutes).
3. An opera aria of the contestant´s choice performed in original printed edition

Round 2 – up to 15 minutes

1. A vocal piece in the compositional style of Romanticism or Neo-Romanticism from the 19th century, with the possibility of the work being from the first half of the 20th century.
2. An opera aria by a 19th century composer of the contestant´s choice, performed in original printed version
3. An opera aria of the contestant´s choice performed in original printed edition

Round 3 – Final Round

1. An aria with orchestra selected from the repertoire appendix.
 2. The repertoire appendix will be provided as a separate PDF document.
- Singing by heart is required. The contestant may choose the order of compositions.
 - Contestants are prohibited from repeating the same song or aria during the first two rounds of the competition.
 - In the third round, contestants may repeat an aria from either the first or second round; however, adherence to the specified repertoire attachment is essential.
 - The third round will be held in cooperation with an orchestra during a ceremonious concert after which competition results will be announced. Laureates´ concert does not take place in this case.

APPLICATION FORM

International Vocal Competition is open for musicians of all nationalities.

Candidates need to fill in an online application form available on the website of the organizer and attach the following:

- current portrait photograph (no copyright, 300dpi)
- short artistic bio (.doc format)
- link to a non-edited video recording of the preliminary round repertoire
- consent to the processing of personal data
- consent to the production and use of photographs and audio and audio-visual recordings of the competition performances and concerts of the laureates.

Deadline for submitting application forms: May 15, 2025

The application form will be available until May 15, 2025, 23:59 p.m. Applications completed after this deadline will not be accepted.

Candidates accepted for the contest will be sent a confirmation e-mail by June 1, 2025. Candidate who has received such information needs to confirm their participation and pay the participation fee by June 15, 2025, to the contest account number sent to them.

Participation fee

The participation fee for category I (up to the age of 24) is EUR 100 and for category II (up to the age of 32) EUR 120.

The participation fee is non-refundable.

Recording specification:

- Video recording not older than 12 months from submitting the registration
- individual parts of the repertoire may be recorded separately
- upload it as non-public (unlisted) video on YouTube

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Travel and accommodation costs

Contestants are responsible for arranging and covering the cost of their own transport, accommodation, and meals.

Piano accompaniment

At the request of the competition organizer (VŠMU – Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava), piano accompaniment will be arranged. In such case the contestant needs to submit sheet music in the edition in which the contestant will compete. The piano accompaniment applies to the pieces performed in the first and second rounds of both categories. The fee for the first and second rounds is €50, which must be paid along with the registration fee. This fee is non-refundable.

Mandatory compositions

The mandatory compositions and repertoire attachment for the arias in the third round will be published on the organizer's website on January 15, 2025.

Audio-visual materials and recordings

The organizer (Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava) reserves the right to create an audio-visual recording of competition performances. Such performances may be recorded and transmitted by radio and television or streamed on social networks and the website of the contest organizer for competition promotion purposes.

Competition statute

Competition conditions are specified in accordance with the competition statute in Slovak and in English. In the event of any discrepancy the authentic, i.e. Slovak version prevails.

Contact:

Music and Dance Faculty
Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava
Zochova 1
811 03 Bratislava
Slovakia

Mirka Lovaszová
e-mail: competition@vsmu.sk
www.vsmu.sk