

Rules
of the 3rd Karol Szymanowski International Music Competition in Katowice
in the Performance categories
(piano, violin, voice, string quartet)

§ 1

The Competition Organiser is the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, with its registered office in Katowice, Pl. Wojciecha Kilara 1, 40-202 Katowice, with National Official Business Register (REGON) number: 240260206, Tax Identification Number (NIP): 954-253-68-13, entered in the Register of Cultural Institutions maintained by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage under number: RIK 61/2006, hereinafter referred to as the Organiser.

§ 2

1. The Competition consists of the artistic performance of the repertoire specified in the Rules in the Competition categories.
2. The Competition is open to professional performers of all nationalities who meet the age requirements set out below:
 - (a) instrumentalists: aged 18–32 (i.e. born no earlier than 1 January 1995 and no later than 31 January 2009);
 - (b) string quartet: aged 18–32 (i.e. born no earlier than 1 January 1995 and no later than 31 January 2009);
 - (c) singers:
 - women – aged 20–32 (i.e. born no earlier than 1 January 1995 and no later than 31 January 2007);
 - men – aged 20–35 (i.e. born no earlier than 1 January 1992 and no later than 31 January 2007).

Persons who do not meet the above eligibility requirement shall be disqualified.

3. The age of Participants shall be determined as of the application deadline, i.e. 31 January 2027.
4. Each Participant may compete in one competition category only.
5. Prize-winners of the previous editions of the Competition and persons directly or indirectly involved in its preparation shall not be eligible to participate in the Competition.
6. Each Participant may participate in the same competition category no more than twice.
7. By entering the Competition, the Participant:
 - a) consents to the processing of their personal data for the purposes of organising and conducting the Competition and publishing information on the Competition results,
 - b) acknowledges that the controller of their personal data is the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, with its registered office in Katowice,
 - c) is aware that the provision of data is voluntary, but necessary for the purposes for which such data are collected, and failure to give such consent shall result in the Performer's disqualification.

§ 3

1. A condition for participation in the Competition shall be the full completion of the electronic application form available at www.szymanowski-competition.com no later than 31 January 2027 at 23:59.

2. Each Participant shall be required to:

- 1) complete the electronic application form available on the Competition website at www.szymanowski-competition.com
- 2) attach a brief biographical note (Word format, approx. 700 characters) in Polish or English;
- 3) attach scanned copies of documents confirming their musical education or musical studies;
- 4) attach two recent photographs, including at least one portrait photograph, for use in Competition publications (300–1200 dpi; in jpg, png or jpeg format). The Participant shall be responsible for obtaining any necessary copyright permissions in respect of the photograph. By entering the Competition, the composer warrants that all submitted materials are lawful;
- 5) attach a video recording of at least HD quality; detailed repertoire requirements for each competition category are set out in the appendices to these Rules referred to in § 7 paragraph 18 of these Rules;
- 6) attach a detailed competition repertoire (programme) for each round of the Competition, specifying the key, individual movements and duration of each work;
- 7) attach a declaration stating whether the Participant wishes to be accompanied by their own collaborative pianist during the First and Second Rounds of the Competition;
- 8) attach a declaration stating whether the Participant meets the criterion of being a student of a member of the Qualification Committee/Juror, within the meaning of § 6 of these Rules, and, if so, indicate the names of the Jurors to whom this criterion applies; failure to submit such declaration, or any inconsistency attributable to the Participant between that declaration and the declarations submitted by the members of the Jury, shall constitute grounds for exclusion from the Competition.
- 9) attach proof of payment of the entry fee in the amount of 100 EUR to the Organiser's bank account:

Narodowa Orkiestra Symfoniczna Polskiego Radia z siedzibą w Katowicach

bank account number: **53 1130 1091 0003 9112 5320 0001**

Bank: **BANK GOSPODARSTWA KRAJOWEGO**

IBAN: **PL53 1130 1091 0003 9112 5320 0001**

SWIFT/BIC: **GOSKPLPW**

Please state the candidate's full name in the transfer title with the following note:

"Konkurs Szymanowskiego – wykonawczy".

The entry fee is non-refundable; the sender is responsible for the bank transfer charges.

The entry fee must be paid for each person entered (in the case of string quartets, the fee is payable by each member of the ensemble).

3. Electronic application form and all its attachments, as well as correspondence relating to participation in the Competition must be written in Polish or English, or translated into one of the aforementioned languages.
4. An incomplete application, a defective video recording preventing its proper viewing, or failure to comply with any of the requirements set out in these Rules shall constitute grounds for the Performer's disqualification.
5. Any documents or materials submitted in connection with the Competition shall not be returned and shall become the property of the Organiser.

6. Each Participant shall retain a copy of their Competition application documents.

§ 4

1. The Competition shall consist of two stages:
 - 1) the pre-selection of Performers, conducted by the Qualification Committee;
 - 2) the Competition Rounds, during which the Performers shall be assessed by the Competition Jury.

The rules governing the pre-selection process and the Competition Rounds, as well as the procedures of the Qualification Committee and the Competition Jury, shall be set out respectively in: the Rules of the Qualification Committee of the 3rd Karol Szymanowski International Music Competition in Katowice for Performance, constituting Appendix No. 1 to these Rules, and Rules of the Jury of the 3rd Karol Szymanowski International Music Competition in Katowice for Performance, constituting Appendix No. 2 to these Rules.

§ 5

1. The documents and recordings referred to in § 3 paragraph 2 points 3 and 5, shall be assessed by the Qualification Committee in accordance with these Rules and the Rules of the Qualification Committee. The members of the Qualification Committee are appointed by the Competition Director.
2. The Committee shall admit no more than the following to the Competition: 24 pianists, 24 violinists, 48 singers and 16 string quartets.
3. The Organiser reserves the right to amend the limits referred to in paragraph 2.
4. The list of individuals/ensembles admitted to the Competition shall be made public by publication on the Organiser's website no later than 1 March 2027.
5. During its proceedings, the Qualification Committee shall verify the competition programme submitted by each Participant, referred to in § 3 paragraph 2 point 6 of these Rules, for compliance with these Rules. Should the Qualification Committee determine that a programme does not comply with these Rules, the Participant shall make the necessary amendments.

§ 6

1. The list of members of the Qualification Committee and the Jury shall be published by 31 October 2026, in order to enable the submission of the declaration referred to in § 3 paragraph 2 point 8 of these Rules.
2. For the purposes of these Rules, a student of a member of the Jury shall mean a Participant who:
 - is currently a student of a member of the Jury, or
 - was a student of a member of the Jury at any time between October 2023 and September 2027, or
 - has received private lessons from a member of the Jury during the 12 months preceding the Competition, or
 - is related to a member of the Jury.
3. The term 'student of a member of the Jury' does not include occasional contact between a Participant and a member of the Jury in the course of masterclasses.

§ 7

1. Prior to admitting a qualified Participant to the Competition, the Organiser shall verify the personal data provided by the Participant, in particular their age, in order to

- confirm compliance with the requirements set out in § 2 paragraph 2 of these Rules, on the basis of the Participant's identity card or passport presented for inspection.
2. The Organiser, in collaboration with the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, shall provide Participants with instruments (pianos only) and practice rooms for the duration of their participation in the Competition, i.e. from 31 August 2027 to 19 September 2027, in accordance with a separate availability schedule.
 3. The Organiser shall give each Participant the opportunity to try the instruments (pianos) designated for the Competition performances, at a time specified by the Organiser. A Participant may change their selected instrument (piano) to another from among those designated by the Organiser at any time; however, an additional trial of the newly selected instrument may take place only before the commencement of the next Round.
 4. The draw determining the order of the Competition performances shall take place in public on 31 August 2027 at the Organiser's premises.
 5. For organisational and programme-related reasons, the Organiser reserves the right to make changes to the order of the auditions. In the event of illness, confirmed by the Competition's medical service, a Participant may be granted permission to perform out of the established order, at the end of the relevant Round. The absence of the Participant's collaborative pianist shall not constitute grounds for changing the order of performances.
 6. The Competition auditions shall be open to the public and shall consist of two Rounds and the Final.
 7. All Participants qualified by the Qualification Committee in the pre-selection referred to in § 5 of these Rules shall be admitted to the First Round.
 8. No more than the following shall be admitted to the Second Round: 12 pianists, 12 violinists, 24 singers and 9 string quartets.
 9. No more than the following shall be admitted to the Final: 5 pianists, 5 violinists, 5 singers, and 5 string quartets.
 10. The Organiser reserves the right for the Jury to amend the limits referred to in paragraphs 8 and 9 of this Section.
 11. In the First and Second Rounds, the Competition participants – violinists and singers – shall be accompanied by a pianist.
 12. The Organiser shall provide the services of a collaborative pianist for the First and Second Rounds.
 13. A Participant may attend the Competition with their own collaborative pianist, provided that this is indicated in the Competition application form. The Participant shall bear all travel and accommodation costs of their collaborative pianist.
 14. Prior to the First and Second Rounds, the Organiser shall provide each Participant with one rehearsal with either the Competition collaborative pianist or their own collaborative pianist.
 15. In the Final, Participants (except for the string quartet category) shall perform with the Organiser's Orchestra.
 16. The Organiser shall provide each Participant with one rehearsal with the Orchestra prior to each Final.
 17. The dates and order of rehearsals prior to all Rounds shall be determined in accordance with the results of the draw referred to in paragraph 4 of this Section. For organisational and programme-related reasons, the Organiser reserves the right to make changes to the order of the rehearsals.
 18. The Competition repertoire is set out in the following appendices to these Rules:
 - 1) piano category – Appendix No. 3 to the Rules;

- 2) violin category – Appendix No. 4 to the Rules;
 - 3) string quartet category – Appendix No. 5 to the Rules;
 - 4) voice category – Appendix No. 6 to the Rules.
19. Except for the string quartet category, Participants shall perform the Competition programme from memory. The Organiser permits the partial performance of the programme from sheet music only in the cases specifically provided for in the Appendices to these Rules referred to in paragraph 18 of this Section.
 20. Participants shall obtain all required sheet music themselves. By entering the Competition, each Participant warrants that all sheet music used during the Competition has been lawfully obtained.
 21. Upon expiry of the application deadline referred to in § 3 paragraph 1 of these Rules, the Competition programme declared by the Participant may not be changed.
 22. The Jury reserves the right to interrupt a recital if the Participant exceeds the declared performance time. The decision whether to perform repeats shall rest solely with the Participant.
 23. The order in which works are performed in the First and Second Rounds shall be at the Participant's discretion.
 24. Transpositions are permitted for songs with piano accompaniment but only where a published version is used. In such cases, the Participant shall attach a scanned copy of the publication they intend to use to the online Competition application form.
 25. Finalists shall be required to attend meetings with the conductor and rehearsals with the Orchestra prior to the Final. Any unjustified absence from meetings and/or rehearsals with the Orchestra shall result in the Participant's disqualification.

§ 8

1. The Organiser does not assist Participants in obtaining visas. Upon the Participant's request, and following their qualification by the Qualification Committee, the Organiser shall send the Participant a confirmation of their qualification to participate in the Competition.
2. Participants shall obtain, at their own expense, health insurance covering the period of their stay in Poland during the Competition.
3. Participants shall be responsible for insuring their own instruments.
4. The Organiser shall arrange and cover the cost of accommodation for Participants:
 - 1) admitted to the Second Round – for the duration of the Second Round, from no earlier than one day before its commencement until no later than two days after its conclusion;
 - 2) admitted to the Competition's – for the duration of the Final, from no earlier than two days before the commencement of the Final auditions until no later than two days after the Competition's Final Gala.
5. The Organiser shall not cover the cost of accommodation arranged by Participants in locations other than those designated by the Organiser.
6. The Organiser shall not cover the accommodation costs of Participants residing in the Śląsko-Dąbrowska conurbation.

§ 9

1. The following main prizes shall be awarded to the highest-scoring Finalists in each category:

Solo categories:

First Prize: € 30,000 gross (in words: thirty thousand euros gross)

Second Prize: € 20,000 gross (in words: twenty thousand euros gross)
Third Prize: € 10,000 gross (in words: ten thousand euros gross)

Category: string quartet (total prize amount for all members of the string quartet):

First Prize: € 40,000 gross (in words: forty thousand euros gross)
Second Prize: € 28,000 gross (in words: twenty-eight thousand euros gross)
Third Prize: € 16,000 gross (in words: sixteen thousand euros gross)

2. Recipients of the main prizes shall be awarded the title of Prize-winner of the 3rd Karol Szymanowski International Music Competition.
3. In each category, the Competition Jury may award honorary distinctions or financial awards to Participants in the Second Round who were not admitted to the Final. The number and value of such distinctions and awards shall be at the Jury's discretion, provided that any financial awards shall require the prior approval of the Organiser.
4. In addition to the prizes and distinctions referred to above, the following special prizes shall be awarded:
 - 1) Special prize for the best performance of works by Karol Szymanowski:
 - in the piano category – in the amount of € 5,000 gross (in words: five thousand euros gross)
 - in the violin category – in the amount of € 5,000 gross (in words: five thousand euros gross)
 - in the voice category – in the amount of € 5,000 gross (in words: five thousand euros gross)
 - in the string quartet category – in the amount of € 8,000 gross (in words: eight thousand euros gross)
 - 2) Distinction for the best collaborative pianist (in the voice and violin categories)
 -
 - € 3,000 gross (in words: three thousand euros gross)
5. The amounts referred to in paragraphs 1–4 above shall be subject to applicable taxes and other mandatory public-law charges in accordance with the law in force in Poland.
6. Any cash prize shall be transferred to the bank account designated by the Competition Prize-winner. In the String Quartet category, the cash prize shall be transferred to the bank account or bank accounts designated by all Prize-winners of the relevant string quartet, in the proportions specified by them.
7. Each special prize may be awarded only to a Finalist.
8. Payment of a cash prize shall be conditional upon the Competition Prize-winner's participation in the Prize-winners' Concert referred to in § 11 of these Rules. An unjustified absence from the Prize-winners' Concert shall constitute a waiver of the right to the cash prize.

§ 10

1. In each category, the Competition Jury shall decide on the allocation of the main prizes, distinctions and special prizes.
2. In each category, the Competition Jury shall have the right to change the number and distribution of the main prizes, provided that the total amount allocated for the main prizes is not increased and the amount of each individual main prize remains unchanged.

3. In each category, the Competition Jury shall have the right not to award specific main prizes or special prizes, or to award such prizes ex aequo.
4. In each category, the Competition Jury reserves the right to award extra-statutory prizes, provided that any cash prizes require the prior approval of the Organiser.
5. The decisions of the Jury are final and irrevocable.
6. The results of each Round of the Competition shall be made public each time the Jury has concluded its deliberations for that Round.
7. The official presentation of the winners of the main prizes, special prizes and distinctions shall take place on 19 September 2027.

§ 11

1. First Prize-winners shall be required to participate, without additional remuneration, in the Prize-winners' Concert to be held on 19 September 2027.
2. The programme of the Prize-winners' Concert shall be determined by the Organiser in consultation with the Chairs of the Jury of each category and the Prize-winners. The Prize-winners shall perform the programme as agreed.

§ 12

1. Each Competition Participant, by entering the Competition, authorizes the Organiser to make audio and audiovisual recordings of their artistic performances of works during all Rounds of the Competition and at the Prize-winners' Concert, and transfers to the Organiser the right to use and dispose of, without limitation in time or territory, the recorded artistic performance of the works created by them, in whole or in part, in the following fields of exploitation:
 - fixation by any technique, regardless of standard, system or format;
 - reproduction by any technique, regardless of standard, system or format;
 - putting into circulation (including circulation with other radio and television broadcasting organisations, in particular the European Broadcasting Union), rental, lending, making available to the public by electronic means on demand of copies made in accordance with points 1 and 2 of this paragraph;
 - multiple broadcasting, in whole or in part, by wired or wireless transmission, by any technical means, regardless of standard, system, or format, including broadcasting via satellite;
 - wired or wireless retransmission by any means, including via satellite, in whole or in part;
 - introduction into computer memory and making copies of such recordings for production purposes, dissemination via the Internet or intranet; use in a radio program of fragments of the recorded artistic performance for their advertising and promotion;
 - public performance, staging, exhibition, playback, as well as making available to the public in such a way that members of the public may access it from a place and at a time individually chosen by them, including via telecommunications networks such as the Internet, including streaming and live streaming, of the aforementioned artistic performance in whole or in part, including by means of telecommunications data transmission networks.
2. Each Competition Participant, by entering the Competition, authorizes the Organiser to make audio and visual recordings of their image, statements, and interviews given during the Competition and the Prize-winners' Concert, or in connection with the Competition or the Prize-winners' Concert, and transfers to the Organiser all economic rights to such statements and interviews, and authorizes the Organiser to

disseminate their image recorded in connection with participation in the Competition and the Prize-winners' Concert, in the fields of exploitation referred to in paragraph 1 above.

3. Each Competition Participant, by entering the Competition, transfers to the Organiser the exclusive right, unlimited in time and territory, to authorize the exercise of derivative copyright in relation to the artistic performance, works, and image referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, in particular to authorize the disposal and use of derivative works, including translations into other languages; the Participant also undertakes not to take any action limiting this right in the future.
4. Each Competition Participant, by entering the Competition, authorizes the Organiser to exercise their moral rights related to the works, artistic performances, and image referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and undertakes not to exercise their moral rights in a manner that would limit the Organiser in exercising the rights acquired under this Section.
5. Each Competition Participant, by entering the Competition, authorizes the Organiser to use the artistic performances, interviews, statements, and image, both in whole and in any selected fragments, to make adaptations, abridgements, and modifications, as well as translations, and declares that such use shall not be considered as infringing their good name; the Participant simultaneously authorizes the labelling of the artistic performances, statements, interviews, and image referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above with their first and last name.
6. The transfer and grant of rights (including authorizations) referred to in this paragraph shall take effect from the moment the artistic performances, statements, or interviews come into existence, and shall be made without the right to remuneration. To the extent possible under applicable law, the Participant waives and shall not pursue any rights to any fees that may be due in connection with the internet, television, and radio broadcast of the artistic performances, statements, or interviews referred to in this Section.
7. With respect to the rights acquired under these Rules, the Organiser shall have the unlimited right to transfer them to other entities, grant licenses, or further authorizations. The Participant shall not be entitled to additional remuneration on this account.
8. By entering the Competition, the Participant declares that they are aware that their artistic performances shall be used, in particular, for:
 - 1) live broadcast of performances on radio, the Internet, and television;
 - 2) audio-video recording of Competition performances with the possibility of later use in whole or in part;
 - 3) placement (for at least one year) of recordings on the Polish Radio portal (without the possibility of downloading);
 - 4) release of an album containing recordings of the artistic performance (commercial and non-commercial distribution);
 - 5) use of all recorded materials for promotional and educational purposes of the Competition and its future editions;
 - 6) transfer to the Competition's partners and media patrons, as well as accredited media, of all promotional materials (audio, video, text documents) obtained from Participants and recorded by the Organisers.
9. A qualified Competition Participant undertakes to sign a declaration, the content of which corresponds to the provisions of this Section, prior to admission to participate in the Competition before the First Round.

§ 13

Submission of an application to the Competition by a Participant is tantamount to acceptance of these Rules.

§ 14

1. The Competition Organiser reserves the right to amend these Rules, as well as the course of the Competition, including the right to cancel it, in particular should circumstances arise that could not have been foreseen prior to the announcement of the Competition, in the event of force majeure, or should it become impossible to continue the Competition in accordance with the procedure set out in these Rules.
2. The amended Rules shall come into force upon their publication on the website www.szymanowski-competition.com.

§ 15

1. The Director of the Competition is the Director of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, with its registered office in Katowice.
2. In all matters not falling within the competence of the Jury and the Qualification Committees, the Director of the Competition shall have the right to make decisions which are final and not subject to appeal.
3. In all matters not covered by these Rules, decisions shall be made by the Director of the Competition.
4. The organisation and conduct of the Competition shall be the responsibility of the Competition Secretary General, appointed by the Director of the Competition.

§ 16

The following are appendices to these Rules and constitute an integral part thereof:

- 1) Appendix No. 1 - the Rules of the Qualification Committee of the 3rd Karol Szymanowski International Music Competition in Katowice in the Performance categories;
- 2) Appendix No. 2 - the Rules of the Jury of the 3rd Karol Szymanowski International Music Competition in Katowice in the Performance categories;
- 3) Appendix No. 3 – Competition Repertoire for the piano category;
- 4) Appendix No. 4 – Competition Repertoire for the violin category;
- 5) Appendix No. 5 – Competition Repertoire for the string quartet category;
- 6) Appendix No. 6 – Competition Repertoire for the voice category.

§ 17

1. The Competition Rules, together with their appendices, have been drawn up in Polish and English language versions.
2. In the event of discrepancies between the language versions, the Polish version shall be binding.
3. In matters not regulated by these Rules, the relevant provisions of Polish law shall apply.
4. Any potential legal disputes shall be settled by the Polish court with jurisdiction over the Organiser's registered office.