

APPROVED
General Director
Hibla Gerzmava Charitable Foundation

L. L. Gerzmava _____
1 June 2026

**REGULATIONS FOR THE HIBLA GERZMAVA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF
VOCALISTS AND ACCOMPANISTS**

COMPETITION OF VOCALISTS AND ACCOMPANISTS

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HIBLA GERZMAVA /
HIBLA GERZMAVA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF VOCALISTS AND
ACCOMPANISTS

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. These Regulations (the “Regulations”) govern the organization and conduct of the competition auditions and the subsequent work with laureates and finalists of the Hibla Gerzmava International Competition of Vocalists and Accompanists (the “Competition”).

- First project stage (announcement of the competition): 1 April – 1 May 2026;
- Preliminary round: 1 June – 1 October 2026;
- Announcement of preliminary-round results: no later than 1 November 2026;
- The main Competition auditions will take place in Moscow from 11* to 24 January 2027; subsequent events (laureates’ performances) will take place from 24 January to 30 August 2027. These Regulations specify the venue and dates of the Competition, participant requirements, application procedure, stages of the Competition, its administration, financial terms, awards and prizes, and participants’ rights and obligations. (*The audition dates are calculated from the arrival dates of participants travelling from other cities.)

1.2. The Competition aims to support young talented performers, strengthen international cultural ties, preserve and develop the finest traditions of Russian and international music schools, and draw public attention to classical music.

1.3. The Competition was initiated by Hibla Gerzmava, People’s Artist of Russia and recipient of the State Prize of Russia, and is organized by the Charitable Foundation (the “Organizer”).

1.4. The Competition is held with the support and funding of a grant from the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives, as well as other partners and sponsors.

1.5. The General Partner of the Competition is the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre (the “General Partner”).

1.6. These Competition Regulations are published on the official Competition website: www.competitionhibla.ru. www.competitionhibla.ru.

1.7. The Competition is open to vocalists and accompanists and is based on the principles of transparency and equal opportunity for all participants. These principles are ensured by the selection process and the qualifications of the International Jury, which will include directors, conductors, opera agents and vocal coaches.

1.8. The Organizer guarantees compliance with federal personal-data legislation in the legal relations arising under these Regulations.

1.9. The Organizer reserves the right to amend these Regulations, provided that the updated document is published on the official Competition website, www.competitionhibla.ru. www.competitionhibla.ru.

1.10. The Organizer intends to join the “Pushkin Card” programme if it meets the programme requirements established by Russian Government Resolution No. 1521 of 8 September 2021 “On social support for young people aged 14 to 22 to improve access to cultural institutions”, and if tickets are sold for Competition events funded by the grant.

2. PROCEDURE AND SCHEDULE

2.1. Competition events will be held in a combined in-person and remote format.

2.2. The Preliminary Round will consist of remote auditions based on participants' video recordings. The procedure for the Preliminary Round is set out in Section 5 of these Regulations.

2.3. The Main Round auditions will take place on the stages of the General Partner.

2.4. The Main Round of the Competition will take place from 14 to 21 January 2027.

3. PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Vocalists and accompanists from any country may participate in the Competition.

3.2. The highest-scoring participants in the Preliminary Round will advance to the First Main Round: at least 40 vocalists and at least 20 accompanists.

3.3. Vocalists with specialized education and students of higher music institutions are eligible to enter the Vocalists Competition. Participants must be aged 21 to 34 at the start of the Competition (11 January 2027).

3.4. All voice types may participate in the Vocalists Competition: soprano, mezzo-soprano, countertenor, tenor, baritone and bass.

3.5. The Second Main Round of the Vocalists Competition will include duets or operatic duet scenes. Rehearsals with a partner in the theatre's vocal studios will be provided to prepare these. Duets may be performed only with répétiteurs provided by the Competition's General Partner.

3.6. Pianists with specialized education and students of higher music institutions are eligible to enter the Accompanists Competition. Participants must be aged 20 to 35 at the start of the Competition (11 January 2027).

3.7. If a vocalist cannot perform with their own accompanist, the Organizer may provide an accompanist on duty.

3.8. A vocalist performing with an accompanist provided by the Organizer must submit the sheet music to the Organizer by 1 December 2026. Scanned scores must be sent to info@competitionhibla.ru.

3.9. An accompanist who is a Competition participant may perform with their own vocalist-répétiteur; in this case, the accompanist is responsible for all fees payable to that vocalist.

3.10. If an accompanist participating in the Competition cannot perform with their own répétiteur, the Organizer will provide one.

3.11. An accompanist performing with a vocalist provided by the Organizer must submit the sheet music to the Organizer by 1 December 2026. Scanned scores or PDF files must be sent to info@competitionhibla.ru.

3.12. A vocalist and accompanist performing as a pair may both be Competition participants. Each performance will be assessed separately.

3.13. Winners of the Vocalists Competition will have the opportunity to perform in repertory opera productions at the General Partner (the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre), the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, the Mariinsky Theatre, the Helikon Opera Moscow Musical Theatre or another music/opera theatre, completing the full rehearsal and preparation process. The production and performance dates will be determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or other theatre. The performance must take place no later than the 2027/2028 season.

Winners of the Accompanists Competition will have the opportunity to perform in chamber concerts with vocalist laureates of the Competition.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

4.1. Applications must be submitted between 1 June and 1 October 2026 inclusive via the official Competition website, www.competitionhibla.ru, under “Submit an Application”. The Organizer will confirm receipt within five days. If no confirmation is received within that period, contact the Organizer using the contact details on the Competition website. www.competitionhibla.ru

4.2. The application form must be completed in full, with no fields left blank.

4.3. Applications may be completed in Russian or English.

4.4. The application must include a video recording of the vocalist performing two contrasting arias. The video must be provided as a viewing link hosted on a file-sharing or other online service.

4.5. Accompanists must submit a video recording of an opera scene (with singing, without a vocalist-répétiteur) and an aria performed with a vocalist-répétiteur. Videos must be provided as viewing links hosted on a file-sharing or other online service.

4.6. Video requirements:

- the video must be high quality (MP4 or AVI);
- only videos recorded during 2026 will be considered;
- video editing is not permitted, except for multicamera recordings of a performance;
- any audio editing is prohibited;
- only live piano or orchestral accompaniment is permitted;
- vocalists must perform all works from memory, in the original language and original key.
 - If a vocalist and an accompanist applying as a pair submit jointly, they may provide one shared video recording for assessment of both applicants by the Expert Council. It must contain two arias performed by the vocalist applicant with

the accompanist applicant, and an opera scene performed by the accompanist applicant (without a répétiteur).

4.7. Contestants (vocalists and accompanists) selected for the Main Round must submit to the Organizer:

- copies of passports (identity page);
- vocalists performing with their own accompanist must also submit a copy of the accompanist's passport (identity page);
- accompanists performing with their own répétiteur must also submit a copy of that person's passport (identity page);
- one digital photograph (at least 1 MB) for use in Competition promotional materials;
- one digital photograph (at least 1 MB) of the accompanist/vocalist-répétiteur who is not competing, for use in Competition promotional materials;
- a short artistic biography (Microsoft Word document, no more than 500 characters);
- a short artistic biography of the accompanist/vocalist-répétiteur who is not competing (Microsoft Word document, no more than 500 characters);
- a complete list of works to be performed in all three Competition rounds;
- sheet music in PDF format, sent to the Competition email address.

4.8. Submitting an application confirms that the prospective participant fully accepts the terms and procedure for participation in the Competition.

4.9. Applications received after the deadline, incomplete applications or applications not submitted in the required form will not be considered.

4.10. Each participant may submit no more than one application to the Competition.

4.11. Applications containing obscene or offensive language, incoherent strings of characters, or calls for activities that violate legal requirements will not be registered.

4.12. Applications for the Preliminary Round will be reviewed only by the Expert Council and will not be used by the Organizer in the public domain.

5. COMPETITION STAGES

PRELIMINARY ROUND

5.1. Applications and video materials for the Preliminary Round will be accepted from 1 June through 1 October 2026 inclusive.

**The Organizer may extend the application period for a specified time and will notify applicants via the project's social media.*

5.2. Remote Preliminary Round auditions based on video materials will take place from 1 June through 31 October 2026 inclusive.

5.3. Preliminary Round results (at least 40 vocalists and at least 20 accompanists) will be announced no later than 1 November 2026.

COMPETITION

5.4. The first round of the Vocalists Competition will take place on 14 and 15 January 2027. Performance order will be determined by drawing lots. Participants will retain the same numbers throughout all three Main Rounds; the draw order may not be changed. Auditions will be accompanied by piano. In Round I, contestants must perform three arias:

- an aria from any opera or a Mozart concert aria;
- an aria from an opera by a composer of the 19th or early 20th century (from the proposed list);
- an aria from an opera by a 20th- or 21st-century composer (from the proposed list);
- for countertenors, an aria by a composer of the 18th or early 19th century (from the proposed list).

5.5. The second round of the Vocalists Competition will take place on 17 and 18 January 2027. At least 20 vocalists will advance. Auditions will be accompanied by piano. Round II programme:

- a folk song a cappella;
- an aria from a classical operetta (from the proposed list); countertenors may choose an aria from the proposed list.
- an aria of the performer's choice;
- a duet or duet scene (from the proposed list).

Round II performances will be arranged as follows: one day for the solo programme and one day for duet performances.

5.6. The third round of the Vocalists Competition will take place on 21 January 2027. At least 12 vocalists will advance. Round III auditions will be accompanied by the theatre's symphony orchestra. Contestants must perform two works:

- one aria of the performer's choice;
- one aria of the performer's choice from an opera by a Russian composer of the 19th–21st centuries.
- Participants must perform different arias in different rounds; the same aria may not be repeated.

5.7. For vocalists' rehearsals before Rounds I, II and III, the General Partner will provide vocal studios and theatre stages according to a schedule prepared in advance. Before Round III, participants will be provided with an orchestral rehearsal according to a prearranged schedule.

5.8. The Accompanists Competition consists of three rounds. Performance order will be determined by drawing lots. Participants will retain the same numbers throughout all three Main Rounds; the draw order may not be changed.

5.9. The first round of the Accompanists Competition will take place on 16 January 2027.

5.10.1. Round I programme: accompaniment of a vocalist in a prepared programme of three works:

- a Mozart aria (from an opera or a concert aria) or an aria by J. S. Bach;
- a work from a song cycle or a romance by a 19th-century composer (at the contestant's choice);
- an aria from an opera by a 20th- or 21st-century composer.

5.10.2. The second round of the Accompanists Competition will take place on 18 and 19 January 2027. At least 12 accompanists will advance to Round II. They will complete the following tasks:

- sight-reading with a vocalist (arias or romances);
- working with a vocalist on an aria from the proposed list (the General Partner will arrange work with one of the opera company's artists). Working time with the vocalist: 15 minutes;
- performing an opera scene with singing, selected from the Organizer's list;
- The Organizer will provide the sheet music required for work with the vocalist after Round I of the Accompanists Competition. Rehearsal studios will be provided according to a schedule prepared in advance.
- Round II will be arranged as follows: one day for sight-reading and work with a vocalist, and one day for performing an opera scene.

5.9.3. The third round of the Accompanists Competition will take place on 21 January 2027. At least eight accompanists will advance. They must perform two works:

- an opera aria (at the contestant's choice);
- a romance or a work from a song cycle (at the contestant's choice).

One of the works performed in Round III must have been written by a Russian composer of the 19th–21st centuries. Auditions will take place on the Main and Small Stages of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre.

The laureates' closing concert will take place on 23 January 2027.

5.11. After each round, members of the Jury and the Expert Council may meet with contestants to discuss their performances.

6. COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION

6.1. An Organizing Committee, an Expert Council and an International Jury will be established to organize and conduct the Competition.

6.2. Responsibilities of the Organizing Committee:

- organizational and technical support for events in accordance with the Competition programme;
- organizational and technical support for the International Jury and the Competition Expert Council.

6.3. Responsibilities of the Expert Council:

- receiving and registering applications from candidates;
- reviewing submitted applications and assessing their quality according to the Competition criteria and priorities;
- selecting participants who meet the Competition requirements;

the membership of the Expert Council will not be disclosed until the Preliminary Round is completed;

- at the end of the Preliminary Round, the Expert Council will meet in person to openly discuss the shortlisted applications;
- when assessing applications, an expert may not contact Competition participants, discuss their applications with them, or directly request documents, information and/or explanations.

6.4. Responsibilities of the Competition Jury:

- providing oral expert assessments and recommendations for participants' development;
- the Jury reserves the right not to award all prizes;
- the Jury's decision is final and may not be reviewed.

7. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND RESULTS

7.1. The Jury will assess contestants according to the following criteria:

- professional level of performance;
- musical and artistic individuality and understanding of the work's style;

- level of stagecraft;
- choice of repertoire.

7.2. **Each performance will be scored by each Jury member on a five-point scale.**

7.3. Jury members' score sheets will not be published publicly.

7.4. The Jury's decision will be recorded after the scores are totalled. The final record will be drawn up following the Jury vote after the Round III performances.

7.5. The Chair of the Jury is Hibla Gerzmava.

8. FINANCIAL TERMS

8.1. Accommodation and travel:

- the Organizer provides visa support in Russia for foreign Competition participants;
- the Organizer covers travel expenses only for participants admitted to the in-person rounds;
- accommodation for participants in Rounds I, II and III is paid for by the Organizer;
- if a participant performs with their own accompanist and/or répétiteur, the participant bears all costs of inviting and accommodating that person, unless the accompanist/répétiteur is also a Competition participant;
- accommodation payments for vocalist and accompanist contestants end on the day after the round results are announced if the contestant does not advance to the next round. Any further stay in Moscow is at the contestant's own expense;
- the Organizer will cover further accommodation for Round II participants who do not advance to Round III if they are selected to perform at the Competition gala concert.

8.2. All Main Round auditions will be open to the public and held in concert format. All proceeds from ticket sales for the auditions and gala concerts belong to the Competition's General Partner, the Theatre.

8.3. Laureates and diploma winners must participate free of charge in the Competition's final Gala Concert on 23 January 2027 and in two additional laureates' gala concerts. Dates and venues will be agreed separately.

8.4. A phoniatician will be available to Competition participants at the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre. Other medical services and medical insurance are not provided as part of the Competition events.

9. AWARDS AND PRIZES

9.1. Vocalists:

- **Grand Prix – RUB 2,500,000. Debut on the stage of the General Partner (the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre), the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, the Mariinsky Theatre, the Helikon Opera Moscow Musical Theatre or another music/opera theatre. The production and performance dates will be determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or other theatre. The performance must take place no later than the 2027–2028 season;**
- **Two First Prizes – RUB 1,500,000 each. Debut on the stage of the General Partner (the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre), the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, the Mariinsky Theatre, the Helikon Opera Moscow Musical Theatre or another music/opera theatre. The production and performance dates will be determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or other theatre. The performance must take place no later than the 2027/2028 season;**
- **Two Second Prizes – RUB 1,200,000 each;**
- **Two Third Prizes – RUB 1,000,000 each.**

Artistic directors and casting directors of theatres and concert organizations may offer a debut to any Competition finalist.

Accompanists:

- First Prize – RUB 1,500,000;
- Second Prize – RUB 1,200,000;
- Third Prize – RUB 1,000,000.

The Jury reserves the right to award special prizes to vocalist and accompanist contestants for their performances of Competition works.

9.2. All payments will be made in Russian rubles from the Organizer's special account.

9.3. All prizes and special awards provided for under these Regulations are subject to personal income tax in accordance with the tax laws of the Russian Federation. Cash prizes and special awards will be paid by the Organizer or sponsors to participants after deduction of the applicable taxes.

10. PARTICIPANTS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

10.1. Competition participants have the right to:

- review these Competition Regulations;
- participate in the Competition in accordance with its terms and procedures;
- have an opportunity to present their work at the Competition.

10.2. Competition participants are obliged to:

- provide accurate information in their Competition application;
- comply with the procedures for the Competition stages.

11. COPYRIGHT AND PERSONAL DATA

11.1. By submitting an application and video material and participating in the Competition, participants warrant that their submitted works do not infringe the rights or interests of third

parties. The Organizer is responsible for paying royalties for the use of copyrighted works.

11.2. By submitting an application and video material, participants grant the Organizer, free of charge, a non-exclusive licence to use the results of their intellectual activity for the purposes of the Competition. The Organizer undertakes not to use materials submitted for the Preliminary Round in the public domain. The Organizer may broadcast Main Round performances on television, radio and the Internet, live or recorded.

11.3. By submitting an application and video material and participating in the Competition, participants give the Organizer and any persons engaged to organize the Competition their specific, informed and voluntary consent to process the personal data actually provided to the Organizer. The purpose of processing such personal data by the Organizer and, where necessary, the persons engaged by it is to organize and conduct the Competition.

11.4. By submitting an application and video material and participating in the Competition, participants authorize the Organizer to publish information about their participation in the Competition.

12. LEGAL INFORMATION

12.1. These Regulations and other information about the Competition published by the Organizer or with its consent do not constitute an invitation to make offers.

12.2. The rules set out in Articles 447–449 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation do not apply to the conduct of the Competition or the award of remuneration.

12.3. The Organizer does not reimburse expenses incurred by participants in connection with participation in the Preliminary Round.

12.4. The Organizer is not obliged to notify participants of the outcome of their applications or explain negative decisions, including by

providing information about experts' scores or conclusions.

12.5. Participants bear the risk of failing to receive legally significant messages sent by the Organizer to the email address provided in their Competition application.