

**Adopted by the Order  
of the Hibla Gerzmava  
International Charitable Foundation  
No. 7 of December 25,  
2021**

**THE HIBLA GERZMAVA OPERA SINGERS AND ACCOMPANISTS  
COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

## 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1. These Regulations (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations) govern the procedure for organising and holding **the Hibla Gerzmava Opera Singers and Accompanists Competition (hereinafter referred to as “the Competition”)** from **January 11 to 22, 2023**, as well as specify the venue and timing of the Competition, requirements for participants, application procedures, stages of the Competition, management of the Competition, financial conditions, awards and prizes, and the rights and obligations of the Competition participants.
- 1.2. The Competition is held to support young talented performers, strengthen international cultural links, preserve and enhance the best traditions of national and foreign schools of music, and draw public attention to the field of academic musical art.
- 1.3. The Competition is initiated by Hibla Gerzmava, the People’s Artist of Russia and the Russian State Prize laureate, and organised by the Hibla Gerzmava International Charitable Foundation (hereinafter referred to as “the Organiser”).
- 1.4. The Competition is held with the support of the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives, as well as other partners and sponsors.
- 1.5. The Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre (hereinafter referred to as “the General Partner”) is the General Partner of the Competition.
- 1.6. The Competition Regulations are published on the official website of the Competition [www.competitionhibla.ru](http://www.competitionhibla.ru).

- 1.7. The Competition is held among vocalists and accompanists and is based on the principle of openness and equal opportunities for all participants, ensured by the Competition’s selection procedure and the qualifications of the Jury of the Competition, which will consist of directors, conductors, opera agents and vocal teachers.
- 1.8. The Organiser guarantees compliance with the federal legislation regulating personal data within the scope of the relationship arising from these Regulations.
- 1.9. The Organiser has the right to amend these Regulations with the requirement to publish the updated document on the official website of the Competition [www.competitionhibla.ru](http://www.competitionhibla.ru).
- 1.10. The Organiser intends to join the Pushkin Card programme if they meet the conditions of the programme as set out in Russian government Decree No. 1521 “On social support for young people aged between 14 and 22 to improve access to cultural organisations” of 8 September 2021, and if they sell tickets to events of the Competition, using the grant funds.

## 2. TERMS AND DATES

- 2.1. The Competition is held in remote and in-person formats.
- 2.2. The Qualifying Round is held based on the evaluation of the video recordings of the participants remotely and evaluation of in-person auditions. The procedure for the Qualifying Round of the Competition is set out in Section 5 of these Regulations. The Auditions for the Main Round of the Competition will take place on the stages of the General Partner.
- 2.3. The dates for the Main Round of the Competition are January 11 – 22, 2023.

### 3. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1. Vocalists and accompanists representing any country in the world may participate in the Competition.
- 3.2. Only those participants who have obtained the highest scores in the Qualifying Round, maximum 16 vocalists and 16 accompanists (paired with these vocalists), will be admitted to the First Main Round.
- 3.3. The Vocal Competition is open to vocalists with professional backgrounds, as well as to music school students. Participants must be between 18 and 35 years of age at the end of the enrollment (September 30, 2022). The Accompanists Competition is open to pianists with specialized training as well as music students. Participants must be between 20 and 42 years of age at the end of the enrollment (September 30, 2022).
- 3.4. All types of voices may participate in the Competition: soprano, mezzo-soprano, countertenor, tenor, baritone, bass.
- 3.5. Performances of duets or duet scenes will be included in the Second Main Round of the Vocal Competition. For the preparation of a duet or duet scene, participants will be provided with a one-hour rehearsal in the vocal classes of the General Partner. An accompanist for a duet/duet scene will be provided by the General Partner.
- 3.6. If a vocalist participating in the Competition is unable to perform with their own accompanist, the Organiser may provide the participant with an accompanist.
- 3.7. If an accompanist participating in the Competition is unable to perform with their own collaborative vocalist, the Organiser may provide the participant with a vocalist.
- 3.8. In the case of a performance of an accompanist or a vocalist with the Organiser's collaborator, the participant shall submit sheet music materials to the Organiser by December 1, 2022, at the latest (scanned sheet music should be sent to the following e-mail: [info@competitionhibla.ru](mailto:info@competitionhibla.ru)).
- 3.9. If the accompanist of a vocalist who is participating in the Competition is not a participant of the Competition themselves nor a representative of the Organiser, their stay at the Competition shall be paid for by themselves.
- 3.10. If the collaborative vocalist of an accompanist who is participating in the Competition is not a participant of the Competition themselves nor a representative of the Organiser, their stay at the Competition shall be paid for by themselves.
- 3.11. The winners of the vocalist Competition will have the opportunity to perform on the stage of the General Partner or another musical/opera theatre in repertory opera productions with the entire rehearsal and preparatory cycle (the choice of the performance and the timing of the winners' performances is determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or another theatre). The performance shall take place no later than the 2023/2024 season.

### 4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 4.1. An application for participation in the Competition should be submitted **from June 1 to September 30, 2022**, through the official website of the Competition: [www.competitionhibla.ru](http://www.competitionhibla.ru) in the "To apply" section. A response from the Organiser shall be received within 5 days. If the response is not received within the specified period, please contact the Organiser using the contact details provided on the Competition website.

- 4.2. The application form must be completed in full, without omitting any points. All participants submit an application personally, even if the vocalist and accompanist perform in pairs.
- 4.3. Applications shall be filled out in Russian or English.
- 4.4. The application must be accompanied by a link to view the video recording on a file-sharing (Google Drive, Dropbox, Yandex Disk, File Cloud, etc) or internet resources (YouTube, Rutube, Vimeo):
  - for vocalists: performance of two (2) arias of different characters;
  - for accompanists: a scene from an opera (without a collaborator, an accompanist is encouraged to hum the vocal part); accompaniment of an aria from an opera with a collaborative vocalist (free choice).
- 4.5. Video recording requirements:
  - video must be of high quality (in MP4 or AVI format);
  - only video recordings created in 2022 will be accepted;
  - no video editing is allowed, except for multi-camera filming of the performance;
  - any audio editing is forbidden;
  - **all works are to be performed by vocalists from memory, in their original language and key tonality.**
- 4.6. The participants who have qualified for the Main Round shall send the following to the Organiser:
  - copies of passports (first page) of vocalist and accompanist;
  - one photograph of the vocalist in an electronic file (minimum 1 Mb) to be used in the Competition advertising materials;
  - one photograph of a collaborative vocalist or an accompanist in an electronic file (minimum 1 Mb) to be used in the Competition advertising materials, disregarding whether or not they are taking part in the Accompanists Competition;
  - a short artistic biography (in the form of a Microsoft Word document of no more than 500 characters);
  - a short artistic biography of a collaborative vocalist or an accompanist who are not participating in the Competition (in the form of a Microsoft Word document of no more than 500 characters);
- vocalists shall submit the complete list of works to be performed in all 3 rounds of the Competition;
- the accompanists shall submit the list of works to be performed in two rounds of the Competition;
- the application is a confirmation that the prospective participant fully accepts the conditions and procedure for participation in the Competition.
- 4.7. Those applications that are received after the specified deadline or completed only in part or not in accordance with the form shall not be considered.
- 4.8. One participant of the Competition shall be entitled to submit only one application for participation in the Competition.
- 4.9. Applications containing obscene or abusive language, an incoherent set of symbols, calls for activities that violate laws shall not be registered.
- 4.10. Applications for the Qualifying Round are reviewed only by the Expert Council and are not shared with the public by the Organiser.

## 5. COMPETITION ROUNDS

- 5.1. Applications and videos for the Qualifying Round will be accepted **from June 1 to September 30, 2022.**
- 5.2. The remote and in-person auditions for the Qualifying Round will be held **from October 1 to October 15, 2022.**
- 5.3. The results of the Qualifying Round (16 vocalists and 16 accompanists) will be announced on **October 17, 2022.**
- 5.4. The First Main Round of the Competition for vocalists and accompanists will take place on January 13 and 14, 2023. The order of the performances is determined by drawing numbers. A drawn number will remain the same for the participant for the duration of all Main Rounds. The

Competition auditions will be held with piano accompaniment.

5.5. In the First Round of the vocalists Competition, three (3) arias must be performed:

- an aria from any Mozart opera;
- an aria from an opera by a composer of the 19th century – beginning of the 20th century (from the suggested list), for countertenors – an aria by a composer of the 18th century – beginning of the 19th century (from the suggested list);
- an aria from an opera by a composer of the 20th – 21st century (from the suggested list).

After the announcement of the results of the First Round, the participants shall be paired in duets by drawing options.

5.6. The Second Main Round of the Competition will take place on January 17, 2023. A maximum of 10 vocalists will be allowed to participate. The Competition auditions will be held with piano accompaniment, an accompanist for duet/duet scenes will be provided by the General Partner of the Competition.

The Second Round Programme:

- a folk song a cappella;
- an aria from a classical operetta (from the suggested list); for countertenors, instead of an aria from a classical operetta, an aria of the participant's choice (from the suggested list);
- a duet or a duet scene (from the suggested list);
- an aria of the performer's choice.

5.7. The Third Main Round of the Competition will take place January 20, 2023. A maximum of 6 vocalists will be selected for the Third Round. The Third Round auditions will be accompanied by the symphony orchestra of the theatre. Three pieces must be performed in the Third Round:

- two arias of the performer's choice;
- one aria from an opera by a Russian composer of the 19th – 21st century of the performer's choice.

Participants must perform different arias in

different rounds of the Competition; performing the same aria is not permitted.

5.8. The General Partner provides vocal classrooms and theatre stages for the vocalists' rehearsals before the First, Second and Third Rounds, in accordance with the pre-arranged schedule. Each participant is allocated 30 minutes of rehearsal time on the stages of the theatre before each round. Before the Second Round, 60 minutes of rehearsal time for duets will be available additionally. Before the Third Round, participants are allocated 30 minutes to rehearse with the orchestra in accordance with the pre-arranged schedule.

5.9. The Main Accompanists Competition is held in two in-person rounds:

5.9.1. At the First Round of the Competition an accompaniment to the vocalist participating in the Competition in the First Main Round or an accompaniment to a collaborative vocalist shall be performed. The following must be performed:

- an aria from any Mozart opera;
- an aria from an opera of the 19th century – beginning of the 20th century (free choice in case of a vocalist not participating in the Competition);
- an aria from an opera of the 20th-21st century (free choice in case of a vocalist not participating in the Competition);

Based on the results of the First Round, the participants of the Final Round of the Accompanists Competition shall be determined.

5.9.2. In the Final Round, the accompanists shall have the following separate competition test:

- reading from the sheet;
- performance of a scene from an opera from

the list suggested by the Organiser;

- working with a vocalist on an aria from the suggested list (the General Partner will provide the opportunity to work with one of the artists in the opera company).

The necessary sheet music to be used for work with a vocalist shall be provided by the Organiser after the First Round of the Accompanists Competition. The Organiser shall provide the accompanists with classes to rehearse in accordance with the pre-arranged schedule.

All auditions for the Main Round will take place on the Main Stage of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre. The Final Round of the Accompanists Competition will be held on the Small Stage of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre.

5.10. The final concert of the laureates will take place on **January 22, 2023**.

5.11. After each round the participants will meet with the Jury and the Expert Council members to discuss their performances.

## **6. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT**

1. An Organising Committee, an Expert Council and a Jury shall be set up to organise and hold the Competition.

### **2. The powers of the Organising Committee shall be as follows:**

- organisational and technical support of the activities in accordance with the Competition programme;
- organisational and technical support for the activities of the Jury and the Expert Council of the Competition.

### **3. The powers of the Expert Council shall be as follows:**

- accepting and registering applications for the Competition from applicants;
- analysis of received applications and

evaluation of their quality in accordance with the criteria and priorities of the Competition;

- selecting the applicants who meet the terms and conditions of the Competition;
- **the members of the Expert Council shall not be disclosed until the end of the Qualifying Round;**
- the Expert Council meets in person at the end of the Qualifying Round for an open discussion about the selected applications;
- an expert may not, when evaluating applications, contact participants of the Competition, including discussing with them the applications submitted, directly requesting documents, information and (or) explanations.

### **6.4. The Powers of the Jury of the Competition:**

- forming an oral expert opinion, recommendations for the participants' development;
- the Jury reserves the right not to award all prizes;
- no prize may be divided among the participants, only one performer will be awarded each prize;
- the decision of the Jury is final and is not subject to reconsideration.

## **7. EVALUATION CRITERIA. RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION**

7.1. The Jury shall be guided in its evaluation by the following criteria:

- professional level of performance skills;
- musical, artistic individuality, understanding of the style of the composition;
- level of stage culture;
- repertoire selection.

7.2. Each performance is rated by each member of the Jury based on a 10-point system.

7.3. The evaluation sheets of the Jury members are not disclosed in the public sources.

7.4. A protocol of the decision of the Jury shall be made based on the results of the summing up of the evaluation scores.

7.5. The President of the Jury is Hibla

Gerzmava.

## 8. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

### 8.1. Accommodation and travel:

- the Organiser provides visa support for foreign participants of the Competition in Russia;
- travel expenses of the participants admitted to the in-person rounds shall be paid by the Organiser;
- the accommodation costs of participants of the First, Second and Third Rounds of the vocalist Competition, and the First and Second Rounds of the accompanists Competition shall be paid by the Organiser;
- in the case of a collaborative vocalist performing with a participant of the accompanist competition not being a participant of the competition or a representative of the Organiser, their stay at the Competition is paid for by themselves. In the case of an accompanist of the vocalist participating in the Competition not being a participant of the accompanists Competition or a representative of the Organiser, their stay in the Competition is paid for by themselves.
- payment for accommodation for vocalists and accompanists that participate in the Competition shall end on the day following the announcement of the round results if a competitor is not admitted to the next round of the Competition. Participants shall pay for their further stay in Moscow at their own expense;
- the Organiser shall pay for the further accommodation of the Second Round vocalists participants who failed to qualify for the Third Round if they are selected to take part in the Competition Gala Concert.

8.2. All auditions for the Main Rounds will take place in public, in a concert format.

8.3. Laureates and diploma holders of the Competition are required to attend the final Gala Concert of the Competition on January 22, 2023, free of charge.

8.4. The Competition participants will be provided with the services of a phoniatician 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** – 2 500 000 rubles. Debut on the stage of the General Partner or another music/opera theatre. The choice of the performance and the timing of the winner's performance are determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or another theatre. The performance must take place no later than in the 2023/2024 season;
- **First prize** – 1,500,000 rubles. Debut on the stage of the General Partner or another music/opera theatre. The choice of the performance and the timing of the winner's performance is determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or another theatre. The performance must take place no later than in the 2023/2024 season;
- **Second prize** – 1,000,000 rubles;
- **Third prize** – 800,000 rubles.

### Accompanists:

- First prize – 400,000 rubles;
- Second prize – 300,000 rubles;
- Third prize – 200,000 rubles.
- **Special prizes;**

- **Special prize from Hibla Gerzmava;**
- **Special prize** for the accompanist who is not a participant of the Competition (prize from the sponsor of the Competition).

9.2. All payments shall be made in Russian rubles from the Organiser's special account.

9.3. All prizes and special prizes to the participants of the Competition and the winners specified in these Regulations shall be subject to personal income tax in accordance with the tax legislation of the Russian Federation. All prizes and special prizes in cash shall be transferred to the Competition participants by the Organiser or sponsors, with the deduction of the relevant taxes.

## **10. PARTICIPANTS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

10.1. The participant of the Competition shall have the right to:

- familiarise themselves with these Regulations of the Competition;
- take part in the Competition in accordance with the conditions and procedure for participation in the Competition;
- have the opportunity to present their work in the Competition.

10.2. The Participant of the Competition shall:

- provide accurate information within the framework of the Competition application;
- comply with the procedure of the Competition rounds;
- comply with the requirements aimed at preventing the spread of a new coronavirus infection (2019-nCoV) established by the authorised executive authorities of Moscow city and the Federal Service for

Supervision of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare in Moscow.

## **11. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL DATA**

11.1. By submitting an application form and video material for the Competition and participating in the Competition, the participants of the Competition guarantee that they are the authors of the vocal pieces submitted as Competition applications and that the pieces they submitted to the Competition do not infringe the rights and interests of third parties. The Organiser is responsible for the payment of royalties for the use of intellectual property.

11.2. By submitting an application and video material for participation in the Competition, the participants of the Competition provide the Organiser, free of charge, with the right to use the intellectual property under a simple (non-exclusive) license for the purposes of the Competition. The Organiser undertakes not to use the materials provided for participation in the remote Qualifying Round in the public domain. The Organiser may broadcast the performances of the participants of in-person rounds on television, radio, and the Internet, both live and recorded.

11.3. By submitting an application and a video material for participation in the Competition and participating in the Competition, the participants of the Competition thereby provide the Organiser and third parties engaged by the Organiser in the organisation of the Competition with specific, informed and conscious permission to process their personal data within the scope of the personal data actually transferred to the Organiser. The purpose of personal data processing by the Organiser and the third parties engaged by the Organiser (if necessary) in the organisation of the Competition is to organise and hold the Competition.



**12.** By submitting an application and a video for the Competition and participating in the Competition, the participants grant the Organiser permission to publish information about their participation in the Competition.

**13. LEGAL INFORMATION**

13.1. These Regulations and other information about the Competition, as posted by and with the consent of the Organiser, do not constitute an invitation to make an offer.

13.2. The regulation stipulated by Articles 447-449 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation does not apply to the Competition and the provision of remuneration.

13.3. The Organiser shall not reimburse the costs incurred by the participants in connection with participation in the Qualifying Round of the Competition.

13.4. The Organiser shall not be obliged to notify the participants of the results of the consideration of the applications submitted by them and to give explanations on the negative results of their consideration, including information on the evaluations and conclusions of the experts.

13.5. A participant shall bear the risk of the consequences of non-receipt of legally significant messages sent by the Organiser to the email address specified by such Participant in their application for the Competition.