

Approved by sole trader H.L. Gerzmava
dated February 1, 2024.

**HIBLA GERZMAVA OPERA SINGERS AND ACCOMPANISTS COMPETITION
TERMS & CONDITIONS**

HIBLA GERZMAVA OPERA SINGERS AND ACCOMPANISTS COMPETITION

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. GENERAL TERMS

- 1.1. These Terms & Conditions (hereinafter referred to as the Terms) regulate the procedure for organizing, conducting competition auditions and the following cooperation with laureates and finalists of the **International Hibla Gerzmava opera singers and accompanists competition** (hereinafter referred to as the Competition). The first stage of the project (announcement of the Qualifying Round) is held from February 1 to March 1, 2024, the Qualifying Round is held from March 1 to October 15, 2025, announcement of the results of the Qualifying Round will be on October 15, 2025, **the main Competition auditions will be held from January 12* to 25, 2025 in Moscow**, organization of follow-up events (performances of laureates) will be held from January 26, 2025 to June 30, 2025. These Terms define the place and terms of the Competition, requirements for participants, application procedure, stages of the Competition, Competition management, financial conditions, awards and prizes, as well as the rights and obligations of the Competition participants. (*dates of the Competition auditions are counted from the days of arrival for nonresident participants).
- 1.2. The Competition is held to support young talented performers, strengthen international cultural relations, protect and develop the best traditions of domestic and foreign music schools, and attract general public attention to academic music art.
- 1.3. The Competition is initiated by Hibla Gerzmava, People's Artist of Russia, laureate of the State Prize of Russia, and is organized by the sole trader H.L. Gerzmava and the Hibla Gerzmava Charitable Foundation (hereinafter referred to as the Organizer).
- 1.4. The Competition is supported and funded by a grant from the Presidential Foundation for Cultural Initiatives, as well as other partners and sponsors.
- 1.5. The Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre is the General Partner of the Competition

(hereinafter referred to as the General Partner).

- 1.6. The Competition Terms & Conditions can be found on the Competition official website at www.competitionhibla.ru.
- 1.7. The Competition is held among singers and accompanists and is based on the principle of openness and equal opportunities for all participants, which is ensured by the qualifying procedure and the expertise of the International Jury of the Competition, which will include directors, conductors, opera agents and vocal instructors.
- 1.8. The Organizer guarantees compliance with the federal legislation on personal data within the legal relations arising from these Terms.
- 1.9. The Organizer has the right to amend these Terms and shall publish an updated version of the Terms on the Competition official website at www.competitionhibla.ru.
- 1.10. The Organizer intends to join the Pushkin Card programme if it meets the conditions of the programme set out in Resolution No. 1521 of the Government of the Russian Federation dated September 8, 2021 "On social support for young people aged 14 to 22 to increase the accessibility of cultural organizations", and if it sells tickets to the Competition events held using the grant funds.

2. ARRANGEMENTS & TERM

- 2.1. The Competition events are held in a mixed format.
- 2.2. The Qualifying Round consists of participants' video recordings review in an absentee audition format, as well as in-person recommendations for participation in the absentee Qualifying Round. The procedure for the Qualifying Round of the Competition is specified in Section 5 of these Terms.
- 2.3. The Competition auditions of the Main Round will take place on the stages of the General Partner.
- 2.4. The Main Round of the Competition will take place from January 12 to 25, 2025.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- 3.1. The Competition is open to singers and accompanists from any country in the world.
- 3.2. Participants with the highest score in the Qualifying Round (at least 40 singers and at least 20 accompanists) will be admitted to the First Main Round.
- 3.3. Singers with specialized education, as well as students of music schools are allowed to participate in the Singers Competition. Participants must be between 21 and 36 years of age at the start of the Competition (January 12, 2025).
- 3.4. The Singers Competition is open to all voice types: soprano, mezzo-soprano, countertenor, tenor, baritone, bass.
- 3.5. The Second Main Round of the Singers Competition will include performances of duets or duet scenes. To prepare a duet or a duet scene, participants and their partners will have access to vocal classrooms of the theatre for rehearsals.
- 3.6. Pianists with specialized education, as well as students of music schools are allowed to participate in the Accompanists Competition. Participants must be between 20 and 35 years of age at the start of the Competition (January 12, 2025).
- 3.7. If a participant of the Singers Competition is unable to perform with his/her accompanist, the Organizer may provide a participant with its own accompanist.
- 3.8. If a singer performs with an Organizer's accompanist, he/she shall provide the Organizer with musical notation no later than **December 1, 2024** (scans of musical notation shall be sent to info@competitionhibla.ru).
- 3.9. Participants of the Accompanists Competition may perform with their own collaborative singers. In this case, an accompanist shall bear all costs of a collaborative singer's fees.
- 3.10. If a participant of the Accompanists Competition is unable to perform with his/her collaborative singer, the Organizer may provide a participant with its own singer.
- 3.11. If an accompanist performs with an Organizer's singer, he/she shall provide the Organizer with musical notation no later than **December 1, 2024** (scans of musical notation shall be sent to info@competitionhibla.ru).
- 3.12. A singer and an accompanist performing in pairs may both be participants. Each performance will be rated separately.
- 3.13. Winners of the Singers Competition will have an opportunity to perform on the stage of the General Partner (the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre), the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, the Moscow Helikon Opera or another musical/opera theatre, in repertory opera performances with the entire rehearsal and preparatory cycle (the choice of performance and the timing of the winners' performance are determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or another theatre). The performance shall take place no later than the 2025-2026 season.

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

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 4.1. Application for participation in the Competition shall be submitted from **March 1, 2024 to August 1, 2024** on the Competition official website www.competitionhibla.ru by clicking the "Apply now" button. The Organizer will confirm application receiving within 5 days. If you did not receive the confirmation within the specified period, contact the Organizer using contact information indicated on the Competition website.
- 4.2. The application form shall be filled out completely, all fields are required.
- 4.3. Applications shall be filled out in Russian or in English.
- 4.4. The application form shall include a video recording of the singer performing 2 (two) arias of different characters or one aria, if the applicant was approved at a regional audition or master class with the participation of a member of the Expert Board or a member of the Competition Jury. Video recordings shall be provided as a link for watching from a file hosting service/Internet resource.
- 4.5. Accompanists shall send a video recording of a scene from the opera (with singing, without a collaborative singer), and an aria performed with a collaborative singer. Video recordings shall be provided as a link for watching from a file hosting service/Internet resource.
- 4.6. Requirements for video recordings:

- A video recording shall be of high quality (MP4 or AVI);
 - Only video recordings made during 2024 are accepted;
 - Video editing is not allowed, except for multi-camera filming of a performance;
 - Sound editing is prohibited;
 - Only live piano or orchestral accompaniment is allowed;
 - All pieces shall be performed by heart, in the original language and in the original key;
 - If applicants are both a singer and an accompanist performing together, they can send one video recording in which both a singer and an accompanist will be rated by the Expert Board.
- 4.7. Participants (singers and accompanists) qualified for the Main Round shall send to the Organizer:
- Copies of passports of the singer and accompanist (1st page);
 - One photo of the singer in digital form (at least 1 Mb) for use in the Competition promotional materials;
 - One photo of the accompanist in digital form (at least 1 Mb) for use in the Competition promotional materials, regardless of whether he/she takes part in the Accompanists Competition;
 - A short singer's career history (a Microsoft Word document of no more than 500 characters);
 - A short accompanist's career history (a Microsoft Word document of no more than 500 characters) regardless of whether he/she takes part in the Accompanists Competition;
 - A complete list of pieces performed in all 3 rounds of the Competition;
 - Musical notation in PDF format to the Competition email.
- 4.8. By sending an application form, a participant agrees to the Terms & Conditions of the Competition.
- 4.9. Applications received after the specified deadline, or with missing fields or not in accordance with the form, will not be considered.
- 4.10. One participant of the Competition can send no more than one application for participation in the Competition.
- 4.11. Applications containing obscene or offensive language, an incoherent set of characters, or

calls for activities that violate legal requirements will not be registered.

- 4.12. Applications for participation in the Qualifying Round will only be considered by the Expert Board and will not be used by the Organizer in public space.

5. COMPETITION ROUNDS

QUALIFYING ROUND

- 5.1. Applications and video recordings for participation in the Qualifying Round shall be sent from **March 1, 2024 to August 1, 2024**.
- 5.2. The video recording Qualifying Round absentee auditions will take place from **March 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024 inclusive**.
- 5.3. Experts or specialists approved by the Competition Director have the right to recommend singers and accompanists to take part in the Competition Qualifying Round during regional in-person auditions, master classes, etc. If recommended by an expert or a specialist, the candidate can send a video recording of one piece to the absentee Qualifying Round.
- 5.4. Results of the Qualifying Round (at least 40 singers and at least 20 accompanists) will be announced no later than **October 15, 2024**.

COMPETITION

- 5.5. The First Round of the **Singers** Competition will take place from January 15 to 16, 2025. The order of performances will be determined by a draw. Participants' numbers will remain the same throughout all three main rounds. Competition auditions will be held with piano accompaniment. For the First Round, a participant shall perform three (3) arias:
- An aria from any Mozart opera;
 - An aria from an opera composed in the 19th – early 20th century (from the suggested list);
 - An aria from an opera composed in the 20th – 21st century (from the suggested list);
 - For countertenors: arias composed in the 18th – early 19th centuries (from the suggested list).
- 5.6. The Second Round of the Competition will take place from January 18 to 19, 2025. At least 20 singers will be admitted to participate.

- Competition auditions will be held with piano accompaniment.
- Second Round programme:
- A folk song a cappella;
 - Aria from a classical operetta, for basses - aria from a classical operetta or comic opera (from the suggested list); for countertenors - an aria of the participant's choice (from the suggested list);
 - An aria of the performer's choice;
 - Duet or a duet scene (from the suggested list);
 - Performances in the Second Round are as follows: one day is for the solo programme, one day is for duet performances.
- 5.7. The Third Round of the Competition will take place on January 21, 2025. At least 12 singers will be admitted to the Third Round. The Third Round auditions will be accompanied by the theatre symphony orchestra. In the Third Round, two pieces shall be performed:
- An aria of the performer's choice;
 - An aria from an opera by a 19th–21st-century Russian composer.
- A participant is required to perform different arias in different rounds of the Competition; repeating the same aria is not permitted.
- 5.8. For rehearsals of singers before the First, Second and Third Rounds, the General Partner will provide vocal classrooms and stages of the theatre on a schedule drawn up in advance. Before the Third Round, the Competition participants will be able to rehearse with the orchestra on a schedule drawn up in advance.
- 5.9. The Accompanist competition is arranged in three rounds. The order of performances will be determined by a draw. Participants' numbers will remain the same throughout all three main rounds.
- 5.10. The First Round of the **Accompanists** Competition will take place on January 17, 2025.
- 5.10.1. First Round programme:
- Accompaniment to a singer with a pre-arranged programme of three pieces:
- An aria by Mozart (opera or a concert aria) or an aria by Bach;
 - An art song or a lied by 19th-century composers (from the suggested list);
 - An aria from an opera by a 20th- and 21st-century composer.
- 5.10.2. The Second Round of the Accompanist competition will be held on **January 19**. At

least 12 accompanists will be admitted to the Second Round. In the Second Round, accompanists will take the following competition test:

- Read from the sheet with a singer (arias or lieder);
- Perform a scene from an opera (with singing) from the Organizer's suggested list;
- Work with a singer on an aria according to the suggested list (the General Partner will provide an opportunity to perform with one of the singers of the opera company). Timing for performance with a singer is 15 minutes.

Required musical notation for performing with the singer will be provided by the Organizer after the First Round of the Accompanist competition. The Organizer will provide accompanists with classrooms for rehearsals on a schedule drawn up in advance.

- 5.9.3. The Third Round of the **Accompanists** Competition will take place on January 21, 2025. At least 8 accompanists will be admitted to the Third Round. In the Third Round of the Competition, accompanists will perform two pieces:

- An aria from an opera (of the participant's choice);
- A lied or an art song (of the participant's choice).

One of the pieces performed in the Second Round must be composed by a Russian composer of the 19th - 21st century.

Competition auditions will take place on the Main and Small Stages of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre. The final concert of the laureates will take place on **January 24, 2025**.

- 5.11. After each round, members of the Jury and members of the Expert Board have the right to meet participants to review their performances.

6. COMPETITION MANAGEMENT

- 6.1. The Organizing Committee, the Expert Board and the International Jury are established to organize and hold the Competition.

6.2. Terms of Reference of the Organizing Committee:

- Organizational and technical support of the events according to the Competition programme;

- Organizational and technical support of the International Jury and the Expert Board of the Competition.
- 6.3. **Terms of Reference of the Expert Board:**
- Receive and register applications from applicants for participation in the Competition;
 - Analyze applications and rate their quality in accordance with the criteria and priorities of the Competition;
 - Select participants who meet the Terms & Conditions of the Competition;
 - A member of the Expert Board may participate in the regional in-person qualification and recommend a candidate to take part in the absentee round of the Competition by providing the experts with a recording of one aria.
 - **The list of the Expert Board members will not be disclosed until the end of the Qualifying Round;**
 - The Expert Board will meet in-person in the Qualifying Round final to openly discuss selected applications;
 - While rating applications, experts shall not contact participants of the Competition, discuss applications with them or directly request documents, information and (or) explanations.
 - **Terms of Reference of the Competition Jury:**
 - Make a verbal expert judgment, provide recommendations for participants' progress;
 - The Jury has the right to award not all prizes;
 - The Jury's decision is final and cannot be revised.

7. RATING CRITERIA. RESULTS

- 7.1. The Jury shall use the following criteria for scoring:
- Professional level of mastery;
 - Musical and artistic individuality, understanding of the style of the piece;
 - Level of stage culture;
 - Choice of repertoire.
- 7.2. Each performance is rated by each of the Jury members on a 5-point scale. After the Third Round, laureates of the Competition will be selected by Jury vote.

- 7.3. Jury members' score sheets will not be published in open sources.
- 7.4. After summing up the scores, a protocol of the Jury's decision will be made. After performances of the Third Round, the final protocol shall be made according to the results of the jury's vote.
- 7.5. The Jury will be chaired by Hibla Gerzmava.

8. FINANCIAL TERMS

8.1. Accommodation and travel:

- The Organizer provides visa support for foreign participants of the Competition in Russia;
- The Organizer shall only pay transport costs of the participants admitted to the in-person rounds;
- Accommodation for the First, Second and Third Rounds participants will be paid by the Organizer;
- If a participant performs with his/her own accompanist or collaborative singer, a participant shall bear all expenses for his/her invitation and accommodation, except for the cases when an accompanist or collaborative singer is a participant of the Competition;
- Payment for accommodation of singers and accompanists shall be terminated on the day following the announcement of the round results, if the participant is not admitted to the next round of the Competition. Further stay in Moscow is at the participants' own expense;
- The Organizer shall pay for the further accommodation of the Second Round participants, who did not qualify for the Third Round, if they are selected to take part in the Gala Concert of the Competition.

- 8.2. All Competition auditions of the Main Round will be held openly, in a concert format. The Organizer has the right to sell tickets for the Competition auditions of all three Main Rounds.

** Funds raised from ticket sales (if applicable) will be used for the Organizer's statutory purposes.*

- 8.3. Laureates and award winners of the Competition shall take part in the final Gala Concert of the Competition on January 24, 2025 and in two more Gala Concerts of the Competition laureates free of charge.

- 8.4. A phoniast will be available for the Competition participants at the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre. Other medical services and medical insurance will be not provided during the Competition events.

9. AWARDS AND PRIZES

9.1. Singers:

- **Grand Prix** – 2,500,000 rubles. Debut on the stage of the General Partner (the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre), the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, the Moscow Helikon Opera or another musical/opera theatre. Winner's performance and dates of the performance will be determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or another theater. The performance shall take place no later than the 2025-2026 season;
- **Two First prizes** – 1,500,000 rubles each. Debut on the stage of the General Partner (the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre), the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, the Moscow Helikon Opera or another musical/opera theatre. Winner's performance and dates of the performance will be determined by the artistic management of the General Partner or another theater. The performance shall take place no later than the 2025-2026 season;
- **Two Second prizes** – 1,200,000 rubles each;
- **Two Third prizes** – 1,000,000 rubles each.

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

Accompanists:

- First prize – 1,500,000 rubles;
- Second prize – 1,000,000 rubles;
- Third prizes – 800,000 rubles.

The jury has the right to award special prizes to Competition participants (singers and accompanists) for the performance of Competition pieces.

- 9.2. All payments are made in Russian rubles from a special account of the Organizer.
- 9.3. All awards and special prizes to the Competition participants and winners stipulated by these Terms are subject to personal income tax in accordance with the tax legislation of the Russian Federation. All awards and special prizes expressed in monetary form are transferred by the Organizer or sponsors to the participants of the Competition, net of appropriate taxes.

10. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

- 10.1. A participant in the Competition has the right to:
- Read the Terms & Conditions of the Competition;
 - Take part in the Competition in accordance with the Terms & Conditions and procedure for participation in the Competition;
 - Get an opportunity to demonstrate their mastery at the Competition.
- 10.2. A participant in the Competition shall:
- Provide accurate information while submitting the application for the Competition;
 - Comply with the order of the Competition rounds;
 - Comply with the requirements aimed at preventing the spread of the new coronavirus infection (2019-nCoV) established by the authorized executive authorities of the city of Moscow and the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing in the city of Moscow.

11. COPYRIGHT & PERSONAL DATA

- 11.1. By submitting an application and video recordings for participation in the Competition and by participating in the Competition, participants of the Competition guarantee that their submitted recordings do not violate rights and interests of third parties. The Organizer is responsible for the payment of royalties for the use of copyrights.
- 11.1.1. Participants of the Competition, by sending an application and video recordings to participate in the Competition, gratuitously provide the Organizer with the right to use the result of

application for participation in the Competition.

intellectual activity under the terms of a simple (non-exclusive) license for the purpose of conducting the Competition. The Organizer undertakes not to use the recordings provided for participation in the Qualifying Round in public space. The Organizer can broadcast performances of the Main Round on television, radio and the Internet, both live and recorded.

- 11.2. By sending an application and video recordings to participate in the Competition and by participating in the Competition, participants thereby provide the Organizer and the persons involved in organizing the Competition with specific, informed and conscious consent to process their personal data to the extent of the personal data actually transferred to the Organizer. The purpose of personal data processing by the Organizer and persons engaged by it (if necessary) to organize the Competition is to organize and hold the Competition.
- 11.3. By sending an application and video recordings for participation in the Competition and by participating in the Competition, participants thereby give the Organizer consent to publish information about their participation in the Competition.

12. LEGAL INFORMATION

- 12.1. These Terms & Conditions and other information about the Competition published by the Organizer and with the Organizer's consent do not constitute an offer.
- 12.2. Regulations stipulated in Articles 447-449 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation shall not apply to the Competition and the provision of awards.
- 12.3. The Organizer will not reimburse expenses incurred by participants during the Competition Qualifying Round.
- 12.4. The Organizer is not obliged to notify participants about the results of their applications consideration and to give explanations about negative results of consideration, including information about ratings and conclusions of experts.
- 12.5. The Participant bears the risk of consequences of non-receipt of legally significant messages sent by the Organizer to the email address specified by such Participant in his/her