



1st INTERNATIONAL BOGDAN PAPROCKI OPERA SINGERS' COMPETITION

16th to 23rd November 2025, Opera Nova Bydgoszcz, Poland

Rules and Regulations

§ 1 General provisions

1. The 1st International Bogdan Paprocki Opera Singers' Competition (hereinafter referred to as the Competition) shall be held in Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz from **16th to 23rd November 2025**.
2. The organisers of the Competition are: The Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz, Poland, Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz, Poland, the Bogdan Paprocki Association, hereinafter referred to as the Organiser.
3. The Director of the Competition is **Professor Adam Zdunikowski, PhD**, the Director of the Competition Office is **Iwona Hossa, PhD**, the Coordinator is **Marek Czekala**.
4. All decisions on substantive matters concerning the Competition are made by the Competition Director.
5. The aim of the Competition is to promote talented, graduates and students of academies, universities and conservatories of music, soloists of operas and musical theatres, born not earlier than **16th of November 1991**, and to promote vocal literature of various styles and periods, with particular emphasis on Polish music, to help young singers develop their skills on Polish music stages, to cultivate the memory of one of the most acclaimed Polish tenors of the post-war period - Bogdan Paprocki, and to preserve the achievements of Polish vocal art.
6. The pianists accompanying the Competition Participants are: **Alicja Tarczykowska, PhD**, **Professor Robert Marat, PhD**, **Aleksander Teliga** and **Radosław Zaworski**.

§ 2 Conditions and rules of participation in the competition

1. The competition is open to adult singers of all nationalities (except citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with the recommendations issued by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this also applies to Russian citizens living outside the borders of the Russian state), graduates and students of music academies, universities and conservatories, soloists of operas and musical theatres born no earlier than **16th November 1991**.

In order to enter the competition, the following documents must be sent by **17th October 2025**, inclusive, electronically to the e-mail address: stowarzyszenie@paprocki.org:

- a) Correctly filled in with a handwritten signature of the application form available at <https://www.paprocki.org/application-form-2025> together with the consent for the transfer of copyrights and permission to manage personal data RODO;
- b) Correctly filled of Attachment form no. 1 **in an editable WORD version** available at <https://www.paprocki.org/attachment-no.-1-2025>
- c) A short biography;
- d) A colour portrait photograph in JPG format;
- e) A document confirming continued education or educational attainment;
- f) Sheet music performed in stages I, II and III (piano extract);
- g) A video recording of any piece(s) of a total length of 5-10 minutes, without cuts within one piece should be made after **01.05.2024** and sent in the form of a link to the recording posted on a platform generally available in Poland (e.g. youtube.com) - the recording should be made with piano accompaniment and a visible pianist, in a room with not too much reverberation, the sound and pronunciation on the recording should be clear, without ambient sounds;

The Pre-selection Jury will decide whether a candidate qualifies to participate in the competition based on its analysis of the materials submitted.

2. **Only complete applications** in accordance with paragraph 1 which are received by the Organiser by 17th October 2025 at 23:59 CET (UTC+1:00) **will be considered**. After this date, applications will no longer be possible.
3. Persons whose names appear on the list of persons qualified to participate in the Competition, published on **20th October 2025** on the Competition website www.paprocki.org, are obliged to send to the e-mail address: stowarzyszenie@paprocki.org confirmation of the entry fee in the amount of **PLN 600 or EUR 150** (entry with own pianist-accompanist) or **PLN 750 or EUR 190** (entry with competition pianist-accompanist) to the bank account: Bogdan Paprocki Society **mBank 98 1140 2004 0000 3702 7960 3569**, BIC/SWIFT: **BREXPLPWMBK**, IBAN: **PL 98 1140 2004 0000 3702 7960 3569** in the title writing: **‘entry fee, name of Participant, vocal competition’**. The list of Participants qualified to take part in the Competition will be published on the contest website www.paprocki.org no later than 20th of October 2025.

If the payment confirmation is not received by the specified deadline, a person from the Reserve List will take the place of the qualified Participant;

4. The order of complete applications will determine eligibility for the competition. A maximum of **max. 70 persons**. In the event that the number of applications is greater, the Competition Director will decide on the admission of those applications.
5. In the event that a Participant withdraws from the Competition himself/herself, the entry fee will not be refunded;
6. Travel and accommodation costs for the Competition are the responsibility of the Contestant. Accommodation costs will be covered by the Organiser from Stage 3rd (The Final) onwards, with check-out on 24th of November 2025, the day after the Winners' Concert.
7. If a Participant comes to the Competition with his or her own pianist-accompanist, the Organiser will not cover the pianist's travel and accommodation expenses.
8. The order of auditions will be determined by a draw, which will take place at the Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz, Poland during the press conference announcing the competition.
9. No later than **14th of November 2025**, the Organiser will provide **practice rooms** according to a schedule provided by e-mail.

§ 3 Schedule and venue of the competition

1. The competition will take place at the Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz, Poland, Marszałka Focha street No 5, in three stages according to the following schedule
 - a) Inauguration of the Competition will take place on **16th of November 2025**
 - b) Stage 1st of auditions – **17th to 19th of November 2025**, in the **Chamber Hall** named after Professor F. Krysiwiczowa;
 - c) Stage 2nd of the auditions – **20th of November 2025**, in the **Chamber Hall** named after Prof. F. Krysiwiczowa;
 - d) Stage 3rd of the auditions (The Final) – **22nd of November 2025** at the **Main Stage** of Opera Nova;

- e) Prize-giving and Laureates' Concert – **23rd of November 2025, 18:00 Main Stage** of Opera Nova.
- 2. Auditions for Stages 1st and 2nd are free to the public, while Stage 2nd – The Final is available at the Opera Nova box office after purchasing tickets in advance. Admission for Participants and pianist-accompanists on presentation of an identity card, which will be given at the registration desk.

§ 4 Programme of the Competition:

- Programme presentation:

a) **Stages 1st and 2nd** are held **with piano accompaniment**. Candidates must perform the programme submitted from memory in the original language and key. Transpositions are permitted only in the case of songs. In the case of pieces originally composed in the old key, it is permitted to perform them in this version (half a tone lower). Pieces are performed in any order.

b) **The 3rd Stage (The Final)** shall be **accompanied by the Opera Nova Orchestra**. Rehearsals with the Orchestra of the Participants qualified for the 3rd Stage – The Final - will take place on **21st of November 2025** from 10:00-14:00 and 18:00-22:00.

- The competition programme is as follows:

a) Stage 1st - presentation time up to 12 min.

- one opera aria chosen by the Participant;
- one aria from an oratorio, mass, cantata or motet chosen by the Participant;
- one piece by a Polish composer chosen by the Participant;

b) Stage 2nd - time of presentation up to 14 min.

- one Lied chosen by the Participant;
- one aria from an oratorio, mass, cantata or motet other than the 1st Stage chosen by the Participant;
- one opera aria other than at Stage 1st chosen by the Participant;

c) Stage 3rd The Final - presentation time up to 10 min. *

- Two opera arias selected from the repertoire list, performed with orchestral accompaniment;

* if the time limit is significantly exceeded, the arias presented may be shortened in accordance with the general rules. Detailed information will be provided to the contestant after consultation with the conductor.

- In order to win the prize for the best performance of an aria by a Polish composer, the aria must be chosen from the list of works of the 3rd Stage of the Competition.
- One of the pieces presented at Stage 1st or Stage 2nd of the Competition may be repeated in Stage 3rd.
- **Changes to the submitted repertoire can be made up to and including 26th of October 2025, with changes to a maximum of two pieces. After this date it will not be possible to change the selected pieces.**

§ 5 Jury and Awards of the Competition

1. Prominent Polish opera singers have been invited to join the Jury of the Competition: **Ewa Vesin** - soprano, **Agnieszka Rehlis** - mezzosoprano, **Tadeusz Szlenkier** - tenor, **Artur Ruciński** - bariton, **Rafał Siwek** - bass and **Magdalena Idzik** - Secretary of the Jury on behalf of the Bogdan Paprocki Association. The Rules of Procedure of the Jury will be established at its first meeting, before the 1st Competition auditions. **Stage 3rd of the Competition – Finale - will also be judged by the Artistic Directors of all Polish opera houses invited by the Organiser.**
2. Students and former students of Jury members **are not eligible** to enter the Competition.
3. The number of Participants qualified for Stage 2nd (not more than 30 Participants) and Stage 3rd (not more than 16 Participants) of the Competition is determined by the Jury, and its decisions are final and indisputable. The deliberations of the Jury are secret. Scores may be made available to Participants who are no longer participating in the Competition. The Organiser shall not provide information on the number of points obtained by other participants in the Competition.
4. The list of Participants qualified for subsequent stages of the Competition will be announced after all participants have been auditioned.
5. Prizes will be awarded in two categories - **female and male.**

The anticipated total awards is PLN 143.000 and the distribution of prizes in each category is as follows:

I Prize PLN 24 000

II Prize PLN 20 000

III Prize PLN 16 000

and distinctions in the total amount of PLN 10 000.

In addition, the following additional prizes are envisaged:

- a) Bogdan Paprocki Award for the best tenor of the Competition in the amount of **PLN 4 000**
- b) Prize for the best performance of an aria by a Polish composer of **PLN 3 000**
- c) Prize for the best performance of an oratorio-cantata aria of **PLN 1 500**
- d) Prize for the best performance of a song amounting to **PLN 1 500**
- e) Prize for the youngest finalist of the Competition in the amount of **PLN 1 000**

And special prizes:

- a) Two prizes of the ZASP Musical Theatre Section for the greatest artistic personalities of the Competition (amount of the award to be established)
- b) Antonina Kowtunow Award for the best coloratura soprano
- c) Prizes in kind

- 6. The Jury has the right to distribute the places and the amount of the prizes differently, provided that the total amount does not exceed the total pool.
- 7. The presentation of prizes and distinctions will take place during the Laureate Concert on **23rd of November 2025** at 6 p.m. in Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz. All laureates are obliged to attend the concert free of charge. Failure to attend the concert will result in forfeiture of the prize money. The prizewinners are also obliged to take part in concerts organised by the Organiser to promote the prizewinners. The Organiser reserves the right to agree with each prizewinner the date and repertoire of the concert.

§ 6 Final provisions

- 1. Participants in the Competition shall transfer to the Organiser, free of charge, the copyright and ownership rights to the artistic performances presented at all stages of the Competition and to the winner's concerts, for the purpose of using them in the following ways, without limitation as to place or time: fixation (recording) in all possible formats (photography, audio, video), reproduction on all sound and image carriers, marketing, introduction into computer memory and the Internet and public

performance, exhibition, rental and leasing, wireless, wire and satellite broadcasting, rebroadcasting and retransmission.

2. Participants in the Competition grant permission to disseminate their image, recorded using any photographic and recording techniques in connection with in connection with participation in the various stages of the Competition and the concerts of the winners.
3. The collection of personal data is voluntary, but necessary to fulfil the indicated purposes of data collection and admission to the competition.
4. In matters not covered by these Regulations the relevant provisions of Polish law shall apply.
5. The appendices to these Rules and Regulations form an integral part thereof:
 - a) **Application form with Attachment No. 1**
 - b) **Repertoire list.**