

RULES

of the 26th Great Tenors Tournament in Szczecin

§ 1

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The 26th Great Tenors Tournament, hereinafter referred to as the Tournament, is organized by The Castle Opera in Szczecin on 11th of September 2026 in Szczecin.
2. In the Tournament may participate singers – tenors from all over the world, born after 1st of September 1986.
3. The Director of the Tournament is the Director of The Castle Opera in Szczecin, Jacek Jekiel. The Director of the Tournament will decide about any and all organizational matters related to the execution of the Tournament. Decisions of the Director of the Tournament are final and indisputable.

§ 2

APPLICATION AND QUALIFICATION FOR THE TOURNAMENT

1. Application for the Tournament shall be submitted on the application form by **29th of June 2026** and sent by e-mail to: kladczuk@opera.szczecin.pl. The date of application receipt by The Castle Opera in Szczecin is decisive for the admission of the application. The application form is enclosed below as Annex no 1 to the Rules of the Tournament.
2. The application must include the proposed repertoire, i.e. one opera aria and one Italian or Neapolitan song (or an operetta aria), indicating the keys of the performed works, as well as selecting from the list (Appendix No. 2) one opera aria and one Italian or Neapolitan song. During the Tournament, the participant will perform one piece from each category. The final selection from the submitted repertoire will be made by the Tournament Director. Additionally, after the competition performances, all participants will jointly perform the Neapolitan song *O sole mio* and the piece *Wielka sława to żart* by Johann Strauss II from the operetta *Der Zigeunerbaron*.
3. The following elements should be submitted with the application form:
 - a) A biography note (the course of the musical education, artistic achievements, the repertoire) – in Polish or English;
 - b) 2 current photographs (one portrait and one from the spectacle or concert) in an electronic version (a photograph of high resolution appropriate for printing – min. 300 dpi) to be used in press publications, in the Tournament program and on the website of The Castle Opera;

- c) Video recordings (links to the Internet sites) presenting own performances given not earlier than within the last 3 years.
4. The Director of the Tournament will choose 8 participants out of all people applying for the Tournament on the basis of received recordings of applicants' artistic achievements. The participants will be informed about the qualification outcome by e-mail until **3th of July 2026**. The list of participants will be presented on www.opera.szczecin.pl.
5. The Organizer will conclude contracts for specific tasks with eight qualified candidates for the Tournament. The contracts will concern the applicants' preparation and artistic performance of works selected by the Director of the Tournament in compliance with the provisions of item 2 of the present paragraph, as well as the transfer of rights to the Organizer with regard to artistic performance within the exploitation fields specified in these contracts, and approval to use participants' image by the Organizer for the needs of organization and execution of the Tournament. The remuneration for performance, transfer of performance-related rights and approval to use the image shall amount to PLN 4.000,00 (in words: four thousand PLN) gross or equivalent in EUR according to the average exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland of 1st of September 2026.
6. The participants declare that they will be available in the period from 08th of September to 11th of September 2026. The Opera will provide accommodation during the entire period of preparations and event.

§ 3

COURSE OF THE TOURNAMENT

1. Participants of the Tournament shall be obliged to appear in Szczecin on 08th of September at 12 pm (Opera na Zamku, ul. Korsarzy 34, Szczecin) and they shall be obliged to take part in promotional events, rehearsals as well as the concert according to the schedule provided below.
2. The schedule:
 - a) September 08th, 1 pm – press conference and a photo shoot for the Tournament (the venue will be indicated in the notice of qualification to the Tournament);
 - b) September 08th, 6-10 pm – musical rehearsal with orchestra (Opera na Zamku);
 - c) September 09th, 6-10 pm – full rehearsal with the orchestra on stage (venue: Teatr Letni, Szczecin);
 - d) September 10th, 7 pm – dress rehearsal with the orchestra (venue: Teatr Letni, Szczecin);
 - e) September 11th, 8 pm – 26nd Great Tenors Tournament (venue: Teatr Letni, Szczecin);

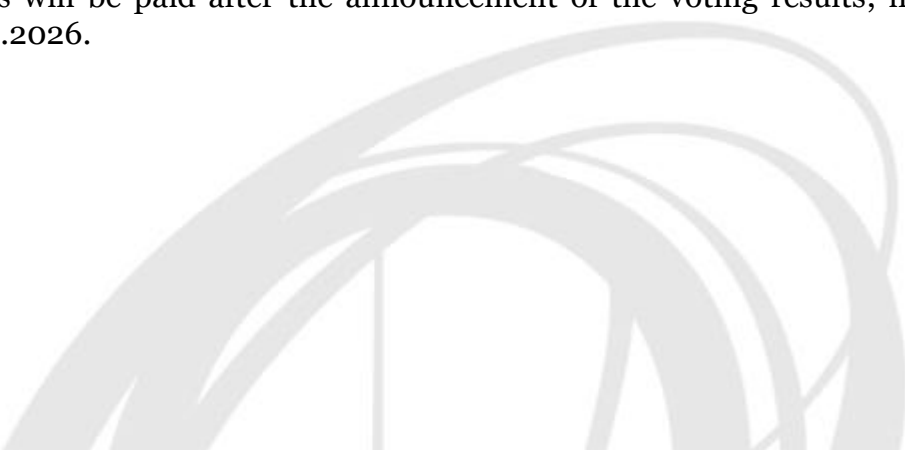
The Director of the Tournament reserves the right to introduce changes in the present schedule.

3. In the course of the Tournament, participants will perform two works:

- a) In the first part of the Tournament – an opera aria. The participant sings an opera aria with the orchestra of The Castle Opera, wearing a costume related to the character and lyrics of a given aria. The participant provides the costume on his own or lends from the opera house collection.
 - b) In the second part of the Tournament – an Italian or Neapolitan song (or an operetta aria). The participant sings a song or an operetta aria with the orchestra of The Castle Opera, wearing a tailcoat or tuxedo. The participant provides the tailcoat or tuxedo on his own.
4. Participants of the Tournament make their performances according to the order decided by a draw, which takes place during a press conference on 08th of September 2026.
 5. Participants perform their repertoire from memory, in the original version.
 6. The audience votes and selects the winner and second and third prize winners of the Tournament.
 7. Every spectator will receive a red rose before the Tournament. The voting of the audience will consist in placing a rose in a basket marked with a given participant's number. The voting will start after all participants perform both works, and it will last 30 minutes. A protocol of the votes counting will be conducted.

§ 4

AWARDS

1. The main award of the Tournament is the audience award amounting to 15.000,00 PLN (in words: fifteen thousands PLN) gross (or equivalent in EUR according to the average exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland of 1st of September 2026) and a title of the Winner of 21th Great Tenors Tournament.
 2. The award for the second place in the competition is the audience award of PLN 10.000,00 (say: ten thousand PLN) gross (or equivalent in EUR according to the average exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland of 01th of September 2026).
 3. The award for the second place in the competition is the audience award of PLN 5.000,00 (say: five thousand PLN) gross (or equivalent in EUR according to the average exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland of 01th of September 2026).
 4. Cash prizes will be paid after the announcement of the voting results, no later than 30.09.2026.
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§ 5

FINAL CONDITIONS

1. The Organizer shall return documented costs of travelling from the place of residence to Szczecin and from Szczecin to the place of residence to the amount of 250 EUR.
2. The Organizer provides the accommodation during the Tournament.
3. All doubts related to the present Rules will be resolved according to the original Polish version.
4. Annex no 1 to the Rules constitutes the application form. Once the application form is signed and sent to the above-mentioned e-mail address, the applicant hereby accepts the present Rules.