



2ND INTERNATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION VOICEANDVILLAS 2025

SZCZECIN 31ST MAY 2025

General Director of the VOICEandVILLAS Competition (Director of the Lentz Villa): **Jagoda Ł. Kimber**
Artistic Director of the VOICEandVILLAS Competition: **Prof. Katarzyna Dondalska, D.M.A., Habil.**



I. COMPETITION OBJECTIVES

1. Enabling young singers to develop their artistic personalities, to shape their musical and artistic preferences as well as awareness of vocal technique and its acquisition.
2. Promoting talents.
3. Presenting vocal abilities and skills.
4. Propagating musical culture and artistic values.
5. Furthering musical self-education; offering an opportunity for independent presentations of one's own compositions and testing one's abilities.
6. Supporting and promoting talents as well as creating a space for them to present their vocal abilities and artistic achievements.

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

1. The Competition is open to persons who:
 - are students or graduates majoring in voice at higher education institutions in Poland or abroad,
 - will not have exceeded the age of 40 by 1st April 2025,
 - will have paid a non-returnable Entrance Fee amounting to **350 PLN / 83 EUR** (by bank transfer to the Organiser's account, **in PLN: 04 1240 3813 1111 0011 0389 0550, or in EUR: PL 42 1240 3813 1978 0011 0389 0651, BIC / Swift code: PKOPPLPW, not later than by 14th April 2025**; put "entrance fee for the Competition + participant's name and surname" in the bank transfer title,
 - will have effectively submitted their Competition entries by dates specified in the Regulations below.
2. The Competition consists of two rounds. The first round will take place without the participants' presence and will consist in assessing recording samples submitted by the participants. The second (final) round will take place on site, at the Lentz Villa in Szczecin.
3. A maximum of 25 participants with the highest scores in the first round will qualify for the finals.
4. Pianists (accompanists) will be made available by the Organisers for the finals at an additional fee.
5. Participants may also perform in the finals with their own pianists.

III. THE 1ST ROUND (ONLINE)

1. Participants ought to submit their Competition entries between 1st April 2025 and 14th April 2025 by sending the completed documents (as listed below) to the following e-mail address: voiceandvillas@willa-lentza.pl (subject to the provisions contained in the sixth indent below):
 - an entry form bearing the (electronic or handwritten) signature of the Participant, as in the model form given in Annex 1 to the Regulations (available from www.willa-lentza.pl). Submitting an entry is tantamount to accepting the Competition Regulations,
 - the Participant's photograph,
 - a copy of an official document containing the Participant's name, surname, and date of birth. We recommend that other personal data (apart from those necessary to verify the fulfilment of entry conditions, such as age), should be anonymised on the document copy,
 - confirmation of entrance fee payment to the Organiser's bank account,
 - the Participant's brief biographical note in pdf or Word format,
 - the Participant's performance programme for the 1st and 2nd rounds, in pdf or Word format (in the Polish or English language),
 - own accompanist's written authorisation to reproduce physical likeness (Appearance Consent, Annex 2),
 - link to audio-video recording(s) (on YouTube, Vimeo) of the Participant's own performances of any two operatic arias by different composers, selected from the global repertoire. The link to the recording(s) ought to be sent to voiceandvillas@willa-lentza.pl within the period specified in Point 1 above.
 - in case the Participant intends to perform with her or his own pianist, the pianist's written consent must also be attached on a separate form, the model of which is given in Annex 2 to the Regulations (available at www.willa-lentza.pl).

2. Requirements concerning the recording / performance:
 - One or two recordings of any duration, with no cuts within the individual pieces of music, made after 1st April 2024 (i.e. recorded no more than one year before the start of the Competition procedures).
 - The recording(s) ought to be made in a relatively low-echo space. Recording sound and elocution (stage delivery) should be clear, with no background noise. The performer's full-body image should be filmed from one angle in good lighting.
 - No other persons apart from the performer (Participant) may be visible in the recording (an exception is made for the accompanist, subject to the submission of Appearance Consent form as given in Annex 2).
 - Minimum recording resolution: HD 1280 x 720 pixels.
3. The recording(s) specified in point 2 above will be published by the Organiser on the Lentz Villa's public YouTube channel.
4. The Competition Organiser reserves the right to reject entries that do not fulfil any of the requirements for participation.
5. The list of persons who have qualified for the second (final) round will be published on 30th April 2025 on the Competition's website: www.willa-lentza.pl.

IV. THE 2ND ROUND (THE COMPETITION FINALS)

1. In the Competition finals, Participants are obliged to perform 2 operatic arias by different composers, selected from the global repertoire.
2. One of the arias sung in the first round of the Competition may be performed again in the finals.
3. The total time of a Participant's presentation in the finals may not exceed 15 minutes.
4. Persons who have qualified for the finals and have declared that they will perform with the Competition Organiser's pianist are obliged to pay an Additional Fee of 100 PLN or 24 EUR by bank transfer to the Organiser's account: in PLN: 04 1240 3813 1111 0011 0389 0550 or in EUR: PL 42 1240 3813 1978 0011 0389 0651, BIC / Swift code: PKOPPLPW. Put 'pianist fee + participant's name and surname' in the bank transfer title.
5. Confirmation of pianist fee payment ought to be sent to the email address voiceandvillas@willa-lentza.pl not later than by 5th May 2025.
6. Rehearsals for the finals with the Competition Organiser's pianists will be held on 30th May 2025 in accordance with a detailed schedule.
7. The Competition finals will be held on 31st May 2025 at the Lentz Villa in accordance with a detailed schedule.
8. All the remaining costs of participating in the finals, including, in particular: the costs of transport, accommodation, meals, costumes, and other personal expenditure, as well as own pianist's costs must be covered individually by each Participant.

V. THE VOICEANDVILLAS COMPETITION JURY

Participants of the Competition's first (online) round will be assessed by a Jury appointed by the Organiser:

1. **Prof. Katarzyna Dondalska, D.M.A., Habil. [PL]** – Artistic Director of the Competition, chair of the jury; one of the most outstanding Polish coloratura sopranos of our time; faculty member of Szczecin's Academy of Art,
2. **Janusz Lewandowski, D.M.A. [PL]** – singer-soloist at the Opera at the Castle in Szczecin, soloist of the Opera Nova in Bydgoszcz,
3. **Aura Twarowska, PhD [RO]** – mezzo-soprano, soloist at Vienna State Opera,
4. **Franz Gürtelschmied [AT]** – tenor, soloist at Opéra Bastille, Graz Opera, Salzburg Festival, and Maggio Musicale Fiorentino,
5. **Prof. Magdalena Idzik, D.M.A., Habil. [PL]** – mezzo-soprano at the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera, faculty member of Warsaw's Chopin University of Music,
6. **Prof. Doc. Alexander Vovk, ArtD. [CZ]** – soloist at Slezské divadlo Opava, faculty member of the University of Ostrava
7. **Tomasz Krzysica [PL]** – soloist at Warsaw Chamber Opera, faculty member of Szczecin's Academy of Art,

The Finals:

Participants of the Competition Finals will be assessed by an international Jury made up of eminent representatives of the musical and vocal scene as well as directors of cultural institutions:

Chair:

Prof. Mariusz Kwiecień, D.M.A. [PL] – world-famous baritone, faculty member of the Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Cracow.

Jury members:

1. Prof. Katarzyna Dondalska, D.M.A., Habil. [PL] – Artistic Director of the Competition, chair of the jury; one of the most outstanding Polish coloratura sopranos of our time; faculty member of Szczecin's Academy of Art,

2. Tomasz Tokarczyk, D.M.A. [PL] – conductor at the Silesian Opera in Bytom,

3. Prof. Marcin Nałęcz-Niesiołowski, D.M.A., Habil. [PL] – conductor, Director of the Grand Theatre in Łódź, Professor of Arts

4. Prof. Piotr Kusiewicz, D.M.A., Habil. [PL] – tenor and pianist, casting manager at the Baltic Opera, professor of vocal studies at the Academy of Music in Gdańsk,

5. Gabriele Rossmann [DE] – soprano, a.o. at Hamburg State Opera (named Hamburger Kammersängerin).

The Jury will give each Participant a score of 1 to 25 points.

The Jury's proceedings are secret, and its decisions are final.

VI. COMPETITION PRIZES

1. The following prizes have been specified by the Organiser:

1ST PRIZE – 600 EURO / 2ND PRIZE – 500 EURO / 3RD PRIZE – 300 EURO

and, in addition:

THREE HONOURABLE MENTIONS WITH PRIZES OF EUR 200 EACH, ONE OF WHICH HAS BEEN NAMED AFTER IRENA BRODZIŃSKA & FOUR IN-KIND PRIZES

2. The Jury reserves the right to divide the prize money in a way different from the one specified above.

3. The Organiser informs that other prizes not listed in the Regulations may also be awarded.

4. All the Competition prize-winners, recipients of honourable mentions and prizes not listed in the Regulations, are obliged to perform, free of charge, at the Final Gala Concert, to be held on 31st May 2025 at the Lentz Villa in Szczecin. Non-appearance at the above-mentioned concert will be considered tantamount to forfeiting the prize and/or honourable mention.

5. The prizes, including those for the honourable mentions, will be paid in non-cash form by bank transfer to the prize-winner's account. Public imposts will be deducted from the prize pursuant to regulations currently in force.

VII. COMPETITION SCHEDULE

1ST APRIL 2025 – starting date for Competition entry submissions and acceptance (from 00.01 hours).

The required documents need to be submitted along with the performance programme for the 1st round and the finals.*

14TH APRIL 2025 – deadline for Competition entry submissions (ending at 23.59 hours).

21ST–25TH APRIL 2025 – Recordings are assessed by the Jury in the 1st round.

30TH APRIL 2025 – List of persons who have qualified for the finals will be published.

30TH MAY 2025 – Rehearsals with the Competition Organiser's pianists are held for the finalists.

The precise schedule will be drawn up between 6th and 29th MAY).

31ST MAY 2025 – The final round auditions. Auditions schedule will be drawn up between 6th and 29th MAY.

31ST MAY 2025 – Announcement of the competition results + the Final Gala Concert.

The precise hours will be decided between 6th and 29th MAY.

* Scores (clearly legible piano reductions) need to be submitted in PDF or WORD format.

VIII. GRATUITOUS PERFORMANCE OF OBLIGATIONS AND TRANSFER OF RIGHTS

1. By submitting their entries for the Competition, Participants undertake to perform all their obligations related to the Competition free of charge.
2. As of the moment of submitting their recordings to the Organiser in the 1st round, Participants grant to the Organiser, without the right to remuneration, a non-exclusive license, unlimited in territory, to the works (recordings) submitted for the 1st round, for five years from the date of their submission to the Organiser and in all the fields of exploitation listed in point 3 below. Participants also transfer to the Organiser, without the right to remuneration, all the related rights, unlimited in time and territory, in Poland and elsewhere, to use and dispose, in whole or in part, of the artistic performances contained in the said recordings, in the fields of exploitation listed in point 3 below.
3. As of the moment of the artistic performance, respectively during the Competition finals and the Final Gala Concert, the Participant and the pianist he or she appoints (in case their own accompanist has been chosen) transfer to the Organiser, without the right to remuneration, and the Organiser thus obtains, all the related rights, unlimited in time and territory, in Poland and elsewhere, to use and dispose, in whole or in part, of the artistic performances respectively of the Participant and the pianist, during the Competition finals and the Final Gala Concert as it respectively applies, in the following fields of exploitation (to which both the Participant and the pianist shall agree):
 - a) public performance,
 - b) recording (storage) and reproduction of the artistic performance, in whole or in any selected parts, on any type of carrier and by means of all the recording (storage) techniques available,
 - c) uploading on the internet, intranets, into the computer memory and multimedia networks, by means of any technology, including volatile memory forms such as RAM; temporary and permanent storage, copying and archiving such stored records, in whole or in any selected parts,
 - d) distribution in any form (including sales), free lending or paid hire of carriers that contain the artistic performance, in whole or in any selected parts,
 - e) making the artistic performance or its parts publicly available so that everyone can access it at a place and time of their own choice, by means of any technology, including on computer networks, in particular on the Internet and other information networks, via applications or any telecommunications services, including Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and the Organiser's website, in whole or in any selected parts,
 - f) dissemination in the form of an audio-visual work created in a virtual reality environment, in whole or in any selected parts.
4. It is to be assumed in case of doubt that the transfer of rights to the artistic performance as specified in point 3 above includes at least all those fields of exploitation that have been listed in Article 86 of the Act of 4th February 1994 on Copyright and Related Rights.
5. By submitting an entry to the Competition, the Participant agrees for his or her personal image and artistic performances to be photographed and filmed, and for all such recorded performances to be made publicly available via the channels listed in point 6 below.
6. By submitting an entry to the Competition, the Participant agrees for his or her personal image, name and surname, recordings and photographs that contain the artistic performance, to be used in the course of all of the Organiser's activities related to informing, advertising, promoting, and archiving the Competition and the artistic performances thereof, as well as the Organiser's promotional and artistic work, including in particular on the radio and television, the internet, all kinds of printed materials, large-format outdoor advertising, in the form of photographs, posters, inserts in publications, magazines, newspapers, as well as audio and au-

divisual releases of concert recordings or their fragments, including screening and public dissemination. In particular, promotion is understood to involve creating the so-called 'making of' documentaries that present the Competition procedures, trailers announcing the Competition concerts, and photographing concerts held as part of the Competition (which may also include recording the artistic performance).

7. The form, principles, and conditions of Competition promotion in all media and on all types of carriers will be resolved upon by the Organiser.
8. Each Competition Participant undertakes to sign with the Organiser, upon the Organiser's each and every request, an agreement covering the elements listed in points 1 - 7 above.
9. In case the Participant chooses to perform with his or her own pianist, points 5 - 8 respectively apply to that pianist as well.

IX. SAFETY MEASURES RELATED TO COVID-19 AND OTHER CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The concerts will be organised in accordance with the regulations, principles, and recommendations concerning preventing, countering and combating COVID-19, other contagious diseases, and crisis situations to which they may lead, in force as of the date of the performances in Poland. The materials and documents attached to the entry form will not be returned to the sender.

X. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. These Competition Regulations come into force as of the date of their being published on the Organiser's website: www.willa-lentza.pl.
2. The Organiser reserves the right to change the dates listed in the Regulations. Any such changes will be announced via the Organiser's website: www.willa-lentza.pl.
3. In case of the occurrence of obstacles whose causes are beyond the Organiser's control, the Organiser reserves the right to change the provisions of these Competition Regulations, including the performance dates and venues. The Organiser simultaneously undertakes to inform Participants in good time of all such changes, by announcing them on the Organiser's website: www.willa-lentza.pl or in any other manner available.

**IN CASE YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:
SEKRETARIAT@WILLA-LENTZA.PL, PHONE NO. 91 822 84 84**

The Competition shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the Polish law. All and any disputes related to the Competition shall be settled by a common court relevant to the seat of the Organiser, i.e. the LENTZ VILLA in SZCZECIN.

