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Regulations for the II International Children's and Youth Competition "IN THE HOMELAND OF P.I. TCHAIKOVSKY"

IZHEVSK

2026

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1. These Regulations set forth the procedure for holding the II International Children's and Youth Competition "IN THE HOMELAND OF P.I. TCHAIKOVSKY" (hereinafter — the Competition).

1.2. **Period of the Competition:** from 1 April 2026 to 14 October 2026.

1.3. **Competition Goals and Objectives:**

- Identification and support of gifted children, popularization of children's and youth instrumental performance;
- Promotion of classical music as a key component of the spiritual and moral education of the younger generation;
- Popularization of the musical heritage of the great Russian composer P.I. Tchaikovsky;
- Introducing the international cultural community to the historical homeland of P.I. Tchaikovsky;
- Fostering interest of the general audience in classical musical culture.

1.4. **Official Language of the Competition:** Russian. All documentation is maintained in Russian. These Regulations shall also be published in English for the information of international participants. In the event of any discrepancies between the Russian and English versions, the Russian text shall prevail.

1.5. **Founders of the Competition:** The Government of the Udmurt Republic, the Ministry of Culture of the Udmurt Republic. The Competition is held with the support of the Head of the Udmurt Republic, Alexander Vladimirovich Brechalov.

1.6. **Organizer of the Competition:** The Autonomous Cultural Institution of the Udmurt Republic "State Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Udmurt Republic named after P.I. Tchaikovsky" (hereinafter — the Competition Organizer), with the support of the "New Names" Charitable Foundation named after Iveta Voronova. The Competition Organizer shall form the Organizing Committee, which shall address inter-agency coordination matters, form the composition of the Jury, carry out preparatory work, and oversee compliance with the terms of these Regulations. The Organizing Committee shall have the right to decide on matters not regulated by these Regulations.

1.7. **Contacts of the Competition Organizer:** konkurs@operaizh.ru

1.8. **Official Website of the Competition Organizer:** <https://operaizh.ru/konkurs/> (hereinafter — the Official Website of the Competition Organizer).

1.9. **Jury of the Competition** shall be composed of distinguished specialists in the field of classical performing arts. The list of Jury members shall be published on the Official Website of the Competition Organizer.

1.10. **The Ambassador and Patron of the Competition** is the People's Artist of the Russian Federation Dmitry Yuryevich Malikov.

1.11. These Regulations constitute the official rules of the Competition and are binding on all Participants. These Regulations shall be published on the Official Website of the Competition Organizer.

1.12. The Competition Organizer reserves the right to make amendments to these Regulations, with the updated document to be published on the Official Website of the Competition Organizer.

2. COMPETITION RULES

2.1. The Competition is open to musicians from Russia and other countries worldwide, aged 10 to 22 (inclusive) as of the start date of the Competition (hereinafter — Participant, Contestant).

2.2. The Competition shall be held in the following age categories:

- 10–12 years;
- 13–15 years;
- 16–18 years;
- 19–22 years.

2.3. The Competition shall be held in the following instrumental categories:

- Piano;
- String instruments (bowed);
- Woodwind instruments;
- Brass instruments;
- Folk instruments (including Russian folk instruments, as well as instruments from other national cultures).

2.4. Procedure for holding the Competition:

- **Stage I (Qualifying Round):** conducted remotely based on video recordings submitted by participants. Video recordings shall be accepted as part of applications from 1 April 2026 to 15 August 2026 inclusive. Applications from international participants submitted before 15 July 2026 shall be reviewed as a priority in accordance with clause 2.15 of these Regulations.

- **Stage II (Live Round):** shall be held from 11 October 2026 to 12 October 2026 in the cities of Votkinsk and Izhevsk. The venue for each instrumental category shall be determined by the Organizing Committee. The list of participants for Stage II, indicating the city of performance, shall be published on the Official Website no later than 1 September 2026.

- **Stage III (Live Round, Final):** shall be held on 13 October 2026 in the city of Votkinsk among the First Prize winners (of all instrumental categories) to determine the holder of the Grand Prix.

- **Gala Concert:** shall be held on 14 October 2026 in Izhevsk on the stage of the Autonomous Cultural Institution of the Udmurt Republic “State Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Udmurt Republic named after P.I. Tchaikovsky”.

2.5. Travel to the Competition shall be arranged by the Participant or by the nominating organization at their own expense.

2.6. The Organizer shall provide transportation for participants and accompanying persons between the cities of Votkinsk and Izhevsk in accordance with the competition audition schedule.

2.7. A Participant has the right to perform at Stages II and III of the Competition with their own accompanist. In this case, the expenses for travel, accommodation, meals, and the accompanist's fee shall be borne by the Participant or the nominating organization. If a Participant does not have their own accompanist, the Organizer shall provide a staff accompanist free of charge. The Participant must indicate the need for an accompanist in the application form in advance and send the accompaniment sheet music in electronic format to konkurs@operaizh.ru.

2.8. Participant arrival — 10 October 2026, departure — 15 October 2026. Within the approved Competition program (6 days / 5 nights), the Organizer shall cover the costs of accommodation and three meals per day for Participants and for the legal representatives of minor Participants. Meals shall be provided according to the following schedule:

- on the day of arrival — dinner.
- on full days of stay — breakfast, lunch, dinner;
- on the day of departure — breakfast.

2.9. The Organizer shall not cover the costs of accommodation and meals for other individuals (including accompanists, additional accompanying persons). Such individuals shall arrange and pay for their own accommodation.

2.10. Accommodation shall be arranged in double, triple, or quadruple rooms at the Organizer's discretion. For legal representatives of minor participants, accommodation together with the participant shall be provided where possible.

2.11. Expenses that go beyond the established Competition program (including early arrival, late departure, meals and accommodation for additional accompanying persons) shall be paid for by the Participant or the nominating organization.

2.12. If a Participant refuses to perform without a valid reason, supported by documentation, the Participant shall reimburse the Organizer for documented expenses incurred by the Organizer related to their accommodation, meals, and other pre-agreed costs.

2.13. All expenses that exceed the Competition program shall be paid for by the Participant.

2.14. Participants who receive an invitation to take part in the second stage of the Competition and who reside in a country that has a visa regime with the Russian Federation must independently apply to the consulate of the Russian Federation to obtain a visa.

2.15. In order to ensure timely issuance of Russian visas, applications from international participants shall be reviewed as a priority. For applications from international participants submitted before 15 July 2026, the Organizer undertakes to notify the international participant of admission to the live stages (or of refusal) no later than 10 (ten) business days from the date of receipt of the complete application and video recording, and, if necessary, to send an official invitation for visa application within 5 (five) business days after sending the notification of admission.

2.16. The Competition Organizer undertakes to provide all necessary invitations but shall not be responsible for obtaining the visa or any associated costs.

2.17. Winners (First Prize winners and Grand Prix holders) of previous International Children's and Youth Competitions "In the Homeland of P.I. Tchaikovsky" are not permitted to participate in subsequent competitions in the same age category. Participants previously awarded the title of Second or Third Prize winner may participate again.

3. EVALUATION SYSTEM

3.1. Evaluation of competition performances shall be carried out by the professional Jury using a 50-point system.

3.2. The final score shall be the sum of five equally weighted criteria, each assessed on a 10-point scale:

- Compliance of the competition program with the Participant's age.
- Level of instrumental proficiency and command of musical expressive means (intonation, sound quality, timbral colors, dynamic range, instrument tuning);
- Mastery of the stylistic and genre characteristics of the performed work.
- Musicality, artistic interpretation of the musical work.
- Artistry, emotionality of performance, stage presence.

3.3. Mandatory program requirements for Participants:

- The program for the qualifying round must include two academic works that fully demonstrate the performer's technical and artistic potential.
- The program for Stages II and III must include two contrasting academic works that comprehensively demonstrate the performer's technical and artistic potential.
- The program for Stage II cannot repeat works performed in Stage I. In Stage III (Final), repetition of works performed in Stage I is permitted, but repetition of works performed in Stage II is not permitted.
- Total performance time limits: for Participants in the age group 10-12 years — 5-10 minutes; 13-15 years — 12-20 minutes; 16-18 years — 15-25 minutes; 19-22 years — 20-30 minutes.
- For Participants in the "folk instruments" category, the performed works must belong to the academic repertoire. Original compositions for the instrument, as well as academic transcriptions of works written for other instruments, are permitted.

3.4. To ensure impartiality, each Jury member must declare in writing any conflict of interest before the start of the auditions. If a professional or family relationship with a Participant is identified, the Jury member shall be disqualified from evaluating that Participant, and the final score shall be the arithmetic mean of the scores given by the remaining Jury members. For the entire duration of the Competition, Jury members are prohibited from any direct or indirect contact with Participants, their teachers, accompanists, or legal representatives.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

4.1. Applications for participation in the Competition shall be accepted from 1 April 2026 to 15 August 2026 inclusive. Applications shall be sent via email to: konkurs@operaizh.ru. Applications submitted after 23:59 on 15 August 2026 will not be accepted. International participants interested in guaranteed Russian visa issuance for participation in the live rounds must submit their application no later than 15 July 2026. Applications from international participants submitted after this date shall be reviewed on a general basis; the Organizer shall not be held liable for the impossibility of obtaining a visa within the established timeframe.

4.2. The application must be completed in Russian using the form available on the Official Website and must be signed by the Participant. An application for a minor participant must be signed by their legal representative. A Participant who has reached the age of 14 must also sign the application personally. The application must be accompanied by the legal representative's consent for participation, personal data processing, and publication of photo and video materials.

4.3. The parent (legal representative) of a minor Participant who has declared their participation in the Competition, or an adult Participant, shall confirm prior to the start of the Competition that they have familiarized themselves with the terms and requirements for holding the Competition and shall provide the Competition Organizer with consent for the collection, storage, use, dissemination (transfer) of personal data, as well as audio and video recordings of the competition performance, including on the Internet, for the purpose of implementing the Competition in accordance with Federal Law No. 152-FZ of 27.07.2006 "On Personal Data".

4.4. To participate in the Competition, the Participant shall submit the following documents and materials, which form an integral part of the Application:

- A copy of the Participant's identity document (birth certificate or passport of a citizen of the Russian Federation — for citizens of the Russian Federation; passport of a foreign citizen or other document established by federal law or recognised in accordance with an international treaty of the Russian Federation as an identity document for a foreign citizen — for foreign citizens);
- A copy of the Participant's music education diploma (if any);
- Copies of diplomas as a prize winner of international competitions from the last 3 years (if any);
- The application form in PDF format (Appendix No. 1);
- A link to a video recording meeting the requirements set forth in Section 5 of these Regulations;
- 2-3 color photographs (portraits) in electronic format (resolution — at least 300 dpi; jpg or tiff format);
- Consent to personal data processing (Appendix No. 2);
- Consent to personal data processing permitted for dissemination (Appendix No. 3);
- Consent of parent (legal representative) of a minor Participant to personal data processing (Appendix No. 4);
- Consent of parent (legal representative) of a minor Participant to personal data processing permitted for dissemination (Appendix No. 5);

- Bank details of the Contestant or parent (legal representative) of a minor Participant for prize payment.

4.5. Applications shall not be considered if:

- Submitted without the above-mentioned supporting materials and documents;
- Submitted after the established deadline;
- The video recording does not comply with the mandatory requirements specified in Section 5 of these Regulations.

4.6. Based on the submitted Applications, the Competition Organizer shall send a confirmation letter to the Participant's email address.

5. VIDEO RECORDING REQUIREMENTS

5.1. For participation in the qualifying round, the Contestant shall provide a link to a video recording of their performance, uploaded to the platforms "VK Video", "RuTube", or cloud storage services (Yandex.Disk, Cloud [Mail.ru](https://mail.ru)), with open access maintained until the completion of all stages of the Competition.

5.2. The video recording must have a resolution of at least 1280×720 (HD quality) and must provide continuous recording of the performance without any signs of editing, splicing, or overlay of external audio signals.

5.3. The use of any form of audio correction shall entail the unconditional disqualification of the participant.

5.4. Amateur video recording is permitted provided that the requirements for audio and image quality are strictly adhered to.

5.5. The recording must be made from a single stationary camera angle without breaks between works. The performer's face, hands, and musical instrument must be clearly visible in the frame throughout the entire performance. For pianists, the keyboard must be visible. Failure to comply with angle requirements that prevents objective evaluation of performance technique shall be grounds for rejecting the application.

5.6. The video recording must indicate at the beginning the participant's surname, first name, titles of the performed works, and the composers' surnames.

6. STAGE I — QUALIFYING ROUND

6.1. The first stage of the Competition shall be held remotely based on the video recordings submitted by Participants. All Contestants whose applications have been officially registered by the Organizer and meet the requirements of these Regulations shall be admitted to the qualifying round. The evaluation of video materials shall be carried out by Jury members in a closed session without the presence of audience or participants. The evaluation of video materials from international participants who submitted applications before 15 July 2026 shall be conducted on a priority basis, with admission notifications sent within the timeframes established in clause 2.15 of these Regulations.

6.2. Based on the review of the video recordings, the Jury shall form a list of Contestants admitted to participate in the second (live) stage. The Jury's decision shall be final and not subject to review or appeal. The total number of participants admitted to the live rounds shall be determined by the Organizing Committee based on the Competition's time schedule and the technical capacities of the concert venues.

6.3. The list of Contestants advancing to the second stage shall be officially published on the Organizer's Website no later than 1 September 2026.

6.4. Additionally, the Organizer shall send individual official invitations to participate in the live rounds to the email addresses specified in the applications.

7. STAGE II — LIVE ROUND

7.1. The list of participants admitted to the live rounds shall be published on the Official Website on 1 September 2026.

7.2. All Contestants admitted to the second stage must personally arrive for registration and participate in the draw within the timeframes established by the official Competition schedule. The order of performances determined by the draw shall be maintained for Stages II and III of the Competition. If a Participant fails to appear for registration or the draw, the order of their performance shall be determined by the Organizer.

7.3. Stage II shall be held from 11 to 12 October 2026 in the cities of Votkinsk and Izhevsk. Information on the venue shall be communicated to participants upon publication of the lists.

7.4. The Organizer shall provide Contestants with access to rehearsal rooms and allocate time for an acoustic rehearsal on stage. The duration of the stage rehearsal shall be strictly limited to no more than 15 minutes for each Participant. The rehearsal schedule shall be approved by the Organizing Committee and shall not be subject to change at the initiative of Participants.

7.5. The auditions of the second stage shall be held publicly. Based on the performances, the Jury shall determine the Prize Winners and Diploma winners of the Competition in each age category and instrumental category.

7.6. The performance program for the second stage must consist of two contrasting works of the academic genre that best demonstrate the performer's technical mastery and artistic individuality.

7.7. The total performance duration must not exceed the limits established for the respective age groups in clause 3.3 of these Regulations.

7.8. Following the auditions of the second stage, the Jury shall determine the Prize Winners and Diploma winners of the Competition in each instrumental category. Only Participants awarded the title of First Prize winner in their age category shall be admitted to participate in the third stage (Final) to compete for the Grand Prix of the Competition.

7.9. Contestants, their teachers, and legal representatives are prohibited from contacting Jury members until the official conclusion of all stages of the Competition. Violation of this rule shall result in the disqualification of the Participant with annulment of results.

7.10. All performances of Participants in the second stage shall be accompanied by an internet broadcast. The link to the broadcast shall be posted on the Official Website of the Competition Organizer.

8. STAGE III — FINAL

8.1. Participants awarded the title of First Prize winner in their respective age categories based on the results of Stage II shall be admitted to Stage III.

8.2. Stage III shall be held on 13 October 2026 in the city of Votkinsk.

8.3. The final program shall consist of two contrasting works. The total duration must not exceed the limits established for the age groups in clause 3.3 of these Regulations. Repetition of works performed in Stage I is permitted.

8.4. The evaluation of performances in Stage III shall be carried out by Jury members using the 50-point system in accordance with the criteria established in Section 3 of these Regulations.

8.5. Based on the results of Stage III, the Jury shall determine the participant who received the highest number of points under the 50-point system. This participant shall be awarded the highest prize of the Competition — the Grand Prix.

8.6. The Jury shall have the right to:

- Award the Grand Prix to one participant based on a supplementary vote;
- Not award the Grand Prix to any participant if, in the Jury's opinion, the performance level does not meet the status of the highest prize.

8.7. The Jury has the right to stop a participant's performance if the performed work exceeds the established time limit.

8.8. Performances shall be accompanied by an internet broadcast.

9. GALA CONCERT

9.1. The Gala Concert and awards ceremony shall take place on 14 October 2026 on the stage of the Autonomous Cultural Institution of the Udmurt Republic "State Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Udmurt Republic named after P.I. Tchaikovsky" in the city of Izhevsk.

9.2. The program of the Gala Concert shall be determined by the Organizing Committee based on the Jury's recommendation, from among the Participants who demonstrated a high artistic level, regardless of the prize awarded. Invited participants are obliged to take part in the Gala Concert.

9.3. The Gala Concert shall be held with the participation of the Symphony Orchestra of the Opera and Ballet Theatre of the Udmurt Republic named after P.I. Tchaikovsky. Participants are recommended to perform one work from the approved list (Appendix No. 6).

9.4. A Participant is entitled to perform a work not included in the recommended list (Appendix No. 6), subject to prior approval from the Organizing Committee no later than 30 days before the start of the live stages. Approval is mandatory for works requiring special orchestration, especially

for instruments not listed. The work must be academic and must be performed with symphony orchestra accompaniment.

9.5. The Gala Concert shall include the ceremonial presentation of diplomas, prizes, and special awards to all Prize Winners and Diploma winners of the Competition.

9.6. All performances of Participants at the Gala Concert shall be accompanied by an internet broadcast. The link to the broadcast shall be posted on the Official Website of the Competition Organizer.

10. PRIZES AND AWARDS FOR COMPETITION WINNERS

10.1. The Competition Organizer announces the award of the following prizes:

- Grand Prix (awarded among First Prize holders);
- 3 prizes for pianists in each age group;
- 3 prizes for string (bowed) instrument performers in each age group;
- 3 prizes for woodwind instrument performers in each age group;
- 3 prizes for brass instrument performers in each age group;
- 3 prizes for folk instrument performers in each age group.

10.2. The following prize amounts are established:

- Grand Prix — 1,000,000 (One Million) rubles;
- 1st Prize — 50,000 (Fifty Thousand) rubles;
- 2nd Prize — 30,000 (Thirty Thousand) rubles;
- 3rd Prize — 20,000 (Twenty Thousand) rubles.

10.3. Prizes shall be paid in rubles by transferring funds to the bank account of the Contestant.

10.4. Pursuant to clause 6.4 of Article 217 of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation, participants' income in the form of prizes, awards, and/or gifts in monetary and/or in-kind forms received as a result of participation in the Competition shall not be subject to taxation in the Russian Federation.

10.5. The "New Names" Charitable Foundation named after Iveta Voronova shall award a special prize.

10.6. During the Competition, the Organizer may establish special additional prizes.

10.7. The results of the Competition shall be published on the Organizer's Website.

10.8. Depending on the results achieved and within the established number of prizes, the Competition Jury shall have the right to:

- Not award all prizes;
- Divide prizes among Contestants (with the exception of the Grand Prix).

10.9. Participants of the first stage shall receive diplomas via email as specified in the application form. Participants of the second stage and winners shall be awarded at the Competition's Gala Concert.

10.10. The decisions of the Competition Jury are final and not subject to review.

11. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

11.1. Submission of the application means that the Participant (or their legal representative) irrevocably grants the Competition Organizer a non-exclusive license to use the performance (related rights) recorded during the Competition in full (Article 1317 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation), including the rights to broadcast, cable transmission, making available to the public, and reproduction, for the entire duration of the exclusive right throughout all countries of the world.

11.2. All information posted on the Official Website is correct at the time of publication. If necessary, the Competition Organizer reserves the right to make changes necessary for the conduct of the Competition.

11.3. The Competition Organizer does not provide Contestants, accompanists, or other accompanying persons with any form of insurance. Participants are advised to independently arrange an insurance policy for the duration of their stay at the Competition, as well as insurance for musical instruments.

11.4. Submission of an application constitutes evidence that the Participant fully accepts and undertakes to comply with the conditions set forth in these Regulations.

12. FORCE MAJEURE

12.1. The Parties shall be released from liability for partial or total non-fulfillment of obligations arising from these Regulations if such non-fulfillment is the result of force majeure circumstances occurring after the approval of these Regulations and before the conclusion of the Competition.

12.2. Force majeure circumstances include events that the Parties could not reasonably foresee or prevent, including:

- Natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, fires, hurricanes, and other natural catastrophes);
- Epidemics, pandemics, introduction of quarantine and sanitary-epidemiological restrictions by state authorities;
- Armed conflicts, military actions (including the announcement of mobilization, imposition of martial law), acts of terrorism, threats of committing terrorist acts, use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), missile attacks, air raid warnings;
- Introduction of a counter-terrorist operation (CTO) regime or other restrictive regimes in the territory where the Competition is held or on the routes of travel for participants;
- Closure of airspace, cancellation of flights, transportation restrictions imposed by state authorities;

- Denial of visas, closure of state borders, introduction of restrictions on entry/exit for foreign citizens;
- Acts of state authorities and local self-government bodies directly impeding the conduct of the Competition (prohibition of holding mass events, curfew, movement restrictions);
- Other events recognized as force majeure circumstances under the legislation of the Russian Federation.

12.3. Upon the occurrence of the circumstances specified in clause 12.2 of these Regulations, the Competition Organizer shall have the right to:

- Suspend the Competition until such circumstances are resolved;
- Change the dates of the Competition;
- Change the format of the Competition (including conducting the remaining stages remotely using information and telecommunications networks);
- Conduct the Competition, in whole or in part, remotely while maintaining the evaluation system and prize fund;
- Cancel the Competition in whole or in part.

12.4. The Competition Organizer shall notify participants of the occurrence of force majeure circumstances and the decisions taken no later than 7 (seven) calendar days prior to the date of the relevant stage of the Competition, or, if such prior notification is impossible, immediately after the circumstances arise. Notification shall be made by posting information on the Official Website of the Competition Organizer and sending an email to the address specified in the participant's application. In urgent circumstances (announcement of an air raid warning, threat of a missile attack, introduction of a CTO regime), the decision to suspend or cancel a specific competition day shall be made directly by the Organizer and promptly communicated to participants and the Jury.

12.5. In the event of cancellation of the Competition on the grounds provided for in this Section, the Organizer shall not reimburse participants, accompanists, or accompanying persons for expenses incurred by them in connection with preparation for participation in the Competition (including travel, accommodation, purchase of instruments and accessories, payment of visa and consular fees).

12.6. In the event of a change in the format of the Competition (clause 12.3), the Organizer shall have the right to amend the program requirements, evaluation procedure, and participant awards, which shall be subject to mandatory publication on the Official Website of the Competition Organizer. Such changes shall not materially disadvantage participants compared to the initial conditions. In the event of a transition to a remote format, the evaluation criteria for video recordings shall be adapted (recording in other acoustic conditions, without a concert hall, is permitted), and participants shall be notified at least 14 days in advance.

12.7. Prizes not paid to participants due to the cancellation of the Competition shall be allocated by the Organizer in agreement with the Founders in accordance with the goals and objectives of the Competition specified in clause 1.3 of these Regulations (including supporting gifted children

in other forms, establishing a scholarship fund, conducting online masterclasses with Jury members).

See you in the homeland of P.I. Tchaikovsky!