General terms
The Cologne International Music Competition will be held in Cologne on September 13 – September 18, 2021. It takes place every three years. The competition is organized by Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln (Cologne University of Music and Dance) in co-operation with Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR).

The 2021 competition is open to male and female vocalists from all countries. Entrants must be under the age of 30 on September 13, 2021.

Admission
The preselection jury will announce the number of contestants in each competition category upon full review of the application intake. The selection will be made on the basis of DVD (video) recordings of applicants performing pieces in line with the repertoire specifications. The recording must not be older than one year. No cuts or editing of the music shall be permitted. Applicants are requested to submit each recording in three copies.

The decisions taken are final, and no explanations regarding the selection process will be given. Admitted candidates will receive a positive answer in writing. Applicants from abroad may apply for an entry visa on the basis of this acknowledgment.

Selected contestants will be notified no later than July 15, 2021. All candidates will be informed of the receipt or rejection of their application.

Deadline for application
Applications need to be filled out by May 14, 2021.
Recognition of terms
Admitted contestants must confirm their participation in writing using the registration form sent to them by e-mail and must pay the €100 entry fee.

No refund of the entry fee will be made if a registered candidate is prevented from attending or cancels his/her application.

The fully completed application form must be accompanied by the following documents:
- Photocopy of applicant’s birth certificate or passport
- Curriculum vitae (focusing on artistic training/career), in tabulated form
- Overview of the competition repertoire
- Photo for the programme booklet and, possibly, press releases
- Evidence of health insurance coverage (valid from start of competition)
- Photocopy of the money transfer form attesting to payment of the entry fee

Applications failing to meet competition requirements may be rejected. Documents and recording media submitted cannot be returned.

Structure of the competition
The competition consists of three rounds in four sessions: two sessions of the preliminary round, the Semifinal, and the Final. All competition rounds are public.

Jury
The international jury has the task of judging the contestants' performance on the basis of binding evaluation guidelines for all rounds; it also determines the prizewinners. All decisions of the jury are final and incontestable. On principle, the prize may be split.

Contestants
All contestants must register in person on September 13, 2021, in the Cologne competition office. A passport or national identity card must be presented to confirm the applicant's identity. Registrations will be made from 10:00 a.m. until 01:00 p.m.

Contestants will perform in the order determined by lot drawn on September 13, 2021, at 04:00 p.m. The contestants are required to attend the draw in person or to arrange for an authorized representative to attend on their behalf. The order determined by lot will remain the same through the end of the competition; it is not subject to change except in case of force majeure. The jury's decision in this regard shall be final and irrevocable. Any change made by the jury's decision shall apply only to the relevant round. All stage times will be announced by notices posted in public areas.

Each contestant agrees to keep his/her schedule clear of any professional engagements or concerts for the duration of the competition.
**Competition programme**
For the competition programme, the repertoire lists indicated below and the provisions referred to therein are binding. The competition programme submitted by each contestant must be adhered to. The sequence of performance is left to the contestant's discretion.

**Piano accompanists**
Recognized pianists are available free of charge as piano partners for the competition. However, contestants are free to bring their own pianist at their own cost. Rehearsing facilities will be provided on the premises of Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln starting September 13, 2021.

**Accommodation**
Upon request, the competition office will arrange hotel accommodation for contestants, pianists and other accompanying individuals. The costs of such accommodation must be paid by the contestant.

**Prizewinners' concerts**
The prizewinners agree to perform at no fee in the prizewinners' concert on September 18, 2021. The programme for the prizewinners' concert will be determined by the jury or by the artistic director, respectively.

**Media use**
The prizewinners' concert on September 18, 2021, will be recorded by Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR). The recordings may be used for radio broadcasting purposes and may be made publicly accessible, whether wholly, in part and/or in excerpts, live or time-delayed or upon individual demand, regardless of the type of receiving device. Further uses, especially airings or releases – irrespective of the time and place, whether wholly, in part or in excerpts – are possible.

The contestants assign their entire ancillary copyrights held or acquired in connection with the Cologne International Music Competition 2021, as well as the TV and radio utilization rights, to Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln.

Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln reserves the right to use excerpts from the competition rounds and from the prizewinners' concerts for a CD and/or DVD designed as an advertisement for the prizewinners and to document the competition.

Moreover, the competition management reserves the right to use or disseminate, or to arrange for the use or dissemination of (whether by themselves or via third parties), the contestant's contributions commercially or non-commercially in audio and/or audiovisual form on analogue and/or digital audio/visual/audiovisual data media including platforms, regardless of the format or process employed. Each prizewinner's consent required for such utilization shall be deemed given by the fact of his /her registration for the competition; the same applies to the assignment of rights under the above provisions. The prizewinners are not entitled to any remuneration.
The contestants agree that their photos, addresses and other contact data may be passed on to third parties for PR and concert agency purposes, and/or that photos and names may appear in publications and at websites of the Cologne International Music Competition (Internationaler Musikwettbewerb Köln) and WFIMC, whether now or in the future, nationally and internationally.

Final provisions

By registering for the Competition, the contestant recognizes the participation and competition rules, as well as the decisions of the preselection jury and the jury, as binding upon himself/herself. The foregoing shall be final and not subject to recourse at law. For purposes of interpretation in case of doubt, only the German-language text shall be authoritative.