



Internationaler
Musikwettbewerb
Köln

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION COLOGNE 2025

General terms

The Cologne International Music Competition will be held in Cologne from **September 15 to September 21, 2025** in Cologne. The competition takes place every three years. The competition is organized by the Cologne University for Music and Dance Cologne in cooperation with the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne.

The 2025 competition is open to singers from all nations who will have reached the age of 32 on September 15, 2025.

Admission

The preselection jury will determine the number of participants. To apply for the competition, please submit two video recordings in MP4 format when you register via our online application portal “muvac”. In MP4 format when you apply. The recording must not be older than one year. Music cuts and music editing are not permitted.

The decisions are incontestable, no explanations will be given. The admitted candidates will receive a written confirmation. Applicants from abroad can, if necessary, apply for an entry visa with this confirmation. The selected participants will be notified by July 11, 2025. Will be notified of the acceptance or rejection of their application. The selected participants will then be asked to submit their complete competition program and proof of health insurance and to transfer a registration fee of €100. The registration fee will not be refunded if the candidate is unable to attend or cancels.

Deadline for application

Applicants can register until **June 09, 2025**.

Recognition of terms

The following documents must be submitted via our online application portal “muvac”:

- Two video recordings
- Copy of birth certificate or passport
- Artistic curriculum vitae (continuous text)
- Portrait photo naming the photographer for the program booklet and possible press publications

Applications failing to meet competition requirements may be rejected.

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 price may be split.

Contestants

Contestants will perform in the order determined by lot drawn on September 15, 2025 at 4 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

The submitted competition program is binding. Changes to the order can be submitted at imwk@hfmt-koeln.de by August 11, 2025 at the latest.

Bassists are permitted to transpose their operetta repertoire up to and including the 2nd evaluation round. The transposed sheet music should also be submitted by August 11 at imwk@hfmtkoeln.de.

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 15, 2025.

Prizewinners' concerts

The prizewinners agree to perform at no fee in the prizewinners' concert on September 21, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the Cologne Philharmonic Hall. 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 21, 2025 may be recorded. 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 2025, 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 or social media to promote the prizewinners and 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.