RULES OF THE INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

“FESTIVAL DEBUTS”

An accompanying event of the

4th EASTER FESTIVAL IDEA TIME PLACE

“Beethoven 1827–2027. Music of Freedom and Hope.
Europe and Japan in a Dialogue of Cultures”

Poznań, 22–23 March 2027

White Hall, Bazar Poznański

Principal Organiser: Raczyński Library in Poznań

in cooperation with the Ars Vera Foundation

Artistic Director of the Festival and Competition: Jakub Dera

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The “FESTIVAL DEBUTS” Piano Competition (hereinafter the “Competition”) is an accompanying event of the 4th EASTER FESTIVAL IDEA TIME PLACE, “Beethoven 1827–2027. Music of Freedom and Hope. Europe and Japan in a Dialogue of Cultures”.

2. The 4th EASTER FESTIVAL IDEA TIME PLACE commemorates the bicentenary of the death of Ludwig van Beethoven and the centenary of the founding of Kawai. The Festival programme focuses on the ideals of freedom, hope and cultural dialogue, with particular emphasis on relations between Europe and Japan.

3. The principal organiser of the Competition is the Raczyński Library in Poznań, in cooperation with the Ars Vera Foundation.

4. The Competition will take place on 22–23 March 2027 in the White Hall of the Bazar Poznański in Poznań.

5. The Competition will be preceded by a preliminary selection based on video recordings submitted by applicants.

6. The Competition auditions on 22–23 March 2027 will be open to the public.

7. The Competition auditions will be performed on a Shigeru Kawai concert grand piano.

8. Jakub Dera is the Artistic Director of the 4th EASTER FESTIVAL IDEA TIME PLACE and of the “FESTIVAL DEBUTS” Piano Competition.

II. ELIGIBILITY

1. The Competition is international in scope.

2. The Competition is open to pianists of all nationalities who have not reached their 26th birthday by 23 March 2027.

3. Applicants must meet all requirements set out in these Rules and submit their applications within the specified period.

4. Applicants who are under 18 years of age on the date of application must enclose the consent of a parent or legal guardian to their participation in the Competition.

III. APPLICATIONS AND PRELIMINARY SELECTION

1. Applications will be accepted from 3 November to 21 December 2026.

2. Applications must be submitted using the application form made available by the Organiser.

3. The application must include:

a) the applicant’s personal and contact details;

b) a short biography;

c) a recent photograph;

d) the programme proposed for the Competition auditions in Poznań;

e) a YouTube link to the preliminary-selection recording;

f) proof of payment of the application fee;

g) for minors, consent from a parent or legal guardian;

h) any other documents specified in the application form.

4. An incomplete application or failure to comply with these Rules may result in the applicant not being admitted to preliminary selection.

5. Applications submitted after 21 December 2026 will not be considered.

6. Preliminary selection will be carried out by a jury appointed by the Organiser on the basis of the submitted recordings.

7. By 31 December 2026, the Organiser will publish the list of pianists admitted to the Competition auditions in Poznań.

8. No more than 18 participants may be admitted to the Competition auditions.

9. The jury's decisions concerning preliminary selection are final and not subject to appeal.

IV. VIDEO RECORDING FOR PRELIMINARY SELECTION

1. Each applicant must submit one YouTube link to a recording with a total duration of between 10 and 15 minutes.

2. The repertoire is free-choice and may consist of one or more works.

3. The recording must be a video recording; audio-only recordings will not be accepted.

4. Each individual work or movement must be recorded as an uninterrupted performance, without cuts or editing within that performance.

5. The recording need not have been made specifically for the Competition. Earlier recordings are accepted provided they were made no more than two years before the application deadline.

6. Where several works are submitted, they may come from different recordings made on different dates.

7. Recordings from concerts or other public performances are accepted.

8. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the submitted link works and remains accessible to the jury throughout the preliminary-selection period.

9. Works performed in the preliminary-selection recording may also be performed during the Competition auditions in Poznań.

V. APPLICATION FEE

1. The application fee is PLN 200 or, for participants from outside Poland, EUR 50.

2. All applicants must pay the application fee when submitting their application for preliminary selection.

3. The application fee must be transferred to the following bank account:

Bank: Powiatowy Bank Spółdzielczy w Sokołowie Podlaskim (BPS Group)

Account number (Polish format): 18 9221 0000 0060 0750 2000 0010

IBAN: PL18 9221 0000 0060 0750 2000 0010

SWIFT/BIC: POLUPLPR

Payment reference: “Participant’s full name – Festiwalowe Debiuty Competition – application fee”.

4. Proof of payment of the application fee must be enclosed with the application.

5. All bank charges and transfer fees shall be borne by the applicant.

6. The application fee is non-refundable, except in the event that the Competition is cancelled by the Organiser.

VI. COMPETITION REPERTOIRE

1. The Competition consists of one stage, held on 22–23 March 2027.

2. Each admitted participant must perform a free-choice programme with a total duration not exceeding 30 minutes during the Competition auditions in Poznań.

3. The programme may consist of one or more works.

4. Individual movements of multi-movement works may be performed.

5. All works must be performed from memory, unless the Organiser permits an exception for a particular work.

6. Works may be performed in any order within the submitted programme.

7. The participant must not exceed the maximum performance time of 30 minutes.

8. The Organiser reserves the right to interrupt a performance if the prescribed time limit is exceeded.

9. The Competition repertoire is free-choice. Performing works by Ludwig van Beethoven is not compulsory; however, participants who include such works in their programme are eligible for the prize for the best performance of a work or works by Beethoven.

VII. ORDER OF APPEARANCE

1. The order of appearance will be determined by the Organiser and communicated to participants before the Competition begins.

2. For organisational reasons, the Organiser reserves the right to change the schedule and order of auditions.

3. Participants must report to the Competition venue at the time indicated by the Organiser and present proof of identity.

VIII. JURY

1. The Competition jury is appointed by the Organiser.

2. The jury of the Competition held during the 4th EASTER FESTIVAL IDEA TIME PLACE will include distinguished pianists and teachers, including:

a) Leonora Armellini;

b) Marc Laforêt.

3. The full composition of the jury will be announced publicly by the Organiser.

4. The jury assesses participants' performances and decides on the award of the Grand Prix, prizes and distinctions.

5. A jury member shall not assess a participant where circumstances may cast doubt on their impartiality, in particular where the member is currently the participant's teacher or a close relative.

6. Detailed procedures for the jury's work and voting may be laid down in separate Rules of the Jury.

7. The jury may decide not to award all the prizes or to distribute them differently, provided that the nature of each prize and the conditions imposed by its sponsor permit this.

8. The jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

IX. MASTERCLASSES

1. Following the Competition auditions, masterclasses led by Marc Laforêt and Leonora Armellini will be held in the historic building of the Raczyński Library in Poznań.

2. No more than 10 Competition participants will be selected for the masterclasses after the Competition auditions have concluded.

3. Selection for the masterclasses will be decided by the Competition jury.

4. The names of those selected for the masterclasses will be announced after the Competition auditions.

5. The detailed masterclass schedule and the allocation of participants to individual teachers will be determined by the Organiser and communicated to those selected.

6. Decisions concerning admission to the masterclasses are final and not subject to appeal.

X. LAUREATES' CONCERT AND AWARDS CEREMONY

1. On 24 March 2027, the Laureates' Concert of the "FESTIVAL DEBUTS" Piano Competition, combined with the official presentation of prizes and distinctions, will take place in the White Hall of the Bazar Poznański.

2. Participants designated by the Competition jury will perform in the Laureates' Concert.

3. The programme of the Laureates' Concert will be determined by the Organiser in consultation with the jury and performers.

4. Prizewinners and recipients of distinctions are required to attend the awards ceremony and, if selected, to perform in the Laureates' Concert.

XI. PRIZES

1. The Competition jury may award the Grand Prix as well as other prizes and distinctions provided by the Organiser.

2. The Grand Prix consists of an invitation to perform a piano recital at the 5th EASTER FESTIVAL IDEA TIME PLACE, for which the laureate will receive a performance fee of PLN 6,000.

3. Prizes may also include participation in the Kawai Master Piano Academy programme.

4. The Kawai Master Piano Academy prize includes participation in a course led by a distinguished pianist or teacher, comprising:

a) four lessons during the course;

b) accommodation for the duration of the course;

c) full board for the duration of the course.

5. The following special prizes are also envisaged:

a) Prize for the Best Performance of a Work or Works by Ludwig van Beethoven;

b) Prize of the Artistic Director of the Festival and Competition;

c) Prize of the Director of the Raczyński Library in Poznań;

d) Prize of the Director of Kawai Poland, in the form of an invitation to perform a concert.

6. The detailed nature, number and manner of awarding the special prizes may be announced publicly before the Competition begins.

7. The jury may decide not to award all prizes if, in its opinion, the artistic standard of the participants does not justify doing so.

8. The jury may award prizes ex aequo, provided that the nature of the prize and the conditions imposed by its sponsor permit this.

9. The jury's decisions concerning the Grand Prix, prizes and distinctions are final and not subject to appeal.

XII. INSTRUMENTS, REHEARSALS AND PRACTICE FACILITIES

1. The Competition auditions will be held on a Shigeru Kawai concert grand piano.

2. The Organiser will provide participants with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the Competition instrument before their performance, according to a designated schedule.

3. Subject to organisational availability, instruments will be made available to participants for practice.

4. Detailed information concerning rehearsals and practice facilities will be provided to admitted participants before the Competition begins.

XIII. RECORDING AND IMAGE RIGHTS

1. By applying to the Competition, applicants acknowledge and accept that the auditions and related events may be photographed and audio- or video-recorded by the Organiser or entities acting on its behalf.

2. Participants authorise the Organiser, to the extent necessary for the documentation, promotion and dissemination of the Competition and Festival, to record and publish their artistic performances, image and statements recorded in connection with the Competition.

3. The detailed scope of authorisations and rights granted may be specified in the application form or a separate participant declaration.

XIV. PERSONAL DATA

1. Applicants' and participants' personal data will be processed in accordance with applicable data-protection law, in particular Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR).

2. Detailed information on the data controller, the legal basis and purposes of processing, the retention period and the rights of data subjects will be provided in a privacy notice accompanying the application form.

XV. FINAL PROVISIONS

1. Submission of an application constitutes acceptance of these Rules.

2. Participants must comply with these Rules, the Competition schedule and organisational instructions issued by persons acting on behalf of the Organiser.

3. The Organiser may disqualify a participant in the event of a serious breach of these Rules or the Competition’s organisational requirements.

4. In matters not covered by these Rules, decisions shall be made by the Organiser, without prejudice to matters within the jurisdiction of the jury.

5. The Organiser reserves the right to amend these Rules for important organisational or legal reasons. Amendments will be published in a manner that enables applicants and participants to become acquainted with them.

6. Information about the Competition, the application form, preliminary-selection results and other announcements will be published on the websites and information channels designated by the Organiser.