

International Masterclass & Competition for Opera Singers with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra

REGULATIONS

1. Eligibility Criteria

Eligible participants are all individuals born between **1 January 1990 and 25 September 2008**.

Applicants must hold a diploma or degree from a recognised educational institution or school in Cyprus or abroad, or be currently enrolled in a recognised educational institution or school in Cyprus or abroad.

2. Dates and Venues of the Masterclass & Competition

- **20 September 2026**
Masterclass with piano
Venue: Music Academy ARTE
- **21 September 2026**
1st Round with piano
Venue: Music Academy ARTE, Nicosia
- **22–23 September 2026**
2nd Round with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra
Venue: Theatre Pallás
- **24 September 2026**
Final with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra – selection of finalists
Venue: Theatre Pallás, Nicosia
- **25 September 2026**
Competition Concert with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra
Venue: Theatre Pallás, Nicosia

Note: Applicants selected to participate in the Masterclass and Competition will be informed in due time of the exact schedule.

3. Application Fee

For both active and passive participants: **€50**

Note: The fee must be deposited into the Foundation's bank account together with the submission of the application.

4. Participation Fees

Active Participants: €800

Active participants are those selected to receive tuition during the Masterclass and to participate in the Competition process.

Passive Participants: €200

Passive participants are entitled to attend the Masterclass and the Competition process without participation or any form of coaching.

The participation fee must be deposited into the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation's bank account by **31 August 2026**.

Successful active participants will be notified by **25 July 2026**.

Failure to pay the required fee on time will result in the cancellation of the application.

In the event that the Foundation cancels the Masterclass and Competition for any reason, the registration and participation fees will be refunded to applicants (both active and passive participants).

5. Masterclass & Competition Procedure

5.1 Following the evaluation of applications and audiovisual material, applicants selected for active participation in the Masterclass and Competition will be notified.

5.2 Auditions will take place in two rounds (First Round & Second Round), as stated in the official announcement. After the First Round, the Examination Committee will compile and publish a list of successful candidates who will proceed to the Second Round, which will consist of rehearsals with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra.

6. Competition Prizes

- **1st Prize:** €8,000
- **2nd Prize:** €3,000
- **Cypriot Artist Award**

The 1st and 2nd Prizes may be awarded either to graduates or to students (as scholarships).

Additionally, all three prizes include engagements within the two following artistic seasons of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, as well as an invitation for inclusion in the programme of the Cultural and Conference Centre of Heraklion.

Note: A participant may not receive more than one prize.

7. Jury

7.1 The jury will consist of five members: the Artistic Director, Kyros Patsalides, the conductor of the concert, the Leader of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, and another principal musician of the Orchestra.

7.2 The jury's decision shall be final and not subject to dispute, revision, or appeal.

7.3 The jury reserves the right to disqualify one or more participants who are unjustifiably absent during the Masterclass and Competition.

7.4 The jury reserves the right not to award any prize.

8. Jury Evaluation Criteria

The jury will take the following into consideration:

- Intonation accuracy
- Rhythmic precision
- Stylistic interpretation
- Adherence to the composer's instructions (dynamics, tempo, and other markings in the score)
- Musicality
- Collaboration with the conductor and Masterclass instructor
- Collaboration with the concert conductor
- Collaboration with the orchestra

9. Travel – Transport – Accommodation

9.1 Applicants not residing in Cyprus are responsible for all personal expenses required for participation.

9.2 The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation (C.S.O.F.), its staff, or any other persons involved in the organisation or evaluation of the Masterclass and Competition shall not be responsible for covering or compensating applicants for any incurred expenses.

10. Piano Accompaniment

10.1 The Foundation will provide a pianist during the Masterclass.

11. General Provisions

11.1 In case of non-compliance with the terms of the audition or interference with the process, the jury reserves the right to disqualify a candidate.

11.2 Failure to accept the terms of the auditions will result in automatic disqualification.

11.3 The C.S.O.F. reserves the right to amend the regulations, informing candidates accordingly if deemed necessary.

11.4 Acceptance of the Regulations must be signed by the candidate and submitted via email to a.antoniou@cyso.org.cy together with the rest of the application documents by **22 July 2026 at 14:00 (Cyprus time)**.

Candidate Declaration

I, the undersigned

(Full name of candidate in capital letters)

hereby declare that I have read, understood, and accepted the present document containing the regulations of the Masterclass and Competition.

I am an **active / passive participant** (please underline as applicable).

Date: / / 2026

Signature: