

Rules

I

1. The 33rd International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition for Children and Youth (henceforth referred to as “Competition”) is organized by the Chopin Centre in Szafarnia (henceforth referred to as “Organiser”), a cultural institution of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship.
2. The Competition will be held at the Chopin Centre in Szafarnia, on **27–31 May 2026**.
3. The Chairwoman of the Jury will be professor Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń.
4. The Jury will comprise renowned musicians from Poland and abroad.
5. All Competition rounds will be open to the public and will take place at the Chopin Centre’s Concert Hall in Szafarnia. The event will be broadcast online via YouTube.

II

1. The Competition is open to pianist of music schools born in the years 2009-2017 (or younger), who will participate in three age categories:
 - a) I group – for those born in 2016, 2017, 2018 or younger;
 - b) II group – for those born in 2013, 2014, 2015;
 - c) III group – for those born in 2010, 2011, 2012.
2. The amount of competitors is limited to 55.
3. Winners of the first prize from previous Competitions may not participate in the current Competition in the same age category.
4. Students of jurors may not participate in the Competition.

III

1. In order to participate in the Competition the candidate should complete and send via the website the application form within the deadline.
2. The application form should be completed in Polish or English.
3. The application form is available on the website <https://szafarnia.art.pl/application-form/>
Candidates should prepare the following documents in order to effectively complete the form:
 - a precise description of the repertoire performed during the Competition; the pieces should be listed in the order of performance;
 - one recent portrait photo, vertical, in high resolution 300-1200 dpi, which will be included in the Competition Catalogue;
 - photocopies of diplomas of received awards;
 - a short artistic resume (presenting previous concert experience, participation in other competitions, awards etc.);
 - a reference letter written by a teacher;
 - link to a video recording uploaded on YouTube containing one piece from the contestant’s programme performed by the candidate (**the video image must show the pianist’s handwork, filmed with one camera without cuts during the performance of a piece**);

- confirmation of payment of the recruitment fee (the fee is PLN 50 or EUR 10 and is non-refundable). The fee should be paid to the Center's account:
IBAN: PL 04 1020 5024 0000 1002 0042 0828
PKO Bank Polski
Kod BIC (SWIFT): BPKOPLPW
Recipient:
Ośrodek Chopinowski w Szafarni
Szafarnia 1
87-404 Radomin
POLAND
Transfer title: *Recruitment fee, candidate's name and surname.*
- 4. The deadline for online application is **March 6, 2026 at 23:59 UTC+1**. Applications submitted after that time will not be accepted.
- 5. Incomplete applications will be discarded.
- 6. After correctly sending the complete application, the website server will send an automatic message confirming the acceptance of the application for the Competition.. In the event that confirmation is not obtained, it is necessary to contact the Organiser.
- 7. The confirmation e-mail does not mean qualifying to the Competition.
- 8. Individuals who qualify for the Competition will be decided by the Competition Committee.
- 9. After the Committee's reviews of the written applications, the list of people qualified to participate in the Competition will be made public by announcement on the Center's website by **March 27, 2026**.
- 10. Further details will be sent via e-mail by **April 10, 2026**.
- 11. After qualifying for the Competition, the participant is obliged to pay the entry fee in the amount of PLN 200 or EUR 50 to the Centre's bank account:
IBAN: PL 04 1020 5024 0000 1002 0042 0828
PKO Bank Polski
Kod BIC (SWIFT): BPKOPLPW
Recipient:
Ośrodek Chopinowski w Szafarni
Szafarnia 1
87-404 Radomin
POLAND
Transfer title: *Konkurs, participant's full name.*
- 12. The deadline for paying the registration fee is **April 10, 2026**.
- 13. The entry fee is non-refundable.
- 14. The organizer envisages a reserve list to qualify for the Competition, in the case of resignation of any of the 55 qualified participants. Qualifying decisions will be announced by **April 11, 2026**.
- 15. The Organiser reserves the right to confirm or deny the acceptance to the Competition without explanation.
- 16. The decisions of the Committee are final and cannot be appealed.

17. The candidate's submission of Competition application will be tantamount to the candidate's acceptance of Rules of the Competition.
18. All correspondence relating to the participation in the Competition should be completed in English or Polish language.

IV

1. The dates of the auditions will be published on Organiser's website.
2. Participants in their individual age categories will perform in an alphabetical order starting from a letter drawn by the Committee.
3. The Organiser provides participants with the opportunity to practice at the Chopin Centre in Szafarnia at the appointed time on the day of the audition and a short piano rehearsal in the Concert Hall of the Chopin Centre. The participants will be notified of the date and time of their rehearsal, performance, and practice schedule along with e-mail confirmation of their acceptance to the Competition.
4. The Organiser reserves the right to change the order of performances.
5. Participants are required to show up to their place of audition no later than two hours prior to their scheduled audition time and register at the Competition Office.
6. During registration at the Competition Office, participants are obliged to present a valid document confirming their date of birth: passport or ID card.
7. The Organiser offers participants the opportunity of additional piano practice in the following music schools:
 - Publiczna Szkoła Muzyczna I stopnia w Golubiu-Dobrzyniu (PTTK 28, 87-400 Golub-Dobrzyń, muzyczna@golub-dobzyn.com.pl, tel. 535 353 977);
 - Zespół Szkół Muzycznych in Toruń (Szosa Chełmińska 224/226 Toruń, a.nowakowska@zsm.torun.pl) – the Organiser covers the costs of 2-hour practice a day for each participant; the costs of next hours of additional practice should be covered by the participants;
 - Publiczna Szkoła Muzyczna I stopnia w Kowalewie Pomorskim (Odrodzenia 7, 87- 410 Kowalewo Pomorskie, sekretariat@muzyczna-kowalewo.pl, tel. 697 227 528);
 - Państwowa Szkoła Muzyczna I stopnia im. Fryderyka Chopina w Brodnicy (Stanisława Wyspiańskiego 11, sekretariat@psmbrodnica.pl, tel. 56 498 60 66).

The participants should book the dates of additional practice on their own by contacting the chosen school personally.
8. All costs associated with participation in the Competition ie. travel, accommodations, food are the responsibility of the participant.
9. Competition participants must arrange their accommodations on their own.
10. The Organiser provides a lunch for the participant and one guardian on the day of the audition in the Chopin Centre in Szafarnia.
11. The Organizer provides a free transportation from Toruń and Golub-Dobrzyń to the Chopin Centre and back from two arranged locations:
 - Toruń: CKK Jordanki, Aleja Solidarności 1-3;
 - Golub-Dobrzyń: Starostwo Powiatowe, Plac 1000-lecia 25;

at an appointed time depending on the time auditions begin.

V

1. Obligatory Competition Repertoire:

Age Group I:

1. J. S. Bach – one piece of the participant's choice. *
2. F. Chopin – one piece of the participant's choice.
3. A piece of a virtuosic style.

* In the case of a Suite or a Partita chosen it is necessary to perform only one movement.

* In the case of Prelude and Fugue chosen from the *Das Wohltemperierte Klavier* it is necessary to perform both compositions together.

The maximum time of performance is 12 minutes.

Age Group II:

1. J. S. Bach – one piece of the participant's choice *
2. F. Chopin – Mazurka of the participant's choice.
3. F. Chopin – one piece of the participant's choice.
4. A piece of a virtuosic style.

* In the case of a Suite or a Partita chosen it is necessary to perform only one movement.

* In the case of Prelude and Fugue chosen from the *Das Wohltemperierte Klavier* it is necessary to perform both composition together.

The maximum time of performance is 20 minutes.

Age Group III:

1. J. Haydn, W. A. Mozart – allegro sonata of the participant's choice.
2. F. Chopin – Mazurka in A minor op. 17 no. 4 (obligatory piece).
3. F. Chopin – Nocturne of the participant's choice.
4. F. Chopin – one of the following Waltzes:
 - Waltz in E flat major, Op. 18
 - Waltz in A flat major, Op. 34 No. 1
 - Waltz in F major Op. 34 No. 3
 - Waltz in A flat major, Op. 42

The maximum time of performance is 25 minutes.

2. If a participant exceeds the time limit, the Jury may interrupt the performance.
3. All pieces are to be performed from memory.
4. It is necessary to perform each piece in the order entered in the application form.
5. The participant has the right to change the audition programme (including the order of the audition programme) by informing the Organiser until **April 10, 2026** by e-mail. Changes after that date will not be allowed.
6. In preparing the Competition programme, all editions of pieces can be used. In case of the compositions of Fryderyk Chopin, it is suggested to use the National Edition edited by prof. Jan Ekier.

VI

1. Monetary prizes:

Age Group I:

1st Prize 2000 €

2nd Prize 1500 €

3rd Prize 1200 €

4th Prize 900 €

5th Prize 800 €

6th Prize 700 €

Age Group II:

1st Prize 2500 €

2nd Prize 2000 €

3rd Prize 1500 €

Age Group III:

1st Prize 3000 €

2nd Prize 2500 €

3rd Prize 2000 €

2. The cash prizes will be transferred to the bank accounts indicated in the application form confirming the participation in the competition after the due tax is deducted:

- in the case of a laureate from Poland - in PLN, converted at the average Euro-PLN exchange rate published by the National Bank of Poland on 01.10.2025;
- in the case of a laureate from outside Poland - in Euro.

For the purposes of accounting records and calculation of income tax due, the amount of prizes is specified in PLN and determined based on the average NBP Euro-PLN exchange rate of 1 October 2025:

Age Group I:

1st Prize 8517 PLN

2nd Prize 6388 PLN

3rd Prize 5110 PLN

4th Prize 3833 PLN

5th Prize 3407 PLN

6th Prize 2981 PLN

Age Group II:

1st Prize 10647 PLN

2nd Prize 8517 PLN

3rd Prize 6388 PLN

Age Group III:

1st Prize 12776 PLN

2nd Prize 10647 PLN

3rd Prize 8517 PLN

3. The Organizer takes no responsibility for any bank fees charged by the laureate's bank and/or third-party banks.
4. The Jury has the right to award additional prizes to the participants:
 - Prize of The Fryderyk Chopin Institute. Concert in Żelazowa Wola;
 - Prize of the Chopin w Ogródzie Sztuk Foundation. Concert in the Chopin Centre in Szafarnia.
 - Prize of the Artist Management Koltun Germany award in the form of a recital:
 - at the festival Salvatorklänge in Aachen, Germany,
 - at the festival Kabelmetal in Windeck, Germany,
 - at the festival Euriade Festival Orphee in Kerkrade, Netherlands,
 - at the festival Eifel Musicale in Monschau, Germany.

Other additional prizes will be presented at the later time.

5. All participants will receive diplomas of participation.
6. There is a possibility that the Jury may decide to award more than one main prize or distinction in each age category.
7. The Competition Jury has the right to change the number and arrangement of the main prize by a majority of 3/5 votes, provided that the total amount allocated for the main prizes may be increased only with the consent of the Chopin Centre Director and that the amount of none of the prizes will be reduced.
8. The Jury may choose to withdraw from awarding prizes, choose not to award additional prizes or make different division of prize money.
9. The Jury may choose the best competitor to receive the Grand Prix Award.
10. Decisions made by the Jury are final and cannot be appealed.

VII

1. Jury members are chosen by the Organiser: the Chopin Centre in Szafarnia.
2. The names of the Jury will be published by **December 31, 2025**.
3. The Jury will follow the rules set by the Organiser.
4. By **June 19, 2026**, the auditioners evaluations in the form of an average score shall be sent to the e-mail addresses of the caretakers indicated in the application form.
5. The decision of the Jury is final and cannot be changed.

VIII

1. The list of laureates and distinctions winners will be announced in alphabetical order after the end of each age group's auditions and published online at www.szafarnia.art.pl.
2. Laureates and distinctions winners of each age group are required to participate in the Prizewinners' Concert as well as related functions without additional remuneration.

3. The concert programme is decided by the Jury.
4. The list of laureates will be officially announced to the general public.
5. The official presentation of the winners of main prizes, special prizes and distinctions will be held during the Prizewinners' Concert in Szafarnia, which will take place **on May 30, 2026**.

IX

1. The Organiser reserves the right to broadcast the Competition on the internet and use the participant's image as well as audio, radio, television recordings and photos taken during the Competition at a location of the Organiser's choosing without additional remuneration for the participant.
2. The Organiser has the right to make decisions related to the competition, which are final and cannot be appealed.
3. All disagreements with the regulations or programme will disallow the participant from participating in the Competition.
4. In the case of any disagreements, the deciding text will be Polish language regulations.
5. All additional information is provided by the Chopin Centre in Szafarnia at the following address:
Ośrodek Chopinowski w Szafarni
Szafarnia 1
87-404 Radomin
Polska – Poland
konkurs@szafarnia.art.pl
Contact:
Polish: 00 48 56 682 79 30, 00 48 538 192 804, 00 48 784 684 945
English: 00 48 538 192 804
6. All current information regarding the Competition will be published on the Competition website at <https://szafarnia.art.pl/piano-competition-2026/>