

1854 - 1885

XXV INTERNATIONAL JULIUSZ ZARĘBSKI MASTER MUSIC COMPETITION 2026

Auditions: KAWAI Music Room Warsaw
Concert of Laureats : Great Hall Royal Castle Warsaw

Our unchanging competitions concept remains to create a musical venue where students, teachers, and musicians, both practitioners and theoreticians, can meet. A forum geared to the exchange of thoughts, views and experiences on children performing music. At the same time our competition does not aspire to 'set or break any records'. Our aim is to promote the love of music for its own sake, in a peaceful and relaxed atmosphere. The whole concept of the competition is geared to giving each and every young musician stage experience. It is also for this reason that we prefer applicants from small, out of the way, often provincial centres. Though we remain committed to seeking and promoting outstanding talent, we would like young artists to treat participation in the competition as a prize in itself. Something that motivates each and every one of them to greater effort and achievement, on the road to finding their own place in the world of music.

RULES OF REGULATIONS

1. BASIC INFORMATION
1.1 Main Organisers: The Juliusz Zarębski Cultural & Education Foundation;
Co-organiser: Łomianki Private Primary Music School.
1.2 Dates and competition venue: December 15 to 18**,** 2026 KAWAI Music Room Warsaw, Poland.

2. ORGANISATION OF COMPETITION
2.1 **Competition sections**:
1) Piano solo;
2) Piano Duet for four hands;
3) Piano Chamber Ensemble (Duet, Trio, Quartet, Quintet with z piano);
4) Violin (possible participation of a professional pianist accompanist without age limit).
2.2. **Competition Category**:
A - born in 2016 and younger: 10 years old
B - born in 2014 and younger: 12 years old
C - born in 2011 and younger: 13 - 15 years old
D - born in 2007 and younger: 16 - 19 years old
E - born in 1996 and before (no age limit).
2.3. Competition auditions will take place as live concert auditions at the KAWAI MUSIC SHOWROOM (KAWAI Showroom), 4 Książęca Street, Warsaw, in alphabetical order according to the following schedule:
15 and 16 December – auditions for the solo piano and four-hand piano duet sections;
17 December – auditions for the violin section;
18 December – auditions for the piano chamber music section;
The organisers reserve the right to change the dates of the auditions in the various categories, depending on the number of entries.
Sound checks will take place in the Concert Hall at the KAWAI MUSIC SHOWROOM, 4 Książęca Street, Warsaw (registration will be required).
2.4. The Winners' Concert will take place in public in the Grand Hall at the Royal Castle in Warsaw on 20 December, starting at 2.00 pm
2.5. All competition elimination performances, including all auditions and the Prizewinners Concert are public performances, however all property rights to the said performances are deemed by all participants to belong to the competition organiser, and pass to the said organiser free of any charge. The organiser reserves the right to photograph, record, and distribute performances as well as make use of the works performed, without time, territorial or any other limits. Including rights to: (a) transcription, by any technique and without copy limits; (b) Trade; (c) Public performance, reproduction, and distribution in the form of compacts discs, video and cassette recordings, or in any other way, or by any other means that the organiser might deem appropriate, without the need to remunerate any participant in any way. Persons or organisations, as deemed appropriate by the competition organiser, may also exercise the above rights.
2.6. **The organiser does not consent to participants recording or photographing the Competition themselves.**
2.7. All competition performances are judged by a Jury. The Jury is composed of eminent musicians, artists and teachers. Jury decisions cannot go to appeal and are final.
2.8. All other matters, meritorious and organisational, falling outside the jury's remit, are subject to the Competition Director's decision, whose decision is final and not subject to appeal.

3. COMPETITION PRIZES
3.1. The first three winners in each instrumental section and category receive the title of laureate.
3.2. A special prize will be awarded to the best performer of a work by Polish composer, Frederic Chopin and to the best performer of a work by Juliusz Zarębski.
3.3. A soloist or team (chamber ensemble or piano duo) with the highest point of view earns a cash prize.
3.4. The Jury reserve the right not to award prizes or to award them *ex aequo*.
3.5. All money and material prizes conferred by both institutions and private individuals, and awarded outside the competition's remit, must be reported to the Competition Secretariat.
3.6. Laureate diplomas and material prizes are only available for collection on the day of the Prizewinners Concert.
3.7. Winners and those receiving honourable mentions who have been selected to take part in the Winners' Concert are required to attend.

3.8. All participants will receive a certificate of participation signed by all members of the Jury in the section.
3.9. Teachers of winners and honourable mentions will receive commemorative certificates.
3.10. For those interested, there is the option of a written summary assessment of the judges or a judge (subject to the judge's consent), prepared by the Organiser for an additional fee. The option to prepare an assessment for a participant is not compulsory for the judge; it is subject solely to the judge's consent.

4. PROGRAMME
Important:
4.1. Participants can apply to compete in higher age categories;
4.2. Each participant must submit photocopies of the programme's sheet music in paper form ('For the Organiser's internal use only') to the Competition Office on the day of the audition. The materials will remain at the Organiser's office.

PIANO SOLO
Note:
You are required to perform the programme from memory.
It is permissible to perform part of the cycle.
Category A (time: up to 10 min)
Two pieces with contrasting styles.
Category B (time: up to 12 min)
1) A piece from the Baroque period.
2) A virtuoso etude or virtuoso piece ;
3) A piece of your choice. Optional: A special prize will be awarded for the performance of one of Juliusz Zarębski's pieces.
Category C (time: up to 15 min)
1) A piece from the Baroque or Classical period.
2) A virtuoso etude or virtuoso piece ;
3) A piece of your choice. Optional: A special prize will be awarded for the performance of one of Juliusz Zarębski's pieces.
Category D (time: up to 18 min)
Free Recital including:
1) A piece of considerable difficulty,
2) A piece from the Baroque or Classical period.
3) optional: a special prize will be awarded for the performance of one of Juliusz Zarębski's pieces.
Category E (time : up to 25 min)
Free Recital including:
a) a piece of considerable difficulty,
b) a piece from the Baroque or Classical period.
c) optional: A special prize will be awarded for the performance of one of Juliusz Zarębski's pieces.

PIANO DUET FOR FOUR HANDS.
Note:
- the programme may be performed from sheet music;
- it is permissible to perform part of the cycle;
Categories A and B (time up to 10 min.)
Free programme choice .
A special prize may be awarded for a performance of Juliusz Zarębski's piano duet for four hands.
Categories C (time up to 12 min.)
Free programme choice including original piece of Classicism or Classicism Period;
A special prize may be awarded for a performance of Juliusz Zarębski's piano duet for four hands.
Categories D(time up to 15 min.)
Free programme choice including original piece of Classicism or Classicism Period;
A special prize may be awarded for a performance of Juliusz Zarębski's piano duet for four hands.
Categories E(time up to 18 min.)
Original piece of Classicism Period;
Original piece of Classicism or Romanticism Period or XX – XXI century.
A special prize may be awarded for a performance of Juliusz Zarębski's piano duet for four hands.

VIOLIN
Note:
- possible participation of a professional pianist accompanist without age limit;
- programme performed from memory (violin with accompaniment), except for chamber ensemble pieces;
- it is permissible to perform part of the cycle.
Category A (up to 10 minutes)
1. several pieces of your choice with contrasting character, performed with a piece from the Baroque era (cycle or part);
Category B (time up to 12 min)
1. a cycle or part of a cyclical work from the Baroque or Classical period (Suite, Partita, Sonata);
2. a virtuoso piece;
3. a piece of your choice.
Category C (time up to 15 min)
1. a cycle or part of a cyclical work from the Baroque or Classical period (Suite, Partita, Sonata);
2. a virtuoso piece;
3. a piece of your choice.
Category D (time up to 25 min)
free recital with a compulsory performance of a piece for solo violin.

CHAMBER PIANO ENSEMBLE (duo, trio, quartet, quintet with piano).
Note:
- the programme may be performed from sheet music,
- it is permissible to perform part of the cycle,
- only original works, no transcriptions or arrangements,
- there is no time limit for performing all parts of Juliusz Zarębski's Quintet.
Category A , B (up to 12 minutes duration).
Free choice.
Category C (up to 15 minutes duration).
free choice. A special prize will be awarded for the performance of one part or the entire cycle of Juliusz Zarębski's Piano Quintet.
Category D (up to 20 minutes duration).
free choice. A special prize will be awarded for the performance of one part or the entire cycle of Juliusz Zarębski's Piano Quintet.

Category E (20 - 25 minutes duration).
free choice.
A special prize may be awarded for the performance of one part or the entire cycle of Juliusz Zarębski's Piano Quintet. There is no time limit for the performance of any of the movements of the Quintet.

5. CONDITIONS
5.1. The Competition is open to participans from Poland and abroad - students of music schools, academy, conservatory, students and university graduates, educating both in public and non-public institutions as well as in private individual form.
5.2. A set of documents to be sent by the candidate (regardless of the section: piano solo, violin, piano duo) by 20 November 2026 Online form available on the Contest website www.zarebskicompetition.eu , which will include the following information about the Candidate:
Here's a set of documents:
1. Application form with the program;
2. Participants photograph (9 x 12 cm) or electronic (JPG, TIF);
3. Birth certificate or any document confirming candidate's date of birth,
(a photocopy or scan is acceptable).
4. Proof of payment "contribution to statutory objectives".
5.3. The amount of the 'contribution towards statutory purposes' is:
a) 50 euro for each soloist in age categories A and B, regardless of the solo instrumental section;
b) 60 euro for each soloist in age categories C, D and E, regardless of the solo instrumental section;
b) 40 euro for each participant in a duet or chamber ensemble.

5.4. Fee should be paid – by electronic transfer or any other appropriate method – to the competition account at:
17 1020 1026 0000 1402 0683 6698
BIC SWIFT: B PKO PL PW
FUNDACJA KULTURY I EDUKACJI IM. JULIKUSZA ZARĘBSKIEGO 05-092 ŁOMIANKI ULICA ŻYWICZNA 26.

Please include the name and surname of the participant or the name of the ensemble with the note " bank transfer for statutory purposes" on the transfer.
5.5. Incomplete documents will not be considered.
5.6. The names of qualifying candidates will be displayed on the competition's Internet web site at: <http://www.zarebskicompetition.eu>.
Fees are non-refundable where a candidate withdraws from the competition, however fees will be returned to candidates who do not qualify for entry.
5.7. The submission of an application is deemed to imply acceptance of the conditions as outlined in the regulations governing this competition.
5.8. Registration of participants takes place on the day the candidate performs.
5.9. Participants are responsible for their own transport, board and accommodation (for further information please refer to our web site).

6. CONTACT Competition secretariat (for correspondence):
Competition Director PhD Lucjusz Pinkosz
Tel. Mobile: (+48) 601 658 020 (12.00 – 16.00 from Monday to Friday)
E-mail: <lucpin@o2.pl>.
website: <www.zarebskicompetition.eu>.

