

INTERNATIONAL CARL LOEWE

VOCAL CONTEST

Academy of Art in Szczecin, 27–29 November 2026

(hereinafter referred to as the “Contest”)

§1

PURPOSE OF THE CONTEST

The purpose of the International Carl Loewe Vocal Contest is to promote the works of Carl Loewe—an outstanding composer, singer, conductor and teacher whose artistic activity was associated with Szczecin for many years. His songs and ballads, which form an important part of Europe’s Romantic musical heritage, occupy a special place in the Contest programme.

Another purpose of the Contest is to promote young vocal talents from Poland and abroad and to support the artistic development of students of second-degree music schools, university students and graduates of vocal faculties. The event enables Participants to present their skills before an eminent Jury, gain stage experience, exchange artistic experience and establish contacts within the music community.

The Contest also promotes Szczecin as a city with rich musical traditions and as an important centre of culture and arts education.

§2 ORGANISER

The Contest is organised by the Faculty of Vocal Music and Acting of the Academy of Art in Szczecin (hereinafter referred to as the “Organiser”), in cooperation with the Stanisław Staszic Pomeranian Library in Szczecin and the Pomeranian Interculture Network Foundation (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Co-organisers”).

§3 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST

1. The Contest is open to students of solo singing classes at second-degree State Music Schools, as well as students and graduates of vocal or vocal-and-acting faculties of music and arts universities in Poland and abroad, born in 1996 or later.
2. To enter the Contest, the following documents, constituting appendices to these Rules and Regulations, must be submitted electronically by **18 October 2026** inclusive to: loewe.konkurs@akademiasztuki.eu:
 - a) the Application Form—in an editable document format (Word) and as a signed scan (PDF);
 - b) consent forms concerning: the use of the Participant’s name and image, the processing of the Participant’s personal data, and the processing of the Accompanist’s personal data;
 - c) in the case of a Minor Participant—the consent of a parent or legal guardian for the Participant to take part in the Contest, together with the required declarations concerning the use of the Participant’s image and the processing of personal data;
 - d) a document confirming status—school students must submit a scan of a document confirming their school-student status, university students a document confirming their student status, and graduates a document confirming completion of their studies;
 - e) a recording comprising all works required for Stage I of the Contest. Each work may be recorded as a separate, uninterrupted performance with piano accompaniment. No cuts, editing, joining of fragments, pitch correction, replacement of the audio track or other interference affecting the assessment of the performance are permitted within a

performed work. Audio and video must be recorded simultaneously, and the recording must allow the Participant to be identified fully and beyond doubt. The recording must be saved in a commonly used format, in particular .mp4, .mov, .avi, .mpeg or .mpg, and made available through a file-transfer service, such as WeTransfer, or by means of a link to a recording uploaded to YouTube. A recording uploaded to YouTube may be unlisted, but it must not be marked as private. The link to the recording or file download must be sent to the Contest email address together with the other application documents. The material must be accessible to the Organiser without logging in, entering a password, obtaining additional consent or requesting access. The Participant must ensure that the link remains active at least until the announcement of the Stage I results. If the link does not work, the material is inaccessible or incomplete, or the technical requirements are not met, the Organiser may request that the Participant remedy the deficiencies within a specified period. Failure to remedy the deficiencies may result in the application being left unconsidered.

f) a photograph of the Participant—a professional portrait or a current ID-style photograph of good visual quality, with a resolution of at least 300 dpi, saved in .eps, .pdf or .jpg format. If the photograph was taken by a photographer, the photographer's full name must be provided. By submitting the photograph, the Participant declares that they hold the relevant copyright or a licence allowing the Organiser to use it for the purposes of conducting and promoting the Contest;

g) proof of payment of the entry fee.

2. Consent to the processing of personal data and the use of one's image is voluntary, but is necessary in order to participate in the Contest and for the Contest to be conducted in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.

3. In the application, the Participant must provide the programme for all stages of the Contest referred to later in these Rules and Regulations.

4. Each Participant may take part in the Contest with an accompanist of their choice or use the services of an accompanist provided by the Organiser (also referred to as the "Contest Pianist").

5. Participants who wish to work with an accompanist provided by the Organiser must attach to their application a complete, good-quality set of sheet music for all submitted works (PDF format) and send it to: loewe.konkurs@akademiasztuki.eu.

6. Participants are required to pay an entry fee of:

PLN 300 for Participants from Poland;

EUR 80 for Participants from abroad.

The entry fee is non-refundable.

The entry fee must be paid by bank transfer to the following account:

69 1130 1176 0022 2159 8920 0001

Payment reference: “Participant’s full name, entry fee, International Carl Loewe Vocal Contest”.

For payments from a foreign bank account:

PL69 1130 1176 0022 2159 8920 0001

7. The list of Participants admitted to Stage II will be published on the Contest website no later than 27 October 2026 at 23:59 Central European Time (CET, UTC+1:00).

8. The performance repertoire may not be changed after the application has been submitted.

9. Incomplete, illegible or late applications may not be considered. The Organiser may request that the Participant remedy formal deficiencies within a specified period. The date of submission is deemed to be the date on which the complete documentation is received at the Organiser’s email address.

10. In the case of a Participant who is under 18 years of age on the date of submitting the application, hereinafter referred to as a “Minor Participant”, the Application Form and the declarations and consents required under these Rules and Regulations must be signed by both the Minor Participant and their parent or legal guardian. The absence of the parent’s or legal guardian’s signature renders the application incomplete.

11. A Minor Participant may take part in the in-person stage of the Contest only if an adult responsible for their supervision during their stay in Szczecin has been designated. This person may be a parent, legal guardian, teacher, educator or another adult authorised in writing by the parent or legal guardian.

12. The full name, telephone number and email address of the person responsible for the Minor Participant must be provided in the Application Form or submitted to the Organiser no later than together with confirmation of the Participant’s attendance at Stage II of the Contest.

13. The Organiser does not provide accommodation, transport or continuous supervision for a Minor Participant. Responsibility for the Minor Participant’s travel, stay in Szczecin and

supervision outside their direct participation in rehearsals, Contest auditions and the Winners' Concert rests with the parent, legal guardian or an adult designated by them.

14. The Organiser's applicable Standards for the Protection of Minors apply to the participation of Minor Participants in the Contest. The parent or legal guardian and the Minor Participant are required to read and comply with those standards.

§4

SCHEDULE AND VENUE OF THE CONTEST

The Contest will be held at Pałac Ziemstwa Pomorskiego, al. Niepodległości 40, 70-404 Szczecin (Concert Hall of the Academy of Art).

a) Rehearsals with the Contest Pianists will take place on 27 November 2026 from 10:00 to 15:30 Central European Time (CET, UTC+1:00). Each Participant will be allocated approximately 30 minutes of rehearsal time with the pianist, including a 10-minute acoustic rehearsal in the Concert Hall.

b) Stage II Contest auditions will take place on 27–28 November 2026 in the Concert Hall of the Academy of Art in Szczecin.

c) The Awards Ceremony and Winners' Concert will take place on 29 November 2026 at 16:00 Central European Time (CET, UTC+1:00) in the Concert Hall.

d) Stage II and the Winners' Concert will be open to the public.

e) The Organiser will provide Participants with access to rooms designated for vocal warm-up and preparation before the Contest audition.

§5

REPERTOIRE

The Contest programme is as follows:

1. Group 1 (students of solo singing classes at second-degree State Music Schools):

- a) Stage I (online)
 - A work by Carl Loewe;

- A Romantic song.

b) Stage II—Concert Hall of the Academy of Art in Szczecin

- A work by Carl Loewe;
- An aria of the Participant's choice (up to 6 minutes).

One work from Stage I may be repeated in Stage II.

All works presented by Participants at every stage of the Contest, both in the qualification recordings and during the in-person auditions, must be performed from memory. The total duration of the programme at each stage may not exceed 15 minutes.

2. Group 2 (students and graduates of vocal or vocal-and-acting faculties of music and arts universities):

a) Stage I (online)

- A work by Carl Loewe;
- A Romantic song;
- An aria of the Participant's choice.

b) Stage II—Concert Hall of the Academy of Art in Szczecin

- A work by Carl Loewe;
- A Romantic song;
- An aria of the Participant's choice (up to 6 minutes).

One work from Stage I may be repeated in Stage II.

All works presented by Participants at every stage of the Contest, both in the qualification recordings and during the in-person auditions, must be performed from memory. The total duration of the programme at each stage may not exceed 20 minutes.

§6

ASSESSMENT OF CONTEST PERFORMANCES

1. Participants' performances during the Contest auditions will be assessed by a Jury appointed by the Co-organisers. The composition of the Jury may differ between stages of the Contest.

For Stage II, the Co-organisers will appoint one of the Jury members to serve as Chair of the Jury.

2. Composition of the Jury:

Stage I (online):

At Stage I of the Contest, Participants' performances will be assessed by the teaching staff of the Faculty of Vocal Music and Acting of the Academy of Art in Szczecin.

Stage II – Concert Hall of the Academy of Art in Szczecin:

1) Prof. Mariusz Kwiecień, PhD (Krzysztof Penderecki Academy of Music in Kraków) – Chair of the Jury;

2) Prof. Bogdan Makal, PhD, Habil. (Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław);

3) Prof. Marek Rzepka, PhD, Habil. (Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media, Germany);

4) Joanna Tylkowska-Drożdż, PhD, Habil., Professor at the Academy of Art in Szczecin (Academy of Art in Szczecin);

5) Jury Member – name to be announced at a later date.

3. The Secretary of the Contest is Janusz Lewandowski, PhD (Academy of Art in Szczecin).

4. At each stage of the Contest, the Jury members independently assess each Participant's performance, awarding between 10 and 25 points. At Stage I, the submitted recordings are assessed.

5. A Participant's result at each stage of the Contest is the arithmetic mean of the points awarded by all Jury members entitled to assess the performance, calculated to two decimal places.

6. The Participants who receive the highest number of points at Stage I will be admitted to Stage II of the Contest. The Jury determines the number of Participants admitted to Stage II, taking into account the artistic standard of the performances and the organisational capacity of the Contest.

7. Points awarded at Stage I are used solely for qualification to Stage II and are not taken into account when determining the final results of the Contest.

8. Prizes and distinctions are awarded on the basis of the results obtained by Participants at Stage II of the Contest and a resolution adopted by the Jury after the Contest auditions have concluded.

9. If two or more Participants receive the same number of points, the Jury determines their ranking by vote. In the event of an equal number of votes, the Chair of the Jury has the casting vote.

10. A Jury member may not assess a Participant who is their current pupil or student, who was under their direct pedagogical supervision during the two years preceding the Contest, who is a member of the Participant's family, or with whom they have a relationship that may raise doubts as to impartiality. In such a case, the Participant's result is calculated on the basis of the points awarded by the remaining Jury members.

11. The Jury's deliberations are confidential. Minutes of the deliberations will be drawn up and signed by the Jury members, including the Chair of the Jury.

12. The Jury's decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.

13. The Jury has the right to:

- a) refrain from awarding a particular prize;
- b) award a prize *ex aequo*;
- c) distribute the prizes differently from the manner specified in these Rules and Regulations, provided that the total prize fund established by the Organiser is not exceeded;
- d) award distinctions and special prizes.

§7

PRIZES

1. The following prizes are envisaged:

a) in Group 1:

First Prize—PLN 4,000;

Second Prize—PLN 2,000;

Third Prize—PLN 1,000;

Distinctions and special prizes.

b) in Group 2:

First Prize—PLN 5,000;

Second Prize—PLN 3,000;

Third Prize—PLN 2,000;

Distinctions and special prizes.

2. The Organiser reserves the right to increase the prize fund.
3. The Organiser and the Co-organisers reserve the right to publicly disclose the personal data (full names) of Participants who receive prizes.
4. Where the value of a prize exceeds PLN 2,000, the Organiser, acting as the tax remitter, will deduct 10% flat-rate income tax.

§8

COPYRIGHT AND IMAGE RIGHTS

1. Upon entering the Contest, the Participant grants, free of charge, consent for the Organiser or persons acting on its behalf to make audio, video and photographic recordings of the Participant's artistic performances, statements, interviews and image during or in connection with the Contest, and to disseminate such recordings—together with the image submitted with the application—for the purposes of conducting, documenting, archiving and promoting the Contest, the Organiser and the Co-organisers, without the need for separate approval on each occasion. The licence includes the right to grant sublicences, in particular to the Co-organisers.
2. Upon entering the Contest, the Participant grants the Organiser and the Co-organisers a free-of-charge, non-exclusive licence, unlimited in time and territory, to use the recordings referred to in paragraph 1, including the recording submitted for Stage I, in the modes of exploitation specified in paragraph 3, together with permission to exercise derivative rights, including the use of the recordings in whole or in part, the making of abridgements, adaptations and translations, and their combination with other works and materials, in particular in promotional and informational materials.
3. A Participant admitted to Stage II transfers to the Organiser, free of charge and on the basis of the written declaration referred to in paragraph 4, all economic rights in the artistic performances of works, statements and interviews recorded during or in

connection with the Contest, including at Stage I, without limitation in time or territory, with the right to further transfer those rights and grant sublicences, in the following modes of exploitation:

- a) with respect to fixation and reproduction—storing in the memory of a computer or other device; producing copies by any technique, including printing, reprographic, magnetic, mechanical, optical or electronic recording, using analogue or digital techniques, in any system or format and on any media, including audio, video and audiovisual media, paper, photosensitive, magnetic and optical media, disks, memory chips and computer storage media; as well as uploading, downloading, digitisation and use in a multimedia work;
- b) with respect to the circulation of copies on which the artistic performances or statements have been fixed—placing the original or copies on the market, lending or renting them;
- c) with respect to dissemination—live transmission, broadcasting, rebroadcasting and playback, as well as making the recording publicly available in such a manner that anyone may access it at a place and time of their choosing, including through streaming technology, on the Internet and in other IT, cable, telecommunications and multimedia networks, on websites and social media platforms (including Facebook and YouTube), via terrestrial stations, satellite, databases, servers or other devices and systems, including those belonging to third parties, in open or closed circulation, using any technique, system or format, with or without the possibility of recording, as well as any public playback, display, performance and exhibition;

together with the exclusive right, unlimited in time and territory, to authorise, including authorising third parties, the exercise of derivative rights, in particular to authorise the disposal and use of adaptations, including modification, abridgement, compilation, combination with other works and translation into other languages.

- 4. The Participant will receive from the Organiser the declaration on the transfer of rights within the scope specified in paragraph 3 together with information on admission to Stage II, and must deliver the declaration, signed by hand, no later than before the commencement of the Stage II auditions. Delivery of the declaration is a condition of admission to the Stage II auditions. Until the rights have been effectively transferred in accordance with paragraph 3, and to the extent that the transfer does not cover particular recordings or modes of exploitation, the Organiser is entitled to use the recordings under the licence referred to in paragraph 2, to the full extent specified therein.
- 5. Recordings disseminated by the Organiser will be identified with the performer's full name in accordance with customary practice; identification is not required where

omission is customary, in particular in abridgements, short excerpts, trailers and promotional materials. Paragraphs 1–4 apply accordingly to the Accompanist.

6. The consents and declarations referred to in paragraphs 1–4 are made by a parent or legal guardian on behalf of a Participant under 13 years of age. A Participant who is at least 13 but under 18 years of age makes them personally with the consent of a parent or legal guardian; the signatures of both the Participant and the parent or legal guardian are required.

§9

FINAL PROVISIONS

1. Providing personal data is voluntary, but is necessary to achieve the stated purposes for which the data are collected and to admit the Participant to the Contest.
2. Matters not governed by these Rules and Regulations are subject to the applicable provisions of Polish law.
3. These Rules and Regulations enter into force on the date of their announcement and will be published on the website of the Academy of Art in Szczecin, pl. Orła Białego 2, 70-562 Szczecin: <https://akademiasztuki.eu/Filter/miedzynarodowy-konkurs-wokalny-im-carla-loewe-sztuka>.
4. The Organiser reserves the right to amend these Rules and Regulations for important reasons.
5. The Organiser reserves the right to suspend the Contest, change its dates or extend its duration if circumstances beyond the Organiser's control arise.
6. If the Contest is cancelled or declared invalid as referred to in paragraph 7 below, the fees paid will be refunded. If a Participant withdraws, fails to attend the Contest or is not admitted for reasons attributable to the Participant, the fees are non-refundable.
7. The Organiser has the right to cancel or declare the Contest invalid for important reasons, in particular reasons beyond the Organiser's control, and has the right not to select a winner.
8. Entering the Contest constitutes confirmation that the Participant has read these Rules and Regulations.

9. Participants take part in the Contest at their own expense or at the expense of the university or institution delegating them.

10. The Organiser does not cover any costs connected with a Participant's participation or with the Participant's use of their own accompanist, including any travel and accommodation costs.

11. Participants admitted to Stage II of the Contest must confirm electronically their intention to attend Stage II by emailing the Organiser no later than 13 November 2026 at: loewe.konkurs@akademiasztuki.eu.

12. Additional information about the International Carl Loewe Vocal Contest is available at: loewe.konkurs@akademiasztuki.eu.