

8th International Haydn Competition for Classical Lied and Aria

May 22 – 24, 2026, Rohrau, Austria

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

In May 2026 Haydnregion Niederösterreich invites young artists to join the International Haydn Competition for Classical Lied and Aria for the eighth time already.

The competition is aimed at young singers worldwide with particular talents and training in the areas of Lied and opera and focuses on the era of Wiener Klassik (Vienna Classical era). It will be publicly announced at music academies, conservatories and the like worldwide.

The competition is open to singers born after January 1st 1993. Repeated participation in the competition is possible once, given that the age limit has not been exceeded. The winners of the 1st prizes are excluded from further participation.

Jury 2026

UNIV. PROF. KS ANGELIKA KIRCHSCHLAGER, Head of Jury

AMMIEL BUSHAKEVITZ, Pianist and Lied expert

JEAN DENES, Theater Basel – Director Opera & Casting

KS ADRIAN ERÖD, Opernstudio der Wiener Staatsoper – Artistic Director

SAMANTHA FARBER, Sonoartists – Managing Director, Vienna

DR. MICHAEL LINSBAUER, Haydnregion Niederösterreich and Serenadenkonzerte
des Landes Niederösterreich – Artistic Director

DAMIÁ CARBONELL NICOLAU, Dutch National Opera Amsterdam – Head of Artistic Affairs

DANIELA SPERING, Carrer and performance coach, Cologne

Repertoire

At least seven Lieder and at least five arias must be prepared for the competition.

The selection of repertory lies within the responsibility of the participant. The pieces are to be performed by heart and in the original language. Participants must submit a binding repertoire list along with their registration. Subsequent changes are not possible.

Lieder:

a choice of seven Lieder from the following composers:

Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven or Ignaz Joseph Pleyel.

Arias:

a choice of five arias from the following composers:

Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Ignaz Joseph Pleyel or Christoph Willibald Gluck.

Timing and procedure:

First Round, Schloss Rohrau

Friday, May 22, 2026, 10.00 a.m.

Second Round, Haydn Geburtshaus

Saturday, May 23, 2026, 10.00 a.m.

Final Round with award ceremony, open to public, Schloss Rohrau

Sunday, May 24, 2026, 06.00 p.m.

1st Round; May 22

The jury will ask for a performance of both Lieder as well as arias from the submitted repertoire list in a total duration of maximum ten minutes. The selection of songs that are to be performed is defined by the jury - at least one work of Joseph or Michael Haydn will be included. Please note that you have to include at least one aria and one song within the respective time limit. If the works exceed the specified time of ten minutes, the jury has the option to break off your presentation.

The result of the first round will be communicated by 07.00 p.m. at a Get Together in the Museum of Haydn's Birthplace close to the venue of the competition – or via e-mail.

2nd Round, May 23

The Jury will ask for a performance of Lieder as well as arias from the submitted repertoire list in a total duration of maximum ten minutes. The jury defines the selection of songs that are to be performed - at least one work of Joseph or Michael Haydn will be included. Works from the first round are not to be repeated. Please note that you have to include at least one aria and one song within the respective time limit. If the works exceed the specified time of ten minutes, the jury has the option to break off your presentation. The results of the second round will be announced by 04.00 p.m. on site or via e-mail.

Final Round with award ceremony, open to public, May 24

First part:

The participant is asked for the performance of one or more Lieder from the submitted repertoire list with a total duration of seven minutes. The order of works for the final round is up to the participant but must be submitted with the online application. Lieder from the first or second round are not to be repeated.

Intermission

Second part:

The participant is asked for the performance of one or more arias composed by Joseph or Michael Haydn with a total duration of about seven minutes from the submitted repertoire list. The order of works for the final round is up to the participant but must be submitted in the online application. Arias from the first or second round are not to be repeated.

Intermission

Award Ceremony

Awards

1 st Prize sponsored by Land Niederösterreich	€ 8.000,–
2 nd Prize sponsored by Haydnregion Niederösterreich	€ 4.000,–
3 rd Prize sponsored by the community of Rohrau	€ 2.000,–
Audience Prize sponsored by Alfred Dorfer	€ 2.000,–
Operr.News-Preis	€ 2.000,–
Prize for the best Lied Interpretation sponsored by Energiepark Bruck/Leitha	€ 1.500,–
Prize for the best Aria Interpretation sponsored by EVN	€ 1.500,–
Joanna & Gene Farber Young Talent Prize sponsored by Samantha Farber	€ 1.000,–
Prize of Mozarthaus Vienna	€ 1.000,–
Klavierland-Schneider-Prize	€ 1.000,–

Guidelines for the presentation of works:

Time limits of 7 and 10 minutes are to be adhered unconditionally.

In the first and second round the jury is entitled to interrupt the musical performance, ask for the repetition of performed works or request performance of an additional work from the repertoire list. In the final round performances will not be interrupted.

Sequence of performances of the participants

– The order of the performances of the participants in the first round will be established by means of a lottery one week ahead of the competition. Participants will be informed via e-mail.

– The order of performances in the second round will be decided by the jury after consultations and will be announced together with the results of the first round via e-mail.

– Together with the announcement of the participants of the finale the order of performances in the finale will be stated. Participants will be notified via e-mail.

Rehearsal rooms

All participants can use rehearsal rooms that are available at the venue of the competition. Detailed information on the rehearsal schedule and their allocation will be given at the registration on site.

Piano accompaniment

Participants can decide to be accompanied either by their own répétiteur or by a member of our team of pianists. A short rehearsal with the répétiteur is set for every day of the competition. The repetition with a pianist of our team is free of charge! Time and venue of rehearsals will be announced at the registration office on site.

Audio and video documentation

Audio and video recordings as well as photographs may be taken at all times of the competition. With their registration all participants agree not to raise any legal claims when this media is used for PR purposes during or after the competition, given the use does not serve any commercial purpose.

Application and preselection

The preselection for participation in the competition will be done by the head of jury based on the submitted documents. A notification of participation will be sent via e-mail by May 11, 2025.

With the submission of their documents, participants agree that their personal data may be passed on to the competition organizers and committee and that their artistic CV and photo will be printed in the competition brochure. By submitting the signed and dated application form, participants confirm that they have read and accept the conditions of the competition.

Online application

Application is possible only via the website www.haydncompetition.com from January 1st, 2026 until April 26, 2026.

Candidates must submit the following:

- scan of the completed and signed registration document
- artistic CV
- copy of birth certificate or identification document (ID)
- two photos in high resolution (300 dpi, 1MB size) – name the photo file with the artist's name
- competition repertoire list
- 2 – 3 live video recordings via weblink

Registration Fee:

€ 55,– (final date for arrival of fee: May 1st, 2026)

The registration fee of € 55 is will not be reimbursed, even if the applicant is not admitted to the first round.

Bank details:

Römerland Carnuntum
Fischamenderstraße 12
2460 Bruck/Leitha
IBAN: AT44 5300 0081 5500 4003
BIC: HYPNATWW
Reference: Haydn Competition 2026

Getting there and away:

Information on transport and accommodation is available on the website www.haydncompetition.com. Arrangements and costs of journey as well as accommodation are the participants' own responsibility.

Venues and contact:

Registration, Rehearsals, 1st and final Round with award ceremony

SCHLOSS ROHRAU

Schloss 1

A-2471 Rohrau

2nd Round and Barbecue

HAYDN-GEBURTSHAUS ROHRAU

Obere Hauptstraße 25

A-2471 Rohrau

Competition office

HAYDNREGION NIEDERÖSTERREICH

c/o Haydn-Geburtshaus Rohrau

Obere Hauptstraße 25

A-2471 Rohrau

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www.haydncompetition.com