**DOLCE CANTARE**

**International Festival-Competition**

**Pop and Jazz Singing**

**REGULATIONS**

**for the conduct of the 1st International Festival-Competition**

**of Pop and Jazz Song "DOLCE CANTARE"**

**1. General Provisions**

1.1. These regulations establish the procedure for conducting the 1st International Festival-Competition of Pop and Jazz Song "DOLCE CANTARE" (hereinafter referred to as the Festival-Competition).

1.2. The founder and main organizer of the International Festival-Competition of Pop and Jazz Song "DOLCE CANTARE" is the "Art for All Times" Foundation for the Support of Culture and Art.

**2. Goals and Objectives of the Festival-Competition**

2.1. Identifying and rewarding the most talented young performers in Russia and abroad.

2.2. Contributing to the development of pop and jazz art, strengthening, and expanding creative contacts, and improving professional skills.

2.3. Identifying young talented musicians capable of carrying forward the best traditions of pop and jazz schools among the new generation of professional performers.

2.4. Assisting talented young musicians in realizing their creative potential, providing recommendations for admission to top music educational institutions, participation in concerts, and international festivals.

**3. Participant Requirements**

**3.1. Participants** of the Festival-Competition can be students and graduates of music educational institutions, vocal studios, and schools.

**3.2. Nominations of the Festival-Competition:**

3.2.1. "Solo Performance":

– Pop vocals;

– Jazz vocals.

3.2.2. "Ensembles and Orchestras":

– Instrumental ensembles and big bands with a vocalist soloist;

– Vocal ensembles.

3.2.3. "Composition and Arrangement."

**Special prizes for the best performance:**

3.2.4. Original song in the native language.

3.2.5. Original song in Russian.

3.2.6. Song in Italian.

3.2.7. Best music video for an original song.

3.2.8. Best live recording.

3.2.9. Best sound design.

**3.3. Age categories:**

– Younger age category (A) – from 7 to 11 years old (at the time of application);

– Middle age category (B) – from 12 to 15 years old (at the time of application);

– First senior age category (C) – from 16 to 19 years old (at the time of application);

– Second senior age category (D) – from 20 to 25 years old (at the time of application).

**3.4. Program Requirements:**

3.4.1. The competition consists of two rounds:

– The First-Round program must include two diverse pieces.

– The Second-Round program consists of one piece in the native language and another piece in Italian.

– If a participant competes in the "jazz vocals" category, the performed pieces for the competition program (both first and second rounds) must be jazz: jazz standards, original compositions, works by Russian and foreign authors in jazz arrangements, folk pieces in jazz arrangements.

3.4.2. The performance duration should not exceed:

– 10 minutes for solo performers.

– 15 minutes for ensembles and orchestras.

3.4.3. Video Recording Requirements:

– Video recordings of the competition pieces should be made no earlier than January 1, 2023.

– Each performed piece should be submitted as a separate recording, including the participant's name, title of the piece, and its authors.

– Lip-syncing to pre-recorded backing tracks is not allowed.

– In the "jazz vocals" category, only live performances with live accompaniment are permitted. Performances with pre-recorded accompaniment or backing tracks are not allowed.

– Files embedded in emails or uploaded to cloud file-sharing platforms (such as Yandex, Google Drive, Mail, etc.) will not be considered by the organizing committee. Only links to videos uploaded on YouTube will be accepted.

**4. Organization and Conduct of the Festival-Competition**

**4.1. The competition auditions take place in two stages:**

4.1.1. The First Qualifying Round of the Festival-Competition takes place from September 15, 2023, to October 25, 2023, in an online format. The jury reviews and remotely evaluates video recordings of participants' performances uploaded on the YouTube platform (videos and applications must be submitted by 23:59 on October 25, 2023). Based on the jury's evaluations, participants for the second round are selected.

4.1.2. After the publication of the list of contenders who have advanced to the second round, participants will receive an email containing a payment receipt for the second round.

4.1.3. The Second Stage (also in an online format) takes place from November 1 to December 10, 2023. The jury reviews and remotely evaluates video recordings of participants' performances uploaded on YouTube (videos and applications must be submitted by 23:59 on December 10, 2023). Based on the evaluations of both the first and second rounds, the jury determines the winners and diploma recipients of the competition.

4.1.4. As part of the Festival-Competition, a series of masterclasses on pop and jazz vocals will be conducted by performers and educators. Information about the masterclasses will be available on the Festival-Competition website. Participants can sign up for masterclasses through the Festival's Organizing Committee.

4.1.5. Professional coaches specializing in English and Italian languages will be available during the Festival-Competition. Information about these coaches will also be available on the Festival-Competition website. Participants can sign up for language lessons through the Festival's Organizing Committee.

4.1.6. The competition results will be announced no later than December 23, 2023.

4.1.7. The Gala Concert of the Festival will feature performances by the competition's laureates. The concert will take place in **January 2024**. The date and location of the concert and award ceremony will be announced no later than November 1, 2023.

**4.2. To participate in the Festival-Competition**, participants must submit an electronic APPLICATION to the Organizing Committee, including:

– Full name, age, city, and country of the participant.

– Nomination **in both in native language and English.**

– Performance program details, including authors' names in both in native language and English, piece titles in both in native language and English, and duration.

– Contact information: email address, participant's (parents' or teacher's) phone number, full name, and educational institution's full name.

The application form should be downloaded, filled out, saved, and sent to the Festival-Competition Organizing Committee along with the AGREEMENT on personal data processing.

**Filled-out applications and video links should be sent to the email address**: dolcecantarefest@gmail.com.

4.2.1. The SUBJECT of the email should contain the **participant's Last Name and First Name,** as well as the NOMINATION.

4.2.2. Materials received after the specified dates (October 25, 2023, for the First Round, and December 10, 2023, for the Second Round) and incomplete application data will not be considered.

4.2.3. Within three days of sending the application, the participant should receive an acknowledgment email with a payment receipt to the provided email address. The organizational fee for participation in the First Round is 30 euros for solo performers and 50 euros for ensembles and groups.

4.2.4. Payment of the organizational fee for the participant's second-round participation is possible only after the publication of the list of participants advancing to the second round. The organizational fee for the Second Round is 60 euros for solo performers and 80 euros for ensembles and groups.

4.2.4. Incorrectly filled-out applications and emails with incorrectly formatted subject lines will not be accepted.

4.2.5. By submitting the application, the participant confirms agreement with the Festival-Competition's regulations.

**4.3. All expenses related to the travel of Gala Concert participants to Moscow and back,** as well as accommodation and meals in Moscow, are covered by the participants themselves or their sending party.

– If a laureate/diploma recipient residing in another city or abroad cannot attend the award ceremony, the diplomas and certificates will be mailed to them.

4.4. A professional accompanying trio (double bass, piano, drums) is provided only for out-of-town soloists participating in the Gala Concert of the jazz category. Participants must apply in advance. Music sheets readable by all trio musicians should be provided by January 5 and brought to rehearsals.

**5. Evaluation and Awarding of Participants**

5.1. A jury is formed to **evaluate the competition** performances, consisting of prominent Russian and international producers, festival directors, educators in pop and jazz vocals from leading music institutions, performers, and specialists in the field of pop and jazz music.

5.1.1. The recordings of the contenders are evaluated on a 10-point scale.

5.1.2. When assigning scores, the jury follows these criteria:

– Complexity of the repertoire.

– Pitch accuracy and vocal control.

– Rhythmic and breathing mastery.

– Suitability of the repertoire to the participant's age, vocal range, and technical abilities.

– Artistic level and emotional presentation.

– Faithful rendition of the style of the performed pieces.

**5.2 Following the conclusion of the second stage of the competition auditions, the jury awards diplomas to laureates of the I, II, and III prizes, as well as the title of "Diploma Recipient." The jury also selects participants for the Festival Concerts.**

**5.3 The highest award of the Festival-Competition is the Grand Prix.**

**5.4 The jury may award diplomas of the same degree to multiple participants.**

**5.5 The jury has the authority to award special diplomas of the Festival-Competition (e.g., for the best original composition, for the best arrangement).**

**5.6 The decisions of the jury are final and not subject to review.**

5.7 **The Gala Concert and award ceremony for the winners of the Festival-Competition will take place in January 2024.** The exact date and venue of the Concert and award ceremony will be announced no later than November 1, 2023.