

REGULATIONS

Alexandru Fărcaș International Voice Competition

23–27 September 2026, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

1. Eligibility

The competition is open to undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students enrolled in higher music education institutions, aged between **18 and 30 years**, having reached this age **by 27 September 2026**.

Graduates of the 2025–2026 academic year are eligible to participate, provided they comply with the age limit specified in these Regulations.

Candidates admitted to Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral programmes for the 2026–2027 academic year are also eligible to participate.

The repertoire must be performed from memory and is selected by the competitor.

Repertoire:

Round I (Preliminary Round):

– One opera or operetta aria from the Romanian or international repertoire (video recording: YouTube link).

Recording requirements:

- Piano or orchestral accompaniment;
- Recorded in 2025 or 2026;
- No audio or video editing;
- Fixed camera angle, single camera;
- Studio recordings or recordings made with a mobile phone are accepted.

Round II (Live Round):

- Two opera or operetta arias (different from the one performed in Round I);
- One lied from the Romanian repertoire (by Romanian composers, in one of the following languages: Romanian, Hungarian, English, German, Italian or French). Examples of lied may be downloaded from the following link:

2. Registration

Registration is completed by filling in the online form (link:) no later than **9 August 2026, 23:59**. No application fee is charged for Stage I.

3. Round I – Preliminary Selection (Online)

Period: **10–17 August 2026**

The jury will evaluate the YouTube link containing the video recording of the arias submitted by the contestants.

Evaluation will be made on a **Pass / Fail basis**.

The results will be announced by e-mail and published on the official Competition website: <https://acaf.ro/en/concurs/>

The participation fee for Stage II (live) is:

400 RON / 80 EURO, payable to one of the following accounts:

- RON: RO21BTRLRONCRT0674578601
- EURO: RO68BTRLEURCRT0674578601

!!! The confirmation of participation in Stage II (Live Round) must be sent by 23 August 2026 to contact@acaf.ro and must include:

- proof of payment of the participation fee;
- proof of accommodation payment (if accommodation was requested in the application form);
- the titles of the two opera or operetta arias and the Romanian art song (lied) selected by the candidate for Stage II, together with the corresponding sheet music in PDF format.

Candidates who have confirmed their participation will receive, by e-mail, no later than 1 September 2026, the title of the aria selected by the Jury, which they will perform in Stage II.

Information: contact@acaf.ro

4. Round II – Live Competition

23 September 2026, 17:00

- Official opening and drawing of the performance order.

24–25 September 2026, 10:00

- Live competition rounds, held in the Academicum Amphitheatre (3rd Floor) of the Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music, Cluj-Napoca.

Two works, selected by the jury from the three submitted, will be performed:

- One aria;
- One Romanian lied (optionally transposed to a comfortable vocal range).

Public access is free, subject to seating availability.

5. Laureates' Gala

27 September 2026, 10:00 – Final rehearsal

27 September 2026, 19:00 – Laureates' Gala

Héritage Hall, Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music

All laureates will participate in the Gala Concert.

The jury will determine the works to be performed from among those presented in the competition.

6. Accompaniment, Accommodation, Programme

Upon request, the organisers may provide official accompanists free of charge.

Upon request, accommodation (for a fee) may be arranged in student residence facilities.

Rate: 200 RON / 40 EURO per person for the entire duration of the competition, 23–28 September 2026

Accommodation fees shall be paid into the following accounts:

RON – RO09BTRL01301202919656XX CUI 4722471

EURO – RO43BTRL0130420291965603 CUI 4722471

Transportation is not provided by the organisers.

The schedule declared in the registration form is **final**.

Failure to appear at the scheduled time results in **disqualification**.

7. Jury

The evaluation will be carried out by a jury composed of prominent figures from Romanian and international musical life, chaired by mezzo-soprano **Ruxandra Donose**.

(The full composition of the jury will be published on the website **www.acaf.ro**)

In the event that a competitor is a student of a jury member, the evaluation will be conducted by the alternate jury member.

8. Evaluation Criteria

- Vocal qualities (timbre, technique);
- Phrasing, intonation, diction;
- Stage presence and expressiveness;
- Cohesion of the voice–accompaniment relationship.

Scoring is from **5 to 10**.

The jury's decisions are **final and not subject to appeal**.

9. Prizes

Grand Prize “Alexandru Fărcaș” – €5000

First Prize – €3500

Second Prize – €2500

Third Prize – €1500

3 Special Prizes – €1000 (including for Romanian lied)

5 Honourable Mentions – €500

- **A role in the 2026–2027 season of the Romanian National Opera Craiova – the “Elena Teodorini” Prize**
- **A role in the 2026–2027 season of the Hungarian Opera of Cluj-Napoca – the “Éva László” Prize**

N.B. In duly justified cases, the jury reserves the right to increase the number of prizes.

10. Final Provisions

By registering, competitors:

- Accept the present regulations;
- Acknowledge the authority of the jury;
- Agree to the processing of personal data;
- Grant the organizers the rights to record and broadcast audio-video materials produced within the framework of the competition.

Geani Brad, ACAF President



Ina Hudea, ACAF Vice President



Petre Burcă, ACAF Executive Director

