

PARTICIPATION RULES

on the open international a cappella singing contest “Moscow A Cappella” 2024

I. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1.1 This document defines the conditions, procedures for organizing and holding the “Moscow A Cappella” open international a cappella singing contest (hereinafter referred to as the Contest) within the framework of the International A Cappella Music Festival (hereinafter referred to as the Festival) as specified by the approved Festival Concept.

1.2 The Contest is set up by the Moscow City Government.

The Contest organizer is the City of Moscow Department of Trade and Services, on behalf of which the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Moscow City Congress and Exhibition Bureau» (“Congressno-vystavochnoye byuro goroda Moskvyy” known by its acronym in Russian) (hereinafter referred to as the Contest Organiser) acts.

The ‘Moscow Fairs’ State Budgetary Institution (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Moscow Fairs’) State Budgetary Institution takes part in all activities related to preparing and running the Contest.

The Competition Organiser is entitled to engage other third parties to participate in implementing activities related to preparing and running the Contest in accordance with contracts under civil law.

1.3 The Contest is open. Information about it is published on the official Competition website: www.acappella.moscow.

1.4. Contact information:

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II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONTEST

- 1) To develop and strengthen interregional and international relations in the field of culture and art;
- 2) To popularize a cappella singing as a performing art.

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTEST PARTICIPANTS:

3.1 Small vocal groups (up to 3 persons) using additional sound equipment (devices with Live looping function), a cappella choirs, vocal ensembles (hereinafter referred to as 'creative teams') from Russia and other countries may enter the Contest.

3.2 The creative teams that have expressed a desire to participate in the Contest must have been performing as singers for at least one year prior to the date of the Contest.

3.3 Members of creative teams must be at least 18 years of age.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR PERFORMED MUSIC WORKS

4.1 Creative teams wishing to enter the Contest must have a repertoire of non-repeatable musical works with a total duration of 20 to 30 minutes.

4.2 The Contest Programme of a creative team may include works of various styles and genres of music, including:

- 1) jazz;
- 2) soul;
- 3) rock;
- 4) pop;
- 5) blues;
- 6) gospel;
- 7) etno-folk;
- 8) folk songs in original arrangements;
- 9) popular songs by Russian and foreign composers of the 20th century;

10) a cappella arrangements of classical instrumental works;

11) other musical genres and styles.

4.3 Performed works shall not contain profanity.

Performances by creative teams admitted to the main round of the Contest must comply with moral and ethical norms and rules.

V. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORKING GROUP AND PROFESSIONAL CONTEST JURY

5.1 In order to ensure the coordination of activities related to the preparation and running of the Contest, and to promptly resolve any issues, the Contest Organiser shall create a Working Group of approved personnel.

5.2 The Working Group shall include representatives of the Contest Organiser, as well as other persons and representatives of organizations as decided by the Contest Organiser.

5.3 The Working Group:

1) coordinates activities for the preparation

and running of the Contest, summarizing its results;

2) organizes the acceptance, registration and selection of applications to participate in the Contest;

3) provides information support and coverage of the Contest on the official website of the Contest and in mass media;

4) ensures the work of the professional Contest Jury;

5) exercise other powers in accordance with the Rules herein.

5.4 The professional Contest Jury (hereinafter referred to as the Jury) consists of leading opera soloists, Russian and foreign pop music stars, including youth trends, honoured figures of culture and art, representatives of Russian production companies.

The composition of the Contest Jury is determined by the Festival Concept.

5.5 The Jury:

1) judges the performances of creative teams in the main round of the Contest in accordance with the procedure established by these rules;

- 2) summarizes the results of the Contest, determines the winner of the Grand Prix Award and the winners of the Contest;
- 3) guarantees maximum objectivity and impartiality in determining the Contest's results;
- 4) in the course of its activities has the right to withdraw a creative group from the Contest, and notify the Contest Organiser thereof.

VI. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST

6.1 Applications to participate in the Contest (hereinafter referred to as the Application) shall be submitted from 15 May 2024 by completing the form on the official website of the Contest.

Acceptance of applications closes at 6 p.m. Moscow time on 15 July 2024.

6.2 Applications may be submitted in either Russian or English.

6.3 The following documents and materials must be attached to each application:

6.3.1. Information about the applying creative group including a mandatory description of the history of its formation, existing regalia and achievements, a list of concerts and dates of performances within one year prior to the date of the Contest (from 500 to 1,500 characters with spaces);

6.3.2 Colour photographs in digital format with a resolution of at least 300 dpi, including one close-up photograph suitable for publication, submitted as a web link;

6.3.3 A detailed description of the proposed Contest programme, including the list of works, their authors and the performance duration for the main round of the Contest;

6.3.4. An unedited video recording of a sample performance of the Contest Programme up to five minutes in length, which must be dated in the year of the Contest and submitted in AVI format as a web link on Youtube, Rutube, Vimeo or VKontakte. The video recording must be made with one fixed camera without interruption during the performance of one piece and must show all performers in full height.

6.3.5 Consent from creative teams to participate in special projects, promotional events and PR-activities organized during the Contest period, and outside the Contest programme.

VII. CONTEST PROCEDURE

7.1 The Contest consists of a qualifying (absentee) and main round.

7.2 The qualifying (absentee) round of the Contest.

7.2.1 The qualifying (absentee) round of the Contest shall last from 15th to 25th July 2024 inclusive.

7.2.2 The qualifying (absentee) round consists of the review and evaluation by the Working Group with the involvement of music industry experts in composition, as decided by the Contest Organiser, of the video recordings specified in section 6.3. of this document, according to the criteria established in section 7.2 of this document, as well as the study of the documents and materials attached to the creative teams' applications for their compliance with the requirements established by the rules.

7.2.3 The evaluation of the creative teams' performances in the qualifying (absentee) round of the Contest shall be carried out using a zero to ten points system for each of the following criteria (except for subparagraph 1 of this section):

- 1) compliance of the application and accompanying documents and materials with the requirements set out in Section 6 of these rules;
- 2) complexity of the performed repertoire;
- 3) professional level of performing skills;
- 4) artistry (emotionality of performance, etc.).

The detection of non-compliance in the application and associated documents and materials with the requirements established in Section 6 of the rules shall be grounds for refusal to admit a creative group to the main round of the Contest. In addition, upon the Working Group's proposal, by the decision of the Contest Organiser, admission to the main round of the Contest may be refused if there are reasons to believe that further participation of the creative team in the Contest may be associated with violations of moral and ethical norms and rules.

7.2.4 The results of the qualifying (absentee) round of the Contest shall be determined on the basis of the total points scored by each creative group according to the criteria established in section 7.2.3 of these rules.

Taking into account the total points scored, no more than the number of creative teams specified below, falling under the requirements for the categories of participants established by section 7.3.3 of these rules, shall be allowed to participate in the main round of the Contest:

50 (fifty) creative teams falling under the requirements of the first category of Contest participants;

30 (thirty) creative teams falling under the requirements of the second category of Contest participants;

100 (one hundred) creative teams falling under the requirements of the third category of Contest participants;

50 (fifty) creative teams falling under the requirements of the fourth category of Contest participants.

7.2.5 The decision on admission to the main round of the Contest shall be formalized in the protocol released at a meeting of the Working Group.

7.2.6 The Working Group shall notify the creative teams of their admission to the main round of the Contest no later than 25th July 2024.

7.3 The main round of the Contest.

7.3.1 The main round of the Contest will take place in Moscow from 23rd August to 1st September 2024 inclusive.

7.3.2 The main round of the Contest shall be attended by creative teams that have successfully passed the qualifying (absentee) round of the Contest.

7.3.3 Participants in the main round of the Contest are divided into four categories: First category - from 1 to 3 people (using additional sound equipment (devices with Live looping function);

Second category - from 2 to 4 people;

Third category - from 5 to 8 people;

Fourth category - from 9 to 35 people.

7.3.4 The competition programme for participation in the main round of the Contest shall be formed by a creative team in agreement with the Working Group up until 25 July 2024.

7.3.5 The date, time and places of performances by creative teams (hereinafter referred to as the performance schedule) in the main round of the Contest shall be determined by the Working Group in accordance with the Festival Concept.

Information about this shall be posted on the official Contest website no later than 16 August 2024.

7.3.6 Performances by creative teams in the main round of the Contest will be held from 23rd to 31th August 2024 in open areas of the central streets of Moscow, in

squares, on administrative building balconies, festival district venues defined by the Festival Concept (hereinafter - Contest venues).

7.3.7 The schedule of performances in the main round of the Contest shall be communicated by the Working Group to the creative teams.

7.3.8. The Working Group has the right to change the performance schedule in exceptional cases (due to illness among members of the creative teams or other unforeseen organizational circumstances) and will notify the Contest Organiser accordingly.

7.3.9 Each creative team shall perform for at least three competition days in the main round of the Contest, at least three times daily at different contest venues within the set number of competition days.

7.3.10. The performances by each creative team shall be recorded on video and in photographs.

An organization authorized by the Contest Organiser shall be responsible for photographic and video recordings of the performances by creative teams.

7.3.11. At least two musical compositions by a creative team at no fewer than three performances within the main round of the Contest must be videotaped.

Photographic and video material shall be sent to the Working Group within 12 hours of each performance in accordance with established procedures.

The curator of each Contest venue shall:

- ensure that the performances by creative teams are photographed and that the photographic material is sent to the Working Group;
- supervise the video recording of each performance by the creative teams and the submission of video material to the Working Group.

The requirements for video recording are contained in section 6.3.4 of these rules, except for the requirements for timing. In addition, the video recording must include the audience.

7.3.12. Members of creative teams and their representatives may not contact any member of the Jury during their participation in the Contest. Any violation of this requirement is grounds for the elimination of the creative team from the Contest.

VIII. PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING THE GRAND PRIX PRIZE AND DETERMINING THE WINNERS AND PRIZE-WINNERS OF THE CONTEST

8.1 Based on the results of the Contest, the Jury shall determine the winner of the Grand Prix Award and the winners of the Contest, who take first, second and third places in each of the four categories as specified in section 7.3.3 of these rules (hereinafter referred to as the Contest Laureates), as well as the winners of the Audience Award.

8.2 The winner of the Grand Prix Award shall be determined by the decision of the Jury, taking into account the results of the audience voting.

In the event of the Jury's choice and the results of the audience voting not coinciding when determining the Grand Prix Award winner, the Chairman of the Jury shall have the decisive casting vote.

8.3 The winners of the Contest, who take First, Second and Third places in each of the four categories specified in section 7.3.3 of these rules, shall be determined by the decision of the Jury.

The Jury has the right to determine no more than three Contest winners, who take First, Second and Third places in each of the four categories specified in section 7.3.3 of these rules.

8.4 During the main round of the Contest, the Jury members shall carry out their activities both at Contest venues and remotely using internet telecommunication channels as a necessary condition for information and exchange of documents.

8.5 Performances by creative groups in the main round of the Contest shall be evaluated by the Jury using a zero to ten points system for each of the following criteria:

- 1) complexity of the repertoire selected for performance in the main round of the Contest;
- 2) professional level of performing skills demonstrated in the main round of the Contest;
- 3) artistry (emotionality of performance, etc.);
- 4) staging of the performance and the quality of additional expressive means used (use of costumes, props, choreography elements, etc.);
- 5) general impression of the performance (commonly known as the 'wow-factor') (the personal perception of the performance by members of the Jury).

When deciding on the Contest laureates, Jury members may additionally use the video materials specified in section 7.3.11 of these rules.

8.6 The results of the evaluation of performances by creative groups based on the results of the main round of the Contest shall be recorded by each member of the Jury on the form according to Appendix 1 to these rules.

Jury members, who perform their activities in the main round of the Contest remotely, may send their forms through electronic means to the Working Group no later than the day preceding the day of the official announcement of the Contest results.

Within the period specified in the second paragraph of this clause of these rules, Jury members who carried out their activities during the main round of the Contest while at the Contest venues shall submit their forms to the Working Group.

8.7 The final decision of the Jury on determining the Contest laureates shall be made according to the total points scored by each creative group according to the criteria established in clause 8.5 of these rules, taking into account the results of the audience voting in the case defined in clause 8.2 of these rules.

8.8 The Jury's decision on the results of the Contest shall be formalized in a final protocol, formed according to the combined submissions by all Jury members as specified in clause 8.6 of these rules, and signed by the Jury Chairman.

The Jury's decision on the Contest results shall be final and not subject to revision or appeal.

8.9 The audience voting shall evaluate the performances of the creative teams that took place directly at the Contest venues.

8.10. The Working Group shall ensure the creation of conditions for audience voting on the official Contest website no later than the day preceding the day of the main round of the Contest commencing.

8.11. Citizens of Russia and other countries of the world may take part in the audience vote.

8.12. Creative team members may participate in the audience voting however, Creative team members may not cast votes for the creative teams of which they are members.

8.13. Creative groups that are not among the Contest laureates, but have received the highest number of votes as a result of audience voting, are awarded the Audience Award.

The list of creative groups - winners of the Audience Award shall be reflected in the final protocol of the Jury on the final Contest results.

8.14. The final Contest results shall be published by the Working Group on the official Contest website.

8.15. The Contest results shall be announced at a Gala Concert, the date, time and venue of which shall be announced separately.

IX. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE CONTEST

9.1 Financial expenses related to organizing and running the Contest, as well as the formation of the prize fund shall be borne by the Contest Organiser.

9.2 The Contest Organiser shall bear the costs, including those for:

- 1) creation of technical requirements for the Contest;
- 2) payment of prizes and awards to the Contest laureates, winners of the Audience Choice Award, as well as payment of personal income tax for the Contest laureates and the Audience Choice Award winners.

9.3 The payment of prizes in the amounts specified in clauses 10.3 to 10.5 of these rules shall be made in roubles by non-cash transfer to a settlement account specified by the Contest laureates and Audience Award winners. If the Contest laureate and/or Audience Award winners is a creative team from a foreign country, payment of the relevant prize shall be made in roubles, euros or US dollars at the prevailing exchange rate of VTB BANK (PJSC) on the date of payment.

9.4 If the expenses payable under clause 9.1 are incurred in the currency of a foreign state, they shall be reimbursed in roubles, Euros or US dollars at the prevailing exchange rate of VTB BANK (PJSC) on the date of payment.

X. PRIZES AND AWARDS

10.1 The Contest prize fund is formed by the Contest Organiser based on the provisions of the second paragraph of clause 8.3 and clauses 10.3 to 10.5 of these rules.

10.2 The Grand Prix Award winner, as well as other Contest winners, who took First, Second and Third places in each of the four categories specified in section 7.3.3 of these rules, are awarded the title of Contest laureates, diplomas and prizes.

10.3 The amount of the Grand Prix Prize shall be 10,000,000 (Ten million) roubles, 00 kopecks.

10.4 The amount of the prizes for the Contest winners who take First, Second and third places in each of the four categories specified in section 7.3.3 of these Rules shall be:

FIRST prize - 3,000,000 (Three million) roubles, 00 kopecks each;

SECOND Prize - 2,000,000 (Two million) roubles, 00 kopecks each;

THIRD Prize - 1,000,000 (One million) roubles, 00 kopecks each.

10.5 The amount of the Audience Award shall be 500,000 (Five hundred thousand) roubles, 00 kopecks each.

XI. FINAL REGULATIONS

11.1 All Contest winners (winners of the Grand Prix Award, as well as all prize-winners, First, Second and Third place winners in each of the four categories and Audience Award winners) undertake to make at least three publications within 365 calendar days in their social networks most widespread in the participating countries with information about the Contest. The publications must be published at least one calendar month apart.

11.4 The Contest Organiser reserves the right to change these rules, as well as to cancel or suspend the Contest at any time without prior notice to the participants in the event of confirmation of the occurrence of force majeure circumstances in accordance with established procedures.