



Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia  
**JĀZEPS MEDIŅŠ RIGA SECONDARY MUSIC SCHOOL**

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Riga

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**Ainars Šablovskis\***

The Principal of Jāzeps Mediņš Riga Secondary Music School

**IMANTS KOKARS 5TH INTERNATIONAL  
COMPETITION**

**FOR YOUNG CHOIR CONDUCTORS**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## I ORGANISER OF THE COMPETITION

1. The competition is organised by the Jāzeps Mediņš Riga Secondary Music School, registration number 90000053454, in cooperation with the Jāzeps Mediņš Riga Secondary Music School Support Society, registration number 40008313078, address: Stabu iela 10 k-4, Riga, LV-1010.
2. General contact information of the competition: e - mail: [kokara.konkurss@jrmv.lv](mailto:kokara.konkurss@jrmv.lv), telephone: +371 28352203, website: <https://jrmv.lv/lv/konkursi/imanta-kokara-5-starptautiskais-jauno-kordirigentu-konkurss/>.
3. Contacts of the competition Steering Committee: Artistic Director **Vilhelms Vācietis**, telephone: +371 26221168, e-mail: [vilhelms.vacietis@gmail.com](mailto:vilhelms.vacietis@gmail.com), Head of the Competition Steering Committee **Reinis Maurītis**, telephone: +371 26538465, e-mail: [reinis.mauritis@jrmv.lv](mailto:reinis.mauritis@jrmv.lv), executive manager **Anita Alksne**, telephone: +371 29164555, e-mail: [anita.alksne@jrmv.lv](mailto:anita.alksne@jrmv.lv).

## II AIM OF THE COMPETITION

1. The Imants Kokars 5th International Competition for Young Choir Conductors is dedicated to the outstanding Latvian choir conductor, teacher and principal conductor of the Latvian National Song Festival – Imants Kokars.
2. The aim of the competition is to promote the professional growth of young choir conductors, giving young conductors the opportunity to gain practical experience working with high-level choirs, as well as to compete on an international level.

## III PARTICIPANTS AND SCHEDULE

1. The competition is open to students of Latvian and foreign professional secondary music education institutions and vocational secondary music education institutions.
2. The competition will take place in Riga from March 27th to 29th, 2025.
3. **The competition consists of three (3) rounds with a video pre-selection round.**
  - 3.1. **Video pre-selection round:** the number of participants is not limited. Participants are not divided into age groups.
  - 3.2. **Round I:** a maximum of 20 candidates will be chosen on the basis of pre-jury selection.
  - 3.3. **Round II:** a maximum of 12 candidates will be chosen.
  - 3.4. **Round III – finale:** a maximum of 5 candidates will be chosen.
4. Location of the competition:

- 4.1. **Round I** and **Round II** of the competition take place in the Jazeps Medins Riga Music Secondary School's *Concert Hall*.
- 4.2. **Round III – finale** takes place in the Kokari Brothers Concert Hall of the Mezaparks Grand Stage (Ostas prospekts 11, LV-1034, Riga).
5. During the competition, the participant may communicate with the ensemble in English or Latvian.

## IV COMPETITION PROGRAMME

### Video pre-selection round

1. In the video pre-selection round, the participant conducts two various works of free choice, total duration – maximum 10 minutes.
  - 1.1. The participant conducts either a choir or piano(s) (with accompanist(s))
  - 1.2. The participant conducts without score (by heart)
  - 1.3. The submitted video of the pre-selection round must not be older than 2 years.
  - 1.4. The video is filmed so that the front part of the contestant's body is facing the camera with the contestant being seen in full height. The video is filmed with a static camera; the location and position of the camera must not be changed during the video recording. The video must not be edited or otherwise enhanced.

### Rounds I, II and III

2. **Round I** is held in two parts: conducting with a piano and work with the *Riga Project Choir*.
  - 2.1. Repertoire of Round I
    - **Part 1 – conducting with a piano accompanist.** The participant conducts one of the works from the repertoire of Round I by choice:

Round I Optional works of Round I
1. Jāzeps Vītols <i>Dūkņu sils</i>
2. Džonatans Davs (Jonathan Dove) <i>In beauty may I walk</i>
3. Pēteris Barisons <i>Zilie sapņu kalni</i>
4. Knuts Nīsteds (Knut Nystedt) <i>Credo no Missa Brevis</i>

- **Part 2 - work with a choir** (total performance time 10 minutes). The participant conducts the *Conducting Etude* by composer **Līva Blūma** (participants will receive the score of the piece by e-mail by January 14th, 2025) without rehearsal, and works with the composition from the competition repertoire drawn by lots:

Round I Part 2 Compositions drawn by lots
1. Mārgēris Zariņš <i>Dancoj` gosti</i> 2. Bruno Skulte <i>Sapņu zeme</i> 3. Oļģerts Grāvītis <i>Jauna gaita</i>

- 2.2. The order of performance in the first round is determined by drawing lots and stays unchanged in both parts of the first round.
3. In the **Round II** of the competition, the participants work with the mixed choir of Jāzeps Mediņš Riga Secondary Music School (performance time – 15 minutes). Each participant works with the piece from the contest repertoire drawn by lots.
- 3.1. Round II repertoire:

Round II Compositions drawn by lots
1. Arturs Maskats <i>Zelta</i> 2. Helmers Pavasars <i>Jāapsnieg</i> 3. Romuald Twardowski <i>Alleluia</i> 4. Emīls Dārziņš <i>Sapņu tālumā</i>

- 3.2. The order of the performance and the selected composition is determined by drawing lots after announcing the results of Round I.
4. **Round III** is held in two parts:  
 Part 1 - work with the Riga Chamber Choir *Ave Sol*;  
 Part 2 - concert performance with the Riga Chamber Choir *Ave Sol*.
- 4.1. Round III rules:
- **Part 1 - work with a choir** (total performance time 10 minutes). Each participant chooses one piece from Round I Part 2 repertoire and draws by lots one piece from Round II Part 2 repertoire to work on with the choir.

- **Part 2 - a concert performance.** Each participant conducts the chosen piece from the Round I Part 2 repertoire and the piece drawn by lots from the Round II Part 2 repertoire.

4.2. The order of the performance and the composition are determined out by drawing lots after announcing the results of the Round II.

4.3. The participant informs the Organiser of his or her choice of repertoire for Round III by sending an e-mail to [kokara.konkurss@jrmv.lv](mailto:kokara.konkurss@jrmv.lv) after the Round II results are announced, before the end of that day.

4.4. The Organiser reserves the right to change the Round III Part 2 – concert performance with The Riga Chamber Choir *Ave Sol* – performance order to provide the highest artistic value of the concert.

## V JURY RULES

1. The pre-selection round is evaluated by a local jury approved by the Organiser.
2. Rounds I, II, and III are evaluated by an international jury of five (5) members.
3. In all three rounds, the jury evaluates participants according to pre-defined criteria, each on a scale of 4 points with degrees of 0.5 points. Each criteria is assigned a specific proportion of the total score. The cumulative score of all criterias in each round form 100%.
4. 4-point scale definitions:

Low level	Sufficient level	Average level	High level
1 point	1,5 – 2 points	2,5 – 3 points	3,5 – 4 points

4.1. In conducting with piano accompanist and concert performance, the jury evaluates participants according to the following criteria (C):

- C1 artistic performance – 35% proportion;
- C2 conducting technique – 35% proportion;
- C3 contact with the accompanist/choir– 15% proportion;
- C4 compliance of interpretation with the score – 10% proportion;
- C5 natural expression of conductor’s performance – 5% proportion.

4.2. In working with a choir, the Jury evaluates participants according to the following criteria:

- C6 artistic performance – 20 % proportion;
- C7 conducting technique – 20% proportion;
- C8 choirmaster’s work – identification of intonation and articulation problems and their resolution – 15% proportion;
- C9 choirmaster’s work - execution of the work’s rhythms and tempi – 10 % proportion;
- C10 choirmaster’s work - development of the choir’s vocal performance and ensemble singing - 10% proportion;

- C11 choirmaster`s work - contact and communication with the choir – 20% proportion;
  - C12 use of professional language - 5% proportion.
5. The final score of each round is calculated by adding together the cumulative scores of each jury member and dividing by the total number of jury members. Results are announced in points: 100 percent equals 100 points.
  6. The jury advances participants to the next round by adding up the results of each of the earlier rounds of the competition (excluding the pre-selection round).
  7. Winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize shall receive the titles of competition laureates and awards. Other participants shall receive diplomas for participation.
  8. The decision of the jury is final and irrevocable.

## VI APPLICATION

1. To apply, an application form must be sent via <https://forms.office.com/e/NkdhbR9V5b> that includes the following information: the link to uploaded videos via *Youtube*, *Vimeo* or a similar platform; a portrait photo; a short artistic biography; and a certificate from the applicant`s educational institution. Application must be sent by **November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.
  - 1.1. The application form must have a link to an online platform with the participant`s uploaded portrait photo (high quality photo with neutral background – at least 3MB of size), short artistic biography (up to 1000 characters), and certificate from the educational institution that the participant is a student of this educational institution (Latvian or English);
  - 1.2. The pre-selection video must be uploaded via video platform. The subject or description of the video must have the following information: Name Surname, composer, and the title of the composition;
  - 1.3. Participation in the pre-selection round is free of charge.
2. The results of the pre-selection round will be announced on the competition website [www.jmrmv.lv](http://www.jmrmv.lv) on or before **November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.
3. The jury of the pre-selection round can compile a reserve list of participants.
4. Applicants selected to take part in the competition will have to pay the participation fee in the amount of 50 EUR. The participation fee must be paid on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, via bank transfer to the account of the Support Society:
  - 4.1. Jāzepa Mediņa Rīgas Mūzikas vidusskolas atbalsta biedrība  
Registration number: 40008313078  
AS *Swedbank*, SWIFT: HABALV22  
Account nr.: LV33HABA0551052242750
  - 4.2. In the event that the participant requires an invoice, please contact [reinis.mauritis@jmrmv.lv](mailto:reinis.mauritis@jmrmv.lv); the e-mail subject must say– *Imants Kokars competition*.

5. The organizer shall inform the participants about the availability of the scores via the e-mail shown in the application form.

## **VII FINAL PROVISIONS**

1. By sending the application form, applicants consent to all paragraphs in the Rules & Regulations.
2. By applying for the competition, the participants give the rights to the organizers to record video and/or audio materials, and/or take photos of the procedure of the competition, and to use the name(s) and surname(s) of the competitors, as well as recorded materials in an unlimited capacity for non-commercial purposes.
3. All expenses related to the competition (participation fee, transportation, accommodation, etc.) shall be covered by the participant.
4. In case of resignation from participation in the competition, the competition fee is not refunded.
5. All disagreements and disputes that may arise during the implementation of the regulations are resolved through mutual negotiations. In case an agreement cannot be reached, the dispute shall be settled in the relevant court following the procedure stipulated by the normative acts in force in the Republic of Latvia.