**Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria**

**Municipality of Varna**

**Association "School Board of National School of Arts "Dobri Hristov""**

**National School of Arts "Dobri Hristov" – Varna, Bulgaria**

**and "Mila Mihaylova" Foundation**

# ANNOUNCE

# The IX International Piano Competition

# "MILA MIHAYLOVA"

## November 13-16, 2026

## COMPETITION RULES

The IX Piano Competition dedicated to Mila Mihaylova, a prominent piano pedagogue and co-founder of the National School of Arts "Dobri Hristov"– Varna, will be held between 13 and 16 November, 2026 in Varna, Bulgaria.

The Competition is open to pianists of all nationalities, aged 14 to 18 in the 2026 calendar year (born between 01.01.2008 and 31.12.2012).

The competition is divided into two categories:

**1. Piano solo**

**2. Piano duo**

First prize winners from previous editions of the Competition are not eligible to participate in the current edition of the Competition.

### Application

All applicants to the Competition must submit:

1. Application form duly completed

2. Proof of payment (scanned) of the Application fee of:

- 30 euro for each individual contestant;

- 30 euro for each Piano duo ensemble.

In case of participation in both categories (Piano solo and Piano duo) the contestant pays only 1 fee – 30 euros for each individual contestant.

3. Copy of an official note from the School the candidate attends, certifying which grade he/she is in during the school year 2026/2027.

4. Short biographical note

5. One current photograph (min. 300x500 pixels, .JPEG – format)

All documents are to be sent to e-mail: **mmcompetition@hotmail.com.**

The Participation fees are to be paid to the following bank account:

**"School Board of National School of Arts "Dobri Hristov""**

**IBAN: BG53UNCR70001523721870**

**SWIFT (BIC): UNCRBGSF**

**UniCredit Bulbank**

**The name of the candidate is entered in the field "a reason for the bank transfer".**
All fees are nonrefundable.

**Application deadline: October 24, 2026**

All applicants will be notified by October 31, 2026 whether or not they have been accepted.

The schedule of the Competition will be announced on the competition-website by November 3, 2026.

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# COMPETITION PROGRAMME

## Piano solo

### I round

1. One piece from the Baroque or Classical repertoire

2. One piece by French composer max. duration: 15 min.

## II round:

1. One romantic piece

2. One Bulgarian or contemporary (20-21 century) piece max. duration: 20 min.

## Piano duo

3 pieces (for 1 piano by 4 hands or 2 pianos) chosen from different styles and time periods.

max. duration: 25 min.

All the repertoire must be played from memory, except in Piano duo category.

Every participant may choose the order of pieces he/she plays.

The order of the participants' Competition performances will be drawn in public by a specially appointed commission.

# PRIZES

During the Competition the following prizes will be awarded:

## Piano solo

1st prize – 400 euro

2nd prize – 350 euro

3rd prize – 300 euro

## Piano duo

1st prize – 350 euro

2nd prize – 300 euro

3rd prize – 250 euro

**Prize for the best performance of a French piece.**

**Radio Varna Prize – professional audio-recording in a studio of Radio Varna.**

**Prize of the Shumen Symphony Orchestra – concert performance of a Piano Concerto together with the Shumen Symphony Orchestra.**

## Jury

The Competition's Jury will consist of nationally and internationally acclaimed musicians.

The Jury has the right to not award all announced prizes and may award other additional prizes.

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

## Other regulations

By entering the competition, registrants automatically agree to accept and abide by these rules and regulations.

The Competition reserves the right to produce and distribute, without restriction or fee, all audio- and video-recordings of the entire Competition or parts thereof.

Competitors are responsible for their own travel arrangements and expenses, as well as for their accommodation in Varna.

Practice facilities in the building of the National School of Arts "Dobri Hristov" – Varna will be provided for all the competitors.

In case of any doubt or discrepancy, the Bulgarian version of these Regulations will be relevant.

## For additional information:

National School of Arts "Dobri Hristov" – Varna

34, Stefan Karadzha Str.

Varna 9002

Phone: +359 52 620719, +359 52 620725, +359 896 928009 (mobile)

### E-mail:

mmcompetition@hotmail.com

### Competition's website:

https://mm.artschool-varna.com