



RULES

of the 4th Mieczysław Karłowicz International Composers' Competition

I ORGANIZERS

1. The organizer of the 4th Mieczysław Karłowicz International Composers' Competition (hereinafter referred to as the "Competition") is the Society of Authors ZAiKS with its registered office in Warsaw at ul. Hipoteczna 2, 00-092 Warsaw.
2. The Competition is co-organized by the Mieczysław Karłowicz Philharmonic in Szczecin, ul. Małopolska 48, 70-515 Szczecin.

II GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Competition is open to all composers.
2. Participation in the Competition constitutes acceptance of the provisions set out in these Rules.
3. Only original works that have not been previously published, performed, or awarded in other competitions may be submitted to the Competition.
4. Composers of all nationalities and of any age may participate in the Competition.

III THEME

1. The subject of the Competition is **a composition for symphony orchestra with a duration of 9 to 12 minutes** (hereinafter also referred to as the "Work").
2. The work may refer to the output, artistic attitude and the biographical context of Mieczyslaw Karłowicz. More information about the patron is provided in **Appendix 1** to these Rules.
3. The maximum permitted instrumentation of the orchestra is:
3 fl (3rd muta in picc.), 3 ob (3rd muta in cr.i.), 3 cl (3rd muta in cl.b.), 3 fg (3rd muta in cfg);
4 cr, 3 tr, 3 tn, 1 tb; 1 timp + 3 batt; 1 ar; 1 pft; 12 vn I, 10 vn II, 10 vlc, 8 vc, 6 cb.
4. A detailed list of available percussion instruments is provided in **Appendix 2** to these Rules.
5. It is recommended that the full orchestra size be used.
6. The use of solo voices, tape, or live electronics is not permitted.
7. Works that do not meet the conditions set out in the Rules will not be considered.

IV SUBMITTING WORKS

1. **The score of the Work (PDF format)** should be submitted anonymously and marked with an alphanumeric code (nickname).
2. The score should contain the following information: alphanumeric code, title of the Work, duration, exact composition of the orchestra, and any additional performance notes.
3. Scores containing personal data or other marks enabling identification of the author will be disqualified.
4. The work must be submitted via the dedicated website at: www.karlowiczcompetition.pl
5. During submission, it is necessary to fill out an online registration form containing, among others, the following information:
 - a) the title of the Work,

- b) the alphanumeric code (nickname),
 - c) the composer's first and last name,
 - d) year of birth of the composer,
 - e) nationality,
 - f) e-mail address,
 - g) phone number,
 - h) mailing address.
6. **A biographical note about the composer (in PDF format) in English** should be attached to the submission.
7. The Work may be submitted **between 23 February 2026 and 31 August 2026** (until 23:59).
8. After the deadline specified in section 6, it will no longer be possible to submit the Work.
9. If more than one composition is submitted, each should be marked with a separate alphanumeric code and submitted separately.
10. **No entry fee is charged** for submitting a Work.

V COURSE OF THE COMPETITION, JURY

1. The Competition will be held in two stages.
2. The Works submitted to the Competition will be evaluated by a Jury appointed by the Organizers, and information about the composition of the Jury for the first stage and the final will be published on the Competition's dedicated website **www.karlowiczcompetition.pl** after 1 June 2026.
3. In the first stage, the Jury will select **5 compositions** to participate in the final stage of the Competition.
4. The results of the first stage of the Competition will be announced **by 28 September 2026**.
5. Composers of Works selected for the final stage of the Competition are required to provide a complete set of professionally prepared sheet music for the orchestra in electronic form

(PDF files) **by 27 October 2026** to the following e-mail address:

contact@karlowiczcompetition.pl

6. The Jury may qualify a different number of compositions to participate in the final round of the Competition.
7. The final of the Competition will take place **on 27 November 2026** at the Mieczysław Karłowicz Philharmonic in Szczecin.
8. The compositions selected in the first stage will be premiered by **the Mieczysław Karłowicz Philharmonic Orchestra in Szczecin, conducted by Szymon Bywalec**.
9. After the concert of world premieres (in the first part of the concert), the Jury will determine the final verdict and announce the results of the Competition during the second part of the concert.
10. The Organizers reserve the right to give the world premiere performance of the compositions selected for the final and to make live audio or audiovisual recordings thereof.
11. The composition of the Jury for the first stage and the final does not have to be the same.
12. The Jury's decisions are final and irrevocable.

VI AWARDS

1. **The prize pool for the Competition is 40,000 Euro.**
2. The following prizes are to be awarded:
 - 1st place – 15,000 Euro**
 - 2nd place – 11,000 Euro**
 - 3rd place – 7,000 Euro**
 - two Honorable Mentions – 3,500 Euro each.**
3. The Jury may decide on a different distribution of prizes or not to award them at all.

4. All composers of Works that qualify for the final of the Competition will be awarded the honorary title of "Finalist of the 4th Mieczysław Karłowicz International Composers' Competition."
5. In addition to the prizes awarded by the Jury, there will also be **an Audience Award** and **an Orchestra Award**.

VII PERSONAL DATA

1. The personal data of Competition participants is processed in accordance with applicable law.
2. Detailed information on the rules for the processing of personal data is contained in **Appendix 3** to these Rules.

VIII FINAL PROVISIONS

1. Competition participants bear full responsibility in the event that a third party claims rights to a Work submitted by them to the Competition.
2. Works that infringe the rights of third parties or applicable regulations may be excluded from the Competition by the Organizers.
3. The Organizers shall not be liable for any failure by Competition participants to comply with the provisions of these Rules, in particular if the content of a Work submitted to the Competition is unlawful or infringes the rights of third parties.
4. In the event of any disputes, the Polish text of the Rules shall constitute the basis for their resolution.
5. The amounts of the prizes are gross amounts and will be subject to taxation in accordance with applicable regulations.
6. The Organizer and Co-organizer **do not acquire copyrights** to the Works submitted to the Competition and selected for the final stage of the Competition.
7. The Organizer and Co-organizer reserve the right to use all or parts of the Works awarded and distinguished in the Competition for the purpose of promoting the activities of the Organizer and/or Co-organizer in support of the development of musical creativity, including the publication of the whole or parts of such Works on the Organizer's website at:

www.zaiks.org.pl, the Competition website at: **www.karlowiczcompetition.pl**, and the Co-organizer's website at: **www.filharmonia.szczecin.pl**.

8. The Society of Authors ZAiKS will provide accommodation in Szczecin on 27 November 2026, for the composers of the Works qualified for the final of the Competition.
9. The Organizer and Co-organizer process the personal data of Competition participants for the purposes of the Competition, in accordance with the information contained in the online registration form completed during the Work submission process.

Contact: **contact@karlowiczcompetition.pl**

Appendix 1 to the Rules

One of the fundamental traits of Karłowicz's oeuvre – most notably, though not exclusively, his six symphonic poems (1904–1909) – is the rejection of superficial pictoriality in favor of expressing, through the highest order of compositional craftsmanship, meanings that reach beyond music itself, touching upon the psychological, philosophical, and symbolic. Drawing upon his erudition and shaped by a wide spectrum of passions (from mountaineering and skiing to photography), he looked at the world with a broad view, which was mirrored in his works. Through an original synthesis of philosophical ideas (as in the Symphony in E minor *Odrodzenie* [Rebirth] and *Odwieczne pieśni* [Eternal Songs], Op. 10), psychological currents (*Powracające fale* [Returning Waves], Op. 9), literary and painterly inspirations [*Stanisław and Anna Oświecimowie*], Op. 12), and symbolic dimensions (*Epizod na maskaradzie* [An Episode at a Masquerade], Op. 14), his oeuvre and artistic stance remain a source of inspiration even today – for the participants of the 4th International Composers' Competition named after the composer of the *Rapsodia Litewska* (Lithuanian Rhapsody), Op. 11.

Yet Karłowicz's work should not be regarded merely as a reservoir of compositional structures to be quoted or reworked, but as a treasury of ideas, musical and beyond, whose humanistic timelessness carried profound weight in 1909 – the year Mieczysław Karłowicz tragically perished beneath a Tatra avalanche – and now, exactly 150 years after his birth.

Text prepared by Ignacy Zalewski, PhD
English translation by Maciej Janik

Appendix 2 to the Rules

List of available percussion instruments

1. Timpani (4) – 1 performer
2. Other percussion instruments – 3 performers:
 - marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, glockenspiel
 - tubular bells, crotales (2 octaves)
 - pair of concert cymbals (piatti a due), suspended cymbals (4), China cymbal, sizzle cymbal
 - tam-tams (2 – large, small)
 - triangles (3)
 - bass drums (2 – large, small)
 - tom-toms (8)
 - snare drum
 - Yamaha Recording Custom (Cherry Wood) drum set: bass drum 20", snare drum 14" (silver, metal), floor tom 14", tom-toms 10" and 12", cymbal stands (4), hi-hat
 - bongos (2), conga (2), djembe
 - temple blocks (5), wood blocks (4)
 - metal chimes, bamboo chimes, shell chimes
 - castanets (1), tambourine, cabasa, maracas (2), guiro, agogo bells, raganella (ratchet)
 - whip (slapstick), flexatone, vibraslap
 - bell tree, cowbells (3)
 - Kolberg anvils (3)

Appendix 3 to the Rules

Information obligation

In fulfilling the information obligation, the following information is provided:

Data Controller	The Society of Authors ZAiKS , with its registered office in Warsaw, at ul. Hipoteczna 2, 00-092 Warsaw, as the Organizer of the Competition. The Controller can be contacted in writing at its registered office address or by email at zaiks@zaiks.org.pl .
Data Protection Officer	The Controller has appointed a Data Protection Officer who can be contacted in matters related to the processing of personal data by writing to the address of the Controller's registered office with the note " <i>Personal data</i> " or by email to: iod@zaiks.org.pl
Joint Controller	Mieczysław Karłowicz Philharmonic in Szczecin , with its registered office in Szczecin, at ul. Małopolska 48, 70-515 Szczecin.
Purposes and grounds for processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) organization and carrying out of the Competition, including the carrying out of its stages – Article 6(1)(b) of the GDPR – processing necessary for the performance of a contract to which the participant is party, in accordance with the Competition Rules; b) selection of winners, awarding prizes and distinctions, including special prizes, e.g. the Audience Award – Article 6(1)(b) of the GDPR carrying out of the Competition and Article 6(1)(c) of the GDPR – legal obligations of the Organizer; c) contacting participants in matters related to the Competition – Article 6(1)(b) of the GDPR – carrying out of the Competition; d) fulfilling the legal obligations incumbent on the Organizer, in particular tax and accounting obligations – Article 6(1)(c) of the GDPR – legal obligations; e) publication of the Competition results – Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR – consent of the winner; f) establishing, exercising, or defending against possible claims related to the organization and carrying out of the Competition – Article 6(1)(f) of the GDPR – legitimate interest of the Controller.
Data recipients	The recipients of the data may be entities cooperating with the Controller, in particular: the Joint Controller, but also members of the jury, law firms, entities providing accounting or auditing services, debt collection companies, or companies providing ICT services. The recipients may also be entities providing postal services (i.e., Poczta Polska, couriers).
Transfer of data outside the EEA	Due to the use of IT tools that enable the exchange of information, personal data may be transferred to third countries. The transfer of data takes place on the basis of appropriate contractual clauses or other relevant legal mechanisms, in particular those ensuring the security of the personal data being processed.
Data processing time	Personal data will be stored for the duration of the Competition and, after its completion, for the period required by law or until the expiry of any claims.
Rights of individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the right to access and rectify data, • the right to transfer data, • the right to restrict processing, • the right to object to processing, • right to withdraw consent at any time. <p>To exercise your rights, please contact us by email at: iod@zaiks.org.pl .</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 12(3) of the GDPR, the Controller has one month to respond to the exercise of your rights from the date of receipt.</p> <p>Additionally, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the President of the Personal Data Protection Office (UODO).</p>
Providing data	Providing personal data is voluntary, but necessary to participate in the Competition. Failure to provide data will prevent participation in the Competition.