



RULES

XXIII INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL "SKYLARK"

23 – 28 JUNE, 2026, NOWY SACZ, POLAND

ORGANIZERS

- Mr Ludomir Handzel Mayor of Nowy Sącz
- Youth Palace in Nowy Sącz
- Publishing House of Tarnów Diocese „Promyczek”
- Parish of St. Margaret in Nowy Sącz

PARTNERS

- Miejski Ośrodek Kultury (Town Cultural Centre in Nowy Sącz)
- Miejski Ośrodek Sportu i Rekreacji (Town Sports and Leisure Centre in Nowy Sącz)
- „Promyczek Dzieciom” Association

PARTICIPANTS

The Festival is open to amateur solo vocalists at the age 5 – 16 born between 1.01.2010 and 31.12.2021.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Each foreign entrant is asked to perform two songs in their mother tongue, English or Polish. One of the songs must be performed without backing tracks (acappella).
2. One of the objectives of the Festival is to foster and promote the children's songs. Therefore, they cannot contain words commonly considered offensive or racist.
3. The songs should be recorded on an MP 3 file (in at least 256 kbps quality) or WAV and send to skowroneczek@promyczek.pl
4. All entries are due by 11 **May, 2026**.
5. Entrants must complete electronic entry form on festival website festiwalskowroneczek.pl
6. Entrants must carefully check audio files before sending them. It is their responsibility to check that their recordings and files are playing correctly. If faulty non playing recordings are submitted, the entry will be marked void by the judges.
7. It is the entrants responsibility to provide correct contact details when entering the contest. Emails will be sent to the contact email address supplied on entry.
8. After the preliminary auditions, the Jury will select vocalists in the following age groups:
 - 5 - 8 (born between 1.01.2018 and 31.12. 2021)

- 9 - 11 (born between 1.01.2015 and 31.12. 2017)
 - 12 - 13 (born between 1.01.2013 and 31.12. 2014)
 - 14 - 16 (born between 1.01.2010 and 31.12. 2012)
9. Entrants qualified for the finals will be informed by email and on the festival website on **June 10, 2025**. They will have to confirm their participation in the Festival by **May 25** skowroneczek@promyczek.pl
 10. The final competition auditions will be held in Nowy Sacz on **23 June, 2026**.
 11. At the Festival, entrants will be singing to background music they ought to send earlier (to 15 June) to the following address: skowroneczek@promyczek.pl. The music must be recorded on an MP 3 file (in at least 256 kbps quality).
 12. During the final competition auditions (**23 June**) each foreign entrant will be asked to perform two songs in their mother tongue, English or Polish. One of the songs must be performed without backing tracks (acappella).
 13. The Organizer will provide professional acoustic system and equipment reproducing sounds.
 14. The program of the Festival will be announced on **June 15, 2026**.
 15. The winners will be announced on **June 28**, during the gala concert.
 16. Entry constitutes permission to use entrant's name, likeness, and voice for future advertising and publicity purposes.
 17. By entering the competition, entrants and their parents or legal guardians agree to accept and be bound by the decisions of the Organizer and their judges which are final and binding in all matters.
 18. By filling out the electronic entry form and participating in the 23rd International Children's Music Festival „Skylark”, the entrants agree to the collection and use of their personal information by the Organizer in accordance with Privacy Policy. The Organizer may post their personal information (such as, full name and country of residence) in public posting areas in order to administer and promote the Festival. By entering the Festival and agreeing to these Rules, the entrants hereby consent to the Organizer using their personal information in the matter.
 19. The entrants grant the Organizer, Funders and official Partners, the permission to use their photographs, motion pictures, recordings in connection with its commercial purposes advertising Festival „Skylark”, to disseminate such materials in all media, including social media and websites.
 20. The granting of consent is voluntary and may be withdrawn at any time without any consequences.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Jury will select the winners. The judging committee consists of high-profile music professionals. Songs are judged on quality of performance, vocals, melody, composition and originality. Moreover, entrants will be evaluated in:



- song choice,
- audience communication,
- artistic expression,
- diction, intonation,
- rhythmic interpretation.

One of the most important criterion for evaluation is the selection of songs. Choosing the songs free of bad language, negative themes or inappropriate content (e.g. violent and sexual content, references to drugs and alcohol) is essential and strongly recommended by the Jury of the festival. The Judge's ruling is final.

ARTISTIC WORKSHOPS

The 2026 festival workshops will be presenting on a wide variety of music related topics, such as voice production, music appreciation, rhythmic workshops, performance and creativity workshops

The entrants who play any musical instruments are requested to bring them (only the small ones!), especially the percussion instruments.

PRIZES

1. The winners will receive recognition via local media, awards and certificates signed by the Jury and Mayor of Nowy Sącz.
2. All finalists will take part in the gala concert which will be livestreamed.

If you are interested in any previous editions of the “Skylark” Festival, the materials are available on YOUTUBE (just write: Skowroneczek 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 - 2025).

ON-SITE REGISTRATION AND FEES

1. Entrants will pay travel-related costs if they choose to attend the Festival.
2. Each foreign entrant, including their guardian, will have to pay a participation fee of **200 Euro**. The fee covers the costs of stay (accommodation at DUNAJEC and PANORAMA Hotels, 3 meals a day, trips, health and life insurance).

For any questions or concerns regarding the Festival contact Lucyna Urbańska at +48 784 534 547 or email at l.urbanska@palacmlodziezy.pl (for foreign entrants only).

The Artistic Director of the Festival is Milenia Małecka-Rogal, Director of the Youth Palace.