

# OPERA COMPOSITION COMPETITION: CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

## I. Advertiser of the Competition:

**Miskolci Operafesztivál Nonprofit Kft.**

**Seat:** 3525 Miskolc, Déryné u. 1.

**Registration No:** Cg 05-09-016624

**Representative:** Beáta Farkas, Takács Péterné, managing director

Hereinafter: **the Advertiser**

## II. Title of the Competition:

Advertiser calls for applicants to submit their works for the following Competition:  
**“Key to the Future” – Opera Composition Competition.**

## III. Eligibility of Applicants:

Any natural persons can apply who are contemporary composers, irrespective of their nationality, country of residence or age.

## IV. Aims and Objectives of the Competition:

The competition has set the objective of bringing new, “popular” pieces of opera into the focus of attention; we are looking for works that are capable of attracting audiences back to the opera houses in the spirit of the Manifesto that follows.

### **Manifesto for the New Opera of Our Age Artistic Manifesto of Bartók Plus Opera Festival, Miskolc**

*Without the emergence of contemporary popular opera capable of addressing huge audiences opera performances will become mere museums and the opera genre, falling short of broad social support, will diminish into a narrow sub-sector of the performing arts. Directorial opera-staging has been delaying the slow decline of the genre, but it is not enough any more. Time has come that composers renew and save the opera! Composers of all countries! Create the radically new opera genre that combines the popularity of musicals with the highest aesthetic aspirations of classical music thus reviving the spirit of Mozart, Verdi and Puccini.*

## V. Participation conditions:

### 1. Competition Piece (hereinafter: Work):

Completed Work not yet performed on stage with an orchestra. The embodiment of the Work must be the score, fully orchestrated from beginning to end, the piano extract and if available, the orchestral part or any sound recording.

There are no restrictions concerning the topic, language and the length of the Work.

One composer can submit several Works and several authors can submit one joint Work. In case Applicants wish to submit several Works, they must fill in the Application Form and pay the Application Fee as many times as the number of the Works submitted. In case several authors wish to submit one Work of joint authorship, every single person must sign the Application Form but the Application Fee is to be paid only once.

The time of conception and composition of the Work is irrelevant, i.e. Works composed at any time can be submitted.

Applicants are informed that Application is not “anonymous” - one can only apply with full name and address.

Applicants should note that recommendations for the Work are included in the Annex to this Call, which are emphatically not obligatory prescriptions, merely suggestions on behalf of the Advertiser.

## **2. Application Conditions:**

### a.) Completion and Submission of the Application Form:

Applications are only accepted if sent via internet on the electronic Application Form downloaded from the Advertiser’s website.

Application has two phases: a Preliminary Registration and the submission of the original copy of the Application Form by post.

The electronic Application Form can be downloaded from the [www.operafesztival.hu](http://www.operafesztival.hu) website.

In the phase of Preliminary Registration, Applicants should send the Application Form duly filled in via e-mail to the following e-mail address: [composersecretary@gmail.com](mailto:composersecretary@gmail.com).

Then Applicants must send the Original Copy of the filled Application Form by post to Advertiser’s address, concurrently with the Work, enclosed in the envelope containing the Work in accordance with the stipulations of paragraph V.2.c).

Applicants are warned that the completion of every single point in the Application Form is mandatory. The Application Form, and consequently the relative Application, that is not duly filled is regarded invalid since the missing information may compromise the identification of the Application on the one hand, and prevent Advertiser from fulfilling its obligations with regard to the Application (especially, but not limited to: notification, payment etc. obligations) on the other. Advertiser also wishes to point out that the Application shall be regarded invalid in case of Joint Applications where the Application Form is not signed by every single author of the group.

Advertiser stresses with special emphasis that it cannot be held responsible for any of the consequences of lacking or inappropriate information in the Application

Form, and all responsibility for the said consequences of any kind shall be borne by the Applicant.

In case the Applicants notice, before the term of the Application Deadline, any imprecision or other Deficiency in the Application they can submit a new Application. In such cases, Applicants must fill in the new Application Form in full detail and indicate the fact of the repeated Application in the Other Remarks point of the Application Form with reference to the date of the original Application.

Applicants are informed that in case the Applicants are regarded minors according to the legislation of the country of their nationality or residence, the Application shall only be valid in case the Application Form is signed by the Applicants' guardian or legal representative.

b.) Payment of the Application Fee:

The amount of the Application Fee: 150 EUR

The Application Fee is to be paid via bank transfer to Advertiser's account No. HU03 1176 3347 5721 7886 0000 0000 at OTP Bank in such a way that it should be credited to Advertiser by the term of the Application Deadline. In case the Application Fee is not credited to Advertiser by the term of the said deadline, the application shall be invalid.

Methods of payment of the Application Fee include: bank transfer or personal in-payment for the above mentioned bank account.

Applicants are warned that the Application shall be regarded invalid in case the Application Fee transferred and credited to the Advertiser's bank account does not reach the amount of 150 EUR.

Advertiser shall make out an invoice for the full amount of the Application Fee paid and credited to Advertiser in due time, which shall be sent to Applicants by post to the address indicated on the Application Form.

Applicants must state the following in the Other Announcements point of the bank transfer or in-payment form:

- Title of the Work, and
- Name(s) of the author(s).

Applicants must attach the copy of the transfer or the in-payment form verifying payment to their Application in the form of sending it in e-mail to the e-mail address stated above: [composersecretary@gmail.com](mailto:composersecretary@gmail.com).

In case the Application is invalid due to the fact that the full amount of the Application Fee has not been credited to Advertiser's bank account by the term of the stated Application Deadline, Advertiser shall return the amount of the Application Fee to the sending bank account within 30 banking days from the term of the said Application Deadline.

In case the Application is invalid due to any other reason stipulated in the Competition Call or Competition Regulations, Advertiser shall also return the amount of the Application Fee to the sending bank account within 30 banking days from the term of the Application Deadline.

In case the Application is invalid due to the fact that the Application Fee has not been credited to Advertiser's bank account by the term of the stated deadline, Advertiser shall equally return the amount of the Application Fee to the sending bank account within 30 banking days from the term of the Application Deadline.

c.) Submission of the Work:

The Work that is the Competing Opera can be sent exclusively by way of post.

The following information should be indicated on the envelope, postal parcel etc.:

- The name of the Advertiser: Miskolci Operafesztivál Nonprofit Kft.
- Its postal address: Miskolci Operafesztivál Nonprofit Kft., 3501 Miskolc, Pf. 634.
- The name of the Competition: "Key to the Future" – Opera Composition Competition.
- The Sender:.....

The Work can only and exclusively be sent by way of post, placed in an envelope, on paper and electronic media.

A synopsis in English must be enclosed with the Competition Piece. This Synopsis can be no longer than one full page of A4 format.

d.) Application Deadline:

The Application Deadline is: 00:00 hours CET, 22nd August, 2016.

Applicants are warned that by this deadline all documents related to the Application must have arrived including the Work, the Synopsis, the Application Form and the bank statement verifying payment of the Application Fee.

Applicants are warned that the Application Deadline for all items of the Application means delivery to the Advertiser, consequently by that day the Application Fee shall have been credited on Advertiser's bank account and the Work as well as the Synopsis and the Application Form shall have been delivered to Advertiser's address.

Applicants are further warned that postal sending of the Work must be effectuated in the form of registered mail with recorded delivery. In case the Work is not sent according to the stipulations of this point, the Advertiser declines liability of any kind with relation to the delivery of the Work.

In case delivery of the Work by the term of the deadline for submission fails as a result of the postal service providers' administrative fault Advertiser shall consider the Work delivered, provided that

- The Application was posted at least 15 calendar days before the term of the Application Deadline, and
- The fact of the postal dispatch can be proved with the relative postal document, and
- The Application is delivered to Advertiser's address within 15 calendar days following the term of the Submission Deadline.

e.) Confirmation:

Delivery of the Work, Synopsis and Application Form as well as crediting of the Application Fee shall be confirmed by the Competition Secretary to Applicant's e-mail address indicated on the Application Form.

Confirmation by electronic mail shall be effectuated within 8 working days after the last document required for the Application has been delivered to Advertiser's address.

f.) Making up for Deficiencies

In case the Application by the Applicants should have an invalidating deficiency, and this deficiency can be corrected, the Competition Secretary shall send an electronic notification calling for amendments to Applicants' e-mail address specified on the Application Form within 8 calendar days from the Application Deadline.

Applicants can make up any Deficiencies within 8 calendar days from the day the electronic Notification is sent to them. In case Applicants do not correct the Deficiencies by the end of this period, the Application is invalid definitively, and there is no more room for making up the Deficiencies.

In case the Applicants make up for the Deficiencies within the specified term, the Application shall qualify as duly submitted and valid.

Applicants are informed that the following Deficiencies cannot be made up for:

- The Work submitted for the Competition has already been presented with orchestra as a stage performance;
- The Work is not completed;
- The Work is not in the form of a Fully Orchestrated Score from the beginning to the end;
- The Applicants submit their Application on an Application Form other than the one downloaded from the Advertiser's website;
- The Applicants send the Work to the Advertiser in any way other than by postal delivery;
- The Work has not been delivered to the Advertiser by the specified Deadline.

**VI. Process of the Competition:**

**1. Professional evaluation of the submitted Works:**

Eligible Works delivered before the Application Deadline will be evaluated by a Jury consisting of Professionals.

This Professional Jury will select out of the Works received those 3 pieces that best comply with the principles of the Manifesto. These Works shall be the Finalists in the competition.

The decision of the professional Jury and the list of the Works shortlisted for the Finals shall be published on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2016, on the [www.operafesztival.hu](http://www.operafesztival.hu) website.

Within 8 days following the publication of the list of Finalists, authors of the Works shortlisted for the Finals shall be notified by electronic mail at the contact address indicated in the Application Form.

## **2. Prizes for the Finalist Works and Usage Rights relative to these:**

Works shortlisted for the Finals shall be rewarded with a total prize of 1,500 EUR each, that is, one thousand five hundred Euros each.

The award of 1500 EUR for the Finalist Works shall assure the following Usage Rights for the Advertiser of the Competition:

- presentation of excerpts from the works shortlisted for the Finals in Budapest in the fourth quarter of 2016 directed by the opera director speciality and performed by students of the Opera Faculty under guidance of the direction teacher of the Opera Faculty, recording, duplication and any other ways of making it available to the public;
- presentation of the winning Work at the Miskolc Opera Festival to be organised in June 2017, recording, release and other ways of making it available to the public;
- For 4 years starting from the day of the results being made public unlimited use of the entirety or parts selected at will of the Finalist Works both with respect to territory or mode of usage or the number of uses (including but not limited to: Performance, recording, duplication, etc.)
- Within the 4 years starting from the day of the results being made public the Advertiser is entitled to confer (for free as well as for remuneration) the Usage Rights specified in this Competition Call to any Third Parties. The Entity to whom the Rights are conferred shall be entitled to these Rights till the last day of the above mentioned four-year period.

By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants expressly accept and acknowledge, or agree that 5 % of Applicants' any net revenue from the use of the Works shortlisted for the Finals shall be due to the Advertiser with respect to the fact that the costs of getting the public acquainted with the Works as well as the presentation on stage of the Works are borne exclusively by the Advertiser and that the Advertiser pays 1500 EUR as a prize for the Applicants.

By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants shall expressly and irrevocably undertake the obligation that they shall inform the Advertiser in writing of any future or previous agreements in relation to the Works that provide any kind of revenue for the Applicants within 30 days from the effective date of any such agreement.

By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants shall expressly and irrevocably undertake the obligation to transfer to the Advertiser 5 % of any net revenue issuing from any future or previous agreements in relation to the Works within 30 days from the date when any such amount is paid or credited to them.

By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants shall expressly acknowledge and agree to all of the above.

Applicants are also informed that the amount of the prizes in each case is a gross sum. Taxation with relation to the Competition Prizes shall always be effectuated with respect to the relative legislation in effect – Hungarian Law and laws of the Applicants' country of nationality or residence on the one hand, and the treaties of the countries involved on the other.

### **3. Selection of the Winner of the Competition**

Advertiser shall have works shortlisted for the Finals, in their entirety or in parts selected at will, staged at the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in partially staged versions with piano accompaniment in the framework of a performance/concert by the Department of Vocal and Opera Studies.

The Jury will select and Advertiser will announce the winning Work from the pieces performed in the Finals.

Advertiser will present the entire winning Work in a fully staged opera performance with orchestra at the festival in Miskolc in the year following that of the Competition. Advertiser, however, is not obliged to have the winning Work performed at the Miskolc Opera Festival.

Date of the Miskolc Opera Festival: 2017. July, 2013.

Venue of the Miskolc Opera Festival: Miskolc, Hungary

### **4. Remuneration for the winner of the Competition and Usage Rights in relation to the Winning Work:**

The winning work shall be rewarded with the further prize of 4000 EUR.

Advertiser will use all means to have the winning Work presented at the Bartók Plus Opera Festival, Miskolc the next year as a fully staged complete opera performance.

The winning Work or part of it selected at will can be used by the Advertiser without limitations in time, territory or the mode of usage including transfer of these Usage Rights to a third person, the remuneration for these Usage Rights is included in the prize of 4,000 EUR.

By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants expressly accept and acknowledge, or agree that 10 % of Applicants' any net revenue from the use of the winning Work shall be due to the Advertiser with respect to the fact that the costs of getting the public acquainted with the Work as well as the presentation on stage of the Work are borne exclusively by the Advertiser and that the Advertiser pays 5500 EUR as a prize for the author.

By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants shall expressly and irrevocably undertake the obligation that they shall inform the Advertiser in writing of any future or previous agreements in relation to the winning Work that provide any kind of revenue for the Author within 30 days from the effective date of any such agreement.

By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants shall expressly and irrevocably undertake the obligation to transfer to the Advertiser 10 % of any net revenue issuing from any future or previous agreements in relation to the winning Work within 30 days from the date when any such amount is paid or credited to the Author.

By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants shall expressly acknowledge and agree to all of the above.

Applicants are also informed that the amount of the prizes in each case is a gross sum. Taxation with relation to the Competition Prizes shall always be effectuated with respect to the relative legislation in effect – Hungarian Law and laws of the Applicants' country of nationality or residence on the one hand, and the treaties of the countries involved on the other.

## **5. Payment of Competition Prizes**

All payments related to the Competition Prizes and fees shall be effectuated till the thirty-first day of January in 2017.

Payment of all prizes shall be effectuated by Advertiser to the bank accounts specified in the Application Form. Advertiser declines any responsibility for transfers to bank accounts erroneously identified in the Application. In case of several authors, payments are made to the single bank account specified in the Application and sharing the amount between the authors is beyond Advertiser's competence, in relation to which all liabilities are declined.



## **VII. Other Provisions:**

1. Applicants are informed that any single Work can only and exclusively be submitted once for the Competition, and that the same Work cannot be submitted to further possible competitions organized by the Advertiser later than the year 2013. Any Work that is submitted for a competition advertised after the year 2013, but in the year concerned the Competition is not carried out as a result of the decision by the Advertiser, Works submitted earlier but not evaluated as a result that the Competition is not carried out in the given year, Works of this type can be submitted again.
2. Applicants are informed that the Jury reserves the right of not proposing any Works for presentation, therefore not selecting any Works to be Finalists. By the signing of the Application Form Applicants shall also expressly acknowledge the above stated right of the Jury.
3. By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants certify and expressly declare that their participation in the Competition shall not infringe upon any third person's rights, or that they possess the due authorisation for participation in the Competition by any third person concerned. Applicants warrant that the Work submitted is of individual and original type and no third person has any rights that would prevent or limit Advertiser in the potential use of the Work. Advertiser is not obliged to verify the truth of the statements by the Applicant, and Applicant shall bear all responsibility for these statements while Advertiser shall not be held liable for any resulting charges.
4. By signing and submitting the Application Applicants agree and acknowledge that the Application Form, the Competition Call and the Competition Regulations constitute an indivisible whole. Consequently, by signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants declare that they have understood and acknowledged all the provisions contained in the Application Form, Competition Call and Competition Regulations, and they accept them as binding for themselves, therefore they shall not raise any later objections or claims with regards to the provisions and their outcomes and expressly and irrevocably resigns from any such rights by the signing of the said Application Form.
5. By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants voluntarily, expressly and irrevocably agree that the Advertiser use, manage and disclose to any relevant third parties any data provided by them on the Application form in order to achieve and in relation to the Objectives of the Competition.
6. Applicants are informed that all submitted Applications (application documents) – should they be valid or invalid – that are not shortlisted by the Jury for the Finals shall be destroyed within 12 months following the Application Deadline. With respect to this circumstance there is no opportunity for the Advertiser to return the Works to Applicants.

7. By signing and submitting the Application form Applicants expressly and irrevocably agree that the Advertiser publish their names, photos and the title of their Works along with a short summary of the work in any publication appearing in relation to the Competition or the Opera Festival (including but not limited to: newspapers, magazines, periodicals, websites, television, marketing materials, leaflets, etc.).
  8. Applicants are informed that after the Application Deadline, the processing of the Applications and the time allowed for making up the Deficiencies the Advertiser shall publish the list of invalid applications on the [www.operafesztival.hu](http://www.operafesztival.hu) website, indicating in short the invalidating circumstance for each invalid Application. It is also to be noted that the Advertiser – with the exception of a possible invitation to make up for the Deficiencies – will not take any measures with respect to invalid Applications, will not inform Applicants about the invalidity of their Application and will not make a separate decision about the invalidity of an Application.
  9. The present Competition Call has been published in Hungarian and English. Applicants are informed that in case of any discrepancy between the Hungarian original and its translation into English, the Hungarian text and meaning shall prevail.
  10. Applicants are informed that they may ask questions concerning the Competition and the Application Documents at the following contacts.
    - Contact person's Name and Title: Sára Szakács, Competition Secretary
    - Contact person's email address: [composersecretary@gmail.com](mailto:composersecretary@gmail.com).
- Applicants are informed that information can only be requested in e-mail and exclusively in Hungarian, English, German, French and Romanian.
11. By signing and submitting the Application Form Applicants acknowledge that any kind of litigation with respect to the Competition shall be governed by effective Hungarian Law in Hungarian jurisdiction.

Dated on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2016, in Miskolc

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Miskolci Operafesztivál Nonprofit Kft.  
Representative:  
Beáta Farkas, Takács Péterné  
Managing director

**Annex to the Competition Call**  
**Appendix to the Artistic Manifesto of Bartók Plus Opera Festival, Miskolc**  
**Recommendations**

Introduction

The cornerstone of creative art is the free play of the artists' imagination. In the following, we only try to outline the possible characteristics of a new operatic genre. We seek professional criteria that can raise a musical piece that openly and ambitiously strives for popularity into the sphere of classical music. The ideas brought forward are strictly no more than recommendations. We heartily welcome any authorial attitude that shows alternative methods to solve the problem.

The ambition to renew the operatic genre has deep historical roots. The past century has seen several musical theatrical tendencies in the same spirit. Without claiming completeness, Honegger's, Orff's, Korngold's, Gershwin's, Kurt Weil's, Menotti's, Bernstein's or Sondheim's oeuvre; just like several Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Shostakovich pieces and the best traditions of the cinema are recognized, even by leading representatives of classical music, as legitimate attempts to create the new popular opera.

This Manifesto of the Bartók Plus Opera Festival, Miskolc encourages the creation of contemporary popular opera, which we find is missing from the varied palette of opera genres in our age. Our initiative, however, does not imply any disrespect for existing attempts to renew the international opera stage, earlier works or progressive contemporary opera.

1. The human voice:

The principal criterion of opera is the use of the human voice as a means of artistic expression. Thus, expressive singing is not enough; the timbre or *tone colour* of a given *voce* (= its physical characteristics, its overtone system) must carry an aesthetic quality. The classic "bel canto" voice is most suitable for this purpose; but other techniques complying with the criterion, that is capable of conveying artistic content by virtue of their unique qualities, are also applicable for enrichment.

Works of the opera genre rely heavily on the inherent, primary expressiveness of the human voice. Accordingly, the vocal score may be easy, difficult, or even daring, but its composition will undoubtedly reflect anthropomorphic thinking.

2. Music:

High-level composition, compositional interrelation and orchestration representing an added artistic value, are all general requirements for classical music. In the case of the opera several further disciplines of dramaturgy and musical dramaturgy will make additional demands. With all benevolence, we wish to call the authors' attention to

the fact that many contemporary operas fail right here. Dramaturgy, the study of the modes of action affecting the human psyche, the nervous system and even the instincts is to be considered to its true significance. Mozart did the same, though instinctively.

The orchestral parts, individually as well as in their totality, are also important carriers of artistic and dramatic expression. The orchestra rarely, if ever provide simple accompaniment, commentary or background.

### 3. Script:

The triple unities of music-script-action presuppose conscious dramatic editing. Speech is recognized as an acceptable expressive device. From the beginning to the end, there must be a musical-structural arc, into which the potential speech elements will fit functionally.

### 4. Styles:

Ever since the baroque, opera composers quoted, used and integrated musical styles, rhythms and dances of their age into their work. Mozart created one of the most outstanding oeuvre of classical music literature by using the “pop music” of his age. And the key element here is that the adequacy of his use of “pop music” in the service of dramatic expression cannot be questioned at any moment.

### 5. Electronics:

Great predecessors have always dared to use new instruments, the pop or folk instruments of their age. We all know that the clarinet gained its rightful position in classical music in Mozart’s oeuvre. Therefore, it is obvious that the opera genre, seeking extreme modes of expression for drama, would make use of today’s (or yesterday’s) instruments, the various electric guitars and synthetic sound effects. However, we regard the *replacement* of classical instruments by a synthesizer as an unfortunate tendency.

The use of electric musical instruments raises the question of using an electric sound system at the opera. In our opinion, using an electric sound system in the new genre is conceivable. It is important, though, that it may not serve to cover the deficiency of a proper singing voice. It is all the more necessary to enforce the principles formulated in connection with the human voice if we apply an electric sound system in the opera.

In the course of the work of composition, at the orchestration phase, an artistic decision is to be made whether partial or complete use of an amplifying sound system is needed during the whole opera or in its certain parts.

### 6. Contemporary dramatic effects:

In Mozart's age, the diminished seventh was regarded the devil itself, and the dramatic effect was exceptionally strong with Verdi as well. Mozart's demonic tempo, Verdi's lapidary rhythms, his orchestration effects were intended to affect the audience's intellect and instincts at the same time. The task today is to seek for the artistic means of expression that have similar effects, taking into account the stimulus threshold of the contemporary audience - both intellectually and on the level of instincts.

#### 7. Aesthetic concept:

The often repeated philosophical foundations of contemporary music that is not acceptable for the wide public is that the present is terrible, and this is to be expressed in art. In all ages, many people regarded the world as terrible. There have always been horrors, as beauty is not unknown even today.

Rather, the philosophical approach for contemporary music suitable to address wide audiences could be as follows: The recipient expects art to help him rise above the daily difficulties of life. One does not mind confronting drama but prefers to have the bright skies loom at least somewhere within the music.

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**Gergely Kesselyák**  
Conductor,  
Artistic director of  
Miskolci Operafesztivál Nonprofit Kft.

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