

**RULES**

# International Singing Competition

**“The Great Lyric Voices of Africa”**

**3rd edition - Paris 2024**



Palais de la Porte Dorée hosts the 3rd edition of the  
International Singing Competition

« The Great Lyric Voices of Africa »

organized by Africa Lyric's Opéra

April 11 – 13, 2024 in Paris

- The competition, organized each year and open to the public, aims :
  - ✓ to promote diversity in opera and lyric art ; to discover, promote and support lyric artists from African origin and/or from the African diaspora, to detect talents and support the african voices of opera of tomorrow
  - ✓ to encourage training, employment and professional integration of lyric artists, and to promote contemporary composers of classical music
- The applications start on November 5, 2023 at 6 pm.
- The final of the competition will take place on April 13, 2024 at the Palais de la Porte Dorée in Paris.



**PALAIS DE LA PORTE DORÉE**

# I - CATEGORIES

- In 2024, the competition is dedicated to opera in three categories
- The candidates can only participate in one single category
- The pre-selection will take place from the 1st to the 14th February (through documents)
- The competition will take place from the 11th to the 13th April (semi-final and final, in person in all three categories)
- The competition is open to all opera artists, regardless of gender

**The competition includes three categories :**

## **1 - Young hopeful**

This category aims to detect young hopefuls of lyric art, to support them in their training and to encourage them to professionalize afterwards. The approach is based on close collaboration with conservatories.

This category is aimed at young talents during their professional training or wishing to enter a conservatory, and includes encounters with opera professionals as well as the discovery of opera performances. Young talents can take part in workshops and courses with professional and established opera artists.

## **2 - Amateur**

Adult opera singers who have been learning to sing for a few years, or who are self-taught, without having had the opportunity to receive conservatory or professional training. May have very good singing experience or sing as a passion, and wish to progress through training for teachers and pursue a career in music education, for example.

## **3 - Semi-professional**

Semi-professional opera singers practicing classical music as a main or secondary activity, and receiving financial compensation in exchange for their work. Already have good stage experience, know the profession and wish to develop their network, benefit from support with a view to professional integration, and be accompanied by opera professionals and/or Africa Lyric's Opéra.

## II - REGISTRATION CRITERIA

Any request for an exemption may be examined individually by the president of the organizing association, whose decision is final.

Be of African origin or from the African diaspora, or have the nationality of an African country

Have submitted complete registration documents (including 1 video of an opera aria of choice, for the pre-selection)

No restrictions on place of residence (Africa, Europe, Worldwide)

Be an opera singer(M/F) and/or be passionate about opera singing and/or self-taught and/or amateur and/or young talent and/or student and/or semi-professional

Submit 1 cover letter, 1 detailed CV of musical experience and/or training and project

No language zone restrictions (French-speaking, English-speaking, Portuguese-speaking...)

Have paid registration fees :  
60€ = 63\$ = 39.360 FCFA (semi-professionnel category)  
40€ = 43\$ = 26.240 FCFA (amateur category)  
30€ = 33\$ = 19.680 FCFA (young lyrical hopeful category)

Meet the registration deadline set by the regulations : January 31, 2024

Age limit and age range for entries :  
Young hopeful category : 15–25  
Amateur category : 26–44  
Semi-professional category : 45

Be available on the dates of the competition. The tests take place in person.

Have a valid passport if necessary and respect the rules of entry and residence on French territory

Respect the rules of Africa Lyric's Opéra, safety regulations of the Palais de la Porte Dorée and health and safety rules, where applicable



## III-1 - ENTRY AND PRE-SELECTION PROCEDDURES

- The pre-selection will be based exclusively on documents
- Candidates perform 1 opera aria of their choice
- Maximum duration : 5 minutes
- ✓ Registration fee (compulsory and non-refundable) :
  - ❖ 60€ = 63\$ = 39.360 FCFA (semi-professionnal category)
  - ❖ 40€ = 43\$ = 26.240 FCFA (amateur category)
  - ❖ 30€ = 33\$ = 19.680 FCFA (young hopeful category)
- ✓ Paid in Euros or foreign currencies (online, by bank transfer or wire transfer) at the time of registration, as an integral part of application documents.
- ✓ For candidates residing outside France, bank transfers must include transfer fees and commissions (registration fees received from the net amount indicated). Candidates must provide the proof of payment.

## III-2 - ENTRY AND PRE-SELECTION PROCEDURES

- The complete application **(to be submitted online by 6pm on January 31, 2024 at the latest)** must include the following items :
  - ✓ 1 registration form
  - ✓ 1 video recording of an opera aria of the candidate's choice, no longer than 5 minutes
  - ✓ 1 artistic curriculum vitae (training, activities, projects)
  - ✓ 1 cover letter
  - ✓ 1 passport photo
  - ✓ 1 full-length photo
  - ✓ 1 copy of ID card or passport
  - ✓ 1 proof of payment of registration fees
- 4 opera arias in 3 different languages, by different composers, one of which must be in French
- To validate the registration, the documents must include : the registration form, the video recording and the payment of the registration fee
- The confirmation of registration will be sent to the candidate by e-mail, and a reference number will be assigned upon the reception of complete registration documents

## **IV-1 - PROCEDURE, SCHEDULE AND STEPS OF THE COMPETITION**

**All contests are open to the public**

- The candidates will be pre-selected based on their registration documents and videos between February 1 and 14, 2024. Selected candidates will be admitted to the competition on April 11, 2024 at the Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris 12th arrondissement, France.

### **1 - The competition consists of 7 steps :**

- **Step 1 : official launch of the competition, Novembre 5, 2023 at 6pm (French time)**
- **Step 2 : collection of applications, until January 31, 2024 at 6pm (French time)**
- **Step 3 : Pre-selections, from February 1 to 14, 2024**  
Pre-selections will be carried out by a committee of opera professionals  
The entire jury will be present from the semi-final onwards
- **Step 4 : Pre-selection results, February 15, 2024 at 6pm (by e-mail and publication)**

## IV-2 - PROCEDURE, SCHEDULE AND STEPS OF THE COMPETITION

For the pre-selection and the semi-final, proper attire is required

- **Step 5 : Semi-final, Thursday April 11, 2024 from 1pm to 5pm, followed by results (subject to change)**
- ✓ For the semi-final, 20 candidates will be selected in the semi-professional category, 10 candidates in the amateur category and 10 candidates in the young hopeful category.
- ✓ The candidates selected for the semi-final will perform :
  - 1 opera aria of their choice, among the 4 arias mentioned in their programme
- ✓ Maximum duration : 5 minutes
- ✓ On the day of the semi-final, each candidate must provide two legible copies of his or her score for the pianist of the competition and the president of the jury.
- ✓ Candidates must sing without music scores.
- ✓ A second aria may be requested by the jury.
  
- **Step 6 : Rehearsals for the final, Friday April 12, 2024 between 2pm and 5pm, with pianist and orchestra (subject to change)**



## IV-3 - PROCEDURE, SCHEDULE AND STEPS OF THE COMPETITION

**For the final, a gala outfit  
is required**

- **Step 7 : Final, Saturday April 13, 2024 from 1pm to 5pm, followed by results (subject to change)**

- ✓ For the final, 10 candidates will be selected in the semi-professional category, 5 candidates in the amateur category and 5 candidates in the young hopeful category
- ✓ Candidates will perform :
  - 1 aria of their choice, not performed in either pre-selection or semi-final
  - 1 aria chosen by the jury, not performed in either pre-selection or semi-final
  - 1 compulsory aria with orchestra :
    - written by a Congolese female composer (semi-professional category)
    - written by a South African composer (young hopeful and amateur categories)
- ✓ Maximum duration of the complete programme : 12 minutes
- ✓ Africa Lyric's Opéra will send the score of the required aria excerpt to the selected candidates, in their tessitura.

The running order will be alphabetical and will remain the same throughout the competition. Candidates must present themselves at the requested time. Each candidate is responsible for punctuality, time management and respecting the running order. Schedules and written instructions posted by Africa Lyric's Opéra must be strictly adhered to.

Candidates who are absent at the time of their performance lose their right to compete in this round and will consequently be excluded from the competition. Only the jury can decide to reinstate them in the competition and choose to hear them at the time it wishes.

## **IV-4 - PROCEDURE, SCHEDULE AND STEPS OF THE COMPETITION**

**The announcement of the final results and presentation of the prizes will take place at the end of the jury's deliberations.**

### **2 - The schedule of different steps (for information only and subject to change)**

#### **■ Thursday April 11, 2024 (3 categories)**

- 11am : Reception of candidates
- 1pm-4:30pm : Semi-final of the competition, contests are held in front of the jury and the public
- 4:30pm-5pm : Jury deliberation and results
- 5pm-5:15pm : Public exit

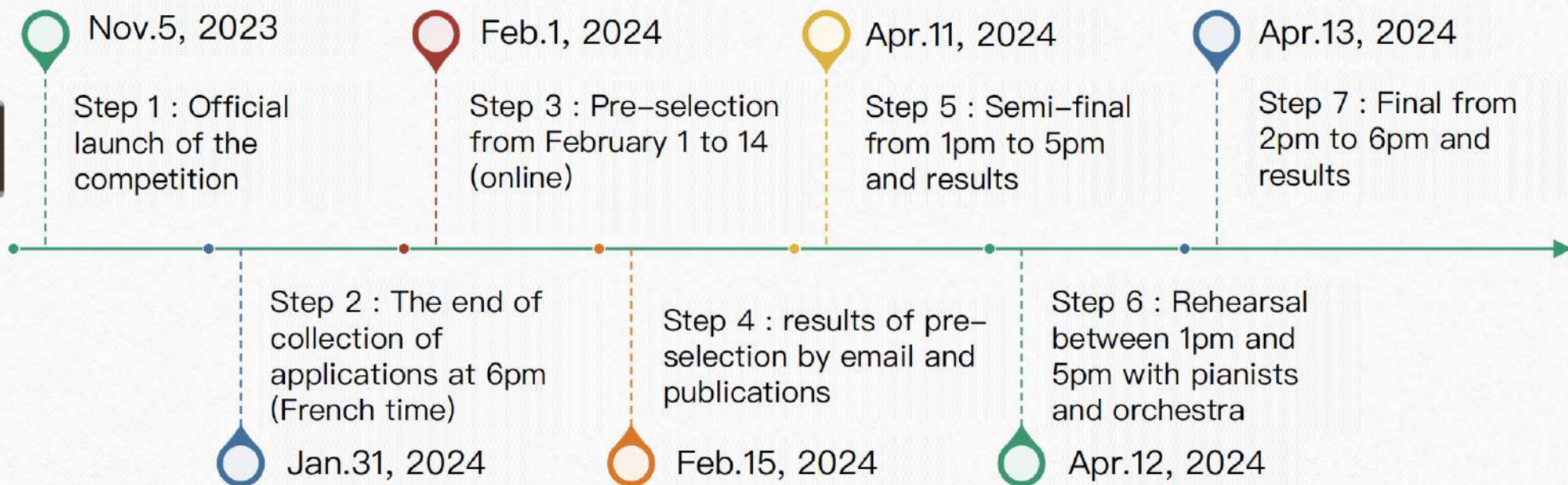
#### **■ Friday April 12, 2024 (3 categories)**

- 1:30pm : Reception of candidates
- 2pm-5pm : rehearsal with the pianist of Africa Lyric's Opéra (on registration only) and rehearsal with the orchestra for compulsory arias
- 5pm-5:15pm : Candidate exit

#### **■ Saturday April 13, 2024 (3 categories)**

- 12pm : Reception of candidates
- 1pm-4pm : Final of the competition, contests are held in front of the jury and the public
- 4pm-4:30pm : Jury deliberation
- 4:30pm-5:15pm : Results and awards ceremony
- 5:15pm-5:30pm : Public exit

# SUMMARY OF STEPS OF THE COMPETITION



## V-1- SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

On their arrival, candidates must present themselves to a team member of Africa Lyric's Opéra. Only registered candidates whose applications have been accepted will be allowed to take part in the competition (confirmation of registration sent by Africa Lyric's Opéra).

No accompanying person or authorized person outside of Africa Lyric's Opéra will be allowed to enter the dressing rooms and areas dedicated to the competition.

Registration implies unreserved acceptance of the present rules, of any changes that may occur between the time the application is sent and the date of the competition, and of the participation agreement. No contestation will be taken into account.

Lyric recitals may be proposed to candidates, prize winners or not, to take part in lyric art events and concerts, or in major productions of the association. Prize winners must undertake to take part in the winners' tour (if applicable), in at least one performance free of charge and in support of the association. The members of the jury are likely to propose engagements to the candidates or to help with their promotion or training, according to their possibilities.

Africa Lyric's Opéra has specific partnerships with organizations, institutions, etc. in the field of opera, which provide an important musical network around the world. These partnerships are in no way binding on the candidates, who may not make any claims or be wronged in any way. These partners reserve the right to help promote candidates or offer them contracts.

## V-2 - SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

Official pianist-accompanist  
of Africa Lyric's Opéra :  
**Thomas Tacquet**

Candidates will be accompanied exclusively on the piano throughout the Competition, except for the final, during which they will be accompanied by a reduced orchestra for the compulsory aria.

A cappella singing will not be accepted, unless all or part of a piece is so written by the composer.

A pianist-accompanist is provided by Africa Lyric's Opéra  
(at no extra cost to the candidate).

Africa Lyric's Opéra offers, at the candidate's request and upon registration, rehearsals with the Competition's pianist-accompanist, between the semi-final and final of the competition, which will take place in the auditorium.

Each candidate may, if he or she wishes, be accompanied by his or her own pianist (at his or her own expense), and must provide the contact details of the pianist 48 hours beforehand.

Candidates must provide the pianist with legible piano/vocal scores of chosen works. French law prohibits the use of photocopies of scores or illegal printouts.



## **V-3 - SPECIFIC CONDITIONS**

Africa Lyric's Opéra can provide, conditionally and without obligation, support for candidates selected for the semi-final who reside outside of France / Schengen area and who must travel to France for the contest in their administrative procedures, within the limits of possibilities, provided that the commitment on the conditions of entry and residence in France are respected.

Candidates wishing to benefit from possible support must submit a request between February 15 and 20, 2024.

All travel and accomodation costs are at the candidate's expense.

## VI - AWARDS

The awards represent a total value of 15,000.00€ in prizes, packages and various participations for the finalists (subject to change).

The jury may decide whether or not to award prizes, or to distribute prizes differently.

In the event of a tie, the value of the prize will be divided by the number of candidates, and prizes in kind will be adjusted accordingly.

Prize titles may be changed at any time at the discretion of the partners and the jury.

### SEMI-PRO CATEGORY

- ✓ 1st Prize Africa Lyric's Opéra-Grand Prize : 2000€
- ✓ 2nd Opera Prize-Partner foundation : 1500€
- ✓ 3rd Opera Prize-Génération Opéra : 1000€
- ✓ Special Prize Signature foundation-Natalia Smalto : 1000€
- ✓ Special Prize - Best interpretation of the Congolese female composer's work : 500€
- ✓ Audience award

### AMATEUR CATEGORY

- ✓ 1st Amateur Prize Africa Lyric's Opéra : 1000€
- ✓ 2nd Amateur Prize Africa Lyric's Opéra : 750€
- ✓ Special Prize - Best interpretation of the South African composer's work : 250€
- ✓ Audience award

### YOUNG LYRICAL HOPEFUL CATEGORY

- ✓ 1st Prize Young Hopeful Africa Lyric's Opéra : 750€
- ✓ Special Prize Tahiry Erasmus scholarship : 500€
- ✓ Special Prize - Best interpretation of the South African composer's work : 250€
- ✓ Audience award

**The 3 selected semi-pro artists will perform under contract on the France 2025 tour (Special Grand Prize for Opera Houses)**

## VII - JURY

Appointed by the Board of Africa Lyric's Opéra, the jury is made up of international figures from the world of opera, theater and music. Its decisions are final.

- ✓ **President of the jury 2024 : Sophie Koch, lyric artist**
- ✓ Directors of theatres and operas
- ✓ Directors of opera/classical media
- ✓ International lyric artists
- ✓ Conductors of orchestra
- ✓ Music professionals
- ✓ Qualified experts

**The jury reserves the right not to award all the prizes, and Africa Lyric's Opéra reserves the right to cancel or postpone the competition in the event of uncontrollable situations or for particular reasons beyond its control.**

## VIII - ASSIGN- MENT OF RIGHTS

**By registering and accepting the present rules, candidates expressly authorize :**

- The recording and broadcasting of their performance, live or otherwise, on the Internet and any other existing or future media ; to take part in communication activities (interviews, media presence, etc.) and to accept their unrestricted distribution.
- The use of their name and position in any existing or future medium and process.
- The distribution of photographs, recordings and visuals for non-commercial purposes of communication, information, training, promotion and archiving, on any existing or future medium, including the Internet and by any process, for any edition of the competition or event.
- Agree to take part in the recitals of the winners (if applicable) and in at least one lyric solidarity event organized by Africa Lyric's Opéra.
- The partners and members of the jury who have contributed to the organization and the financing of this competition to have the same access to these media for non-commercial purposes and to use them to promote the artists.
- Africa Lyric's Opéra or any other mandatory it designates by name reserves the right to photograph, film and reproduce, on any existing or future medium, the candidates' performances throughout the duration of the competition. Candidates declare that they assign all rights to Africa Lyric's Opéra, without any formalities.
- General data protection regulations : Africa Lyric's Opéra uses, within the framework of the regulations and law relating to the protection of personal data, data collection software that collects data from candidates. This data may be passed on to third parties (classical music professionals, opera houses, conservatories, etc.) on request, notably in the context of proposed engagements or support actions for artists.
- Registration for the competition implies acceptance of the present rules. Africa Lyric's Opéra is expressly authorized to store and to use the collected data. In accordance with the French Data Protection Act N°78-17 of 6 July 1978, candidates have the right to access and rectify their personal data by contacting Africa Lyric's Opéra.

## **IX - CANCELLATION**

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In the event of cancellation of the competition for any reason (pandemic, climate, lack of funding, conflict, lack of venue, circumstances beyond control, etc.), Africa Lyric's Opéra shall not be held liable to the candidates, the jury or the partners.



# **X - DISPUTES**

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- Africa Lyric's Opéra reserves the right to make changes or adjustments to these rules at any time if circumstances should require.
- In the event of a dispute, only the latest French version of these rules will be legally valid.
- For any point not covered by the present rules, any possible addition or change of the rules, and more generally, any question raised during the course of the contest, Africa Lyric's Opéra is, in fine, the sole decision-maker. Its decisions are final.

## XI - CONTACT



For all inquiries relating to the  
International Singing Competition  
« **The Great Lyric Voices of Africa** »

Contact our team :

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Website of the competition :

[www.lesgrandesvoixlyriquesdafrique.fr](http://www.lesgrandesvoixlyriquesdafrique.fr)