

Rules of the 7th International Harp Competition in Szeged, 2025

1. General Conditions

- 1.1 The 7th International Harp Competition will take place at Reök Palace in Szeged, Hungary between November 19 23, 2025.
- 1.2 The 7th International Harp Competition is open to harpists of all nationalities, in three age categories:

U14 (14 and under) - for harpists born on or after 24 November 2010

U19 (19 and under) - for harpists born on or after 24 November 2005

U25 (25 and under) - for harpists born on or after 24 November 1999

- 1.3 Contestants may participate only in one category.
- 1.4 All stages of all categories of the competition are open to the public.
- 1.5 Contestants agree that the International Harp Competition in Szeged may record their performances during the competition. These recordings may be broadcast by any existing or future medium of transmission, in Hungary and abroad. Additionally, contestants renounce all claims to renumeration arising from the use of the above named recordings by the International Harp Competition in Szeged.

2. Application

2.1 Please fill in the application form available under www.szegedharpcompetition.com

Contestants will need to include:

- complete competition's programme, including the timing of each piece (PDF)
- CV (PDF)
- a recommendation letter by the contestant's teacher (in the case of students), or by a professional musician (with signature; scanned as PDF)
- a recent photograph, suitable for reproduction in the programme book (minimum resolution 300 dpi, JPG)
- scan of contestant's passport, birth certificate, or similar ID
- upload a video (recorded in one take, from one camera angle, unedited) of one piece from your proposed competition programme on YouTube, Vimeo, Youku or Toudou. This can be

under public or private link. The link of the video is included on the entry form.

- 2.2 Application deadline: September 15th, 2025
- 2.3 The applicants who are admitted to the competition will receive a confirmation (accepted or not accepted) by **September 29th, 2025.**
- 2.4 After receiving the confirmation of being accepted the applicants should pay the participation fee by **October 6th**, **2025** (please send proof or payment via email, for example a scanned bank transfer receipt). The registration fee is non-refundable.
- 2.5 The completed application form, by which the contestant accepts the rules and regulations of the competition, constitutes a contract between the contestant and the competition.
- 2.6 The organizing committee alone is entitled to decide on the admission of contestants.

2.7 Registration fee:

Age category	Registration fee
U14	65 Euros
U19	85 Euros
U25	105 Euros

3. Competition

- 3.1 The entire programme in each age category has to be played from memory.
- 3.2 The order of performance is left to the contestant's own discretion.
- 3.3 Should a performance on stage last longer than the stipulated duration, the jury are permitted to interrupt the contestant.
- 3.4 The order in which contestants perform at the competition will be determined by drawing of lots. It will be executed by the organising committee. All contestants will receive an individual notification by e-mail with the time of their practice and performance. This order of performance will apply throughout all stages of the competition.
- 3.5 No more than three contestants may advance to the finals of the U25 category.
- 3.6 Each U25 finalist will receive a rehearsal time to work with their chamber music partners. Each contestant will be entitled to the same amount of rehearsal time.
- 3.7 The announcement of all prize winners and distribution of prizes will take place during the closing ceremony.
- 3.8 Each prize winner will be awarded a diploma. All contestants will be awarded a certificate.
- 3.9 Harps sponsored by Camac Harps, and individual practice time, will be provided to active contestants. U25 contestants may choose from the provided harps for their performance. U19 contestants will be assigned a choice of 2 harps for the competition performance. U14 contestants will be assigned 2 harps (a lever and a pedal harp) selected for the competition, on

which all the candidates will perform. Participants may use their personal instruments, at their own liability and costs.

3.10 Contestants are expected to use original scores of the works they perform and must be able to supply the scores used in their programme to the organising committee. Contestants must provide 2 photocopies of each piece (except the set pieces) for the jury. Photocopies will be destroyed after the competition.

4. Repertoire

U14

A free program of max. 7 minutes, including a set piece by Ákos Zarándy: Leaves (2023)

U19

Stage 1: a free program of maximum 10 minutes, including 1 or 2 movements from a set pieces by Márton Levente Horváth: Versets for an Imaginary Vespers (2023)

Stage 2: a free program of maximum 12 minutes, including any piece by H. Renié or M. Grandjany

U25

Stage 1: a free program of maximum 10 minutes, including a free choice piece written for harp after 2001

Stage 2: a free program of maximum 25 minutes, including any piece by H. Renié or M. Grandjany

Stage 3: M. Ravel: Introduction et Allegro and a free choice virtuoso encore of maximum 6 minutes duration

5. Jury

- 5.1 The jury consists of an uneven number of members, and of harpists and a non-harpist musician.
- 5.2 One of the members of the Jury will be appointed chair by the organising committee. No further distinction is made between jury members.
- 5.3 All members of the jury must be present for all stages and deliberations during the competition.
- 5.4 The jurors' mission is to rank the contestants according to the procedure established by these rules.
- 5.5 The decisions of the jury are final and there is no right of appeal.
- 5.6 The jury will vote by secret ballot.
- 5.7 Prior to first stage of each category, jurors will be asked to submit a conflict of interest disclosure form, identifying contestants whom they have taught in either a private lesson or a class setting. Jurors may not vote for, or take part in any discussion about, a contestant who is currently studying with them or who has studied with them in the past. In the case of masterclasses, jurors must abstain from voting if they believe a student/teacher relationship was/has been established.

- 5.8 Throughout the competition, the jury shall refrain from having any direct or indirect contact with any active contestant or his/her next of kin, as the impression could be given that a contestant is receiving special treatment or advice. The only exception to the contact restriction is a health emergency requiring assistance from a medical professional.
- 5.9 There is to be no conversation between jurors, including positive or negative comments, in the audition hall during the stages. Jurors are required to avoid talking about active contestants and discussing their performances at all times, and to refrain from influencing other jurors during the competition.
- 5.10 Time after each category's final stage will be scheduled for the jury to meet with contestants who are no longer active, to share performance insights and to answer questions.

6.Voting procedure

6.1 Contestants' performances are to be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Musicianship	0-10 points
Technique	0-10 points
Stage presence	0-10 points

- 6.2 For each stage the contestants with the highest average scores will advance.
- 6.3 After each stage, jurors will submit their completed evaluation forms to the jury assistant. Jurors will abstain from judging participants who are or have been their students. Jurors should turn in blank evaluation forms for contestants whom they have taught.
- 6.4 Evaluation form will be confidential at all times.
- 6.5 Jury deliberations are to be regarded as confidential during and after the competition.
- 6.6 No Jurors will be allowed to see the evaluation forms of other jurors.
- 6.7 Points may not be changed once the stage's evaluation forms are collected.
- 6.8 The main prizes except 1st prize may be split between multiple awardees, if more than one participant reaches *the same* points.

7. Awards

- 7.1 The Jury is not obliged to award all prizes, if they do not wish to do so.
- 7.2. Main prizes sponsored by Camac Harps

Category U25	Category U19	Category U14
1st prize 2500€	1st prize 1000€	1st prize 500€
2nd prize 1000€	2nd prize 500€	2nd prize 300€
3rd prize 700€	3rd prize 300€	3rd prize 200€

7.3 Special Awards: Special awards will be confirmed at a later date.

For further information don't hesitate to contact us: szegedharpcompetition@gmail.com