



## SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION GUIDELINES OPUS KLASSIK 2024

### **Basis for the submission**

The basis for submission in the individual categories of the OPUS KLASSIK are digital and physical releases by one or more artists from the classical music genre. Prizes are also awarded for projects, compositions, live formats or exceptional achievements or merits rather than albums.

All classical music artists who are active in the music scene and the classical music market at the time of submission are eligible for the award, regardless of their nationality. In case of doubt, the categorisation in the Phononet database determines whether an album can be assigned to the classical music genre.

With the submission, the award categories, the submission and evaluation principles and the procedure are recognised. Legal recourse is excluded.

### **Eligibility to submit**

All labels and distributors whose albums are permanently sold on the German market and hold the corresponding distribution rights to the artists' recordings are entitled to submit. Any company can submit any number of albums or video formats. In addition, each submission can be suggested for any number of categories.

Concert promoters, publishers, labels and artists can nominate in all categories that are not pure album prizes (categories 5, 6, 7, 18, 25, 27).

### **Submission and evaluation periods**

The submission period runs from **January 15th, 2024 to March 31, 2024**. The postmark applies to physical submissions. Submissions received after 31 March 2024 or incomplete within the submission period cannot be considered. Late deadlines will not be approved.

The evaluation period for the OPUS KLASSIK 2024 is between **March 1st, 2023 and March 31st, 2024**. All new classical releases published between March 1st, 2023 and March 31st, 2024 are eligible for the submission process with regard to visual media, sound recordings and digital albums. The albums must contain recordings published for the first time in the evaluation period, which must account for at least 50% of the total playing time of the publication. Products or projects submitted in the previous year may not be resubmitted. For all other prizes, the relevant period is specified in the announcement of the respective categories. If reviews for submissions of current publications (publication date: 01.03.2023 to 31.03.2024) are not yet available by the submission deadline, these can still be submitted at: [info@opusklassik.de](mailto:info@opusklassik.de) until April 30<sup>th</sup> 2024.

### **Form of submission**

All submission for the OPUS KLASSIK are made via an online submission system: <http://einreichung-opusklassik.essenz.de>

The online submission process must be completed by March 31, 2024 and, in case of doubt, must be confirmed by e-mail. In principle, all recordings are submitted digitally (exceptions for categories 19 and 22 see below). When submitting, the corresponding link must be entered under which the album is available on a streaming provider such as Apple Music. If there is no release on a streaming platform,



a download link must be entered in the corresponding field. In this case, the OPUS KLASSIK office ensures that the recording is available to the jury in the quality of the submitted download file.

In categories 1 to 5 and 16, projects that have only been released exclusively as audio-visual recordings (DVD / Blu-ray) can also be submitted as an option, provided that the artist plays a leading, clearly prominent role in the recording (no documentaries). In this case, 9 copies of the audio-visual recording submitted will be sent to the Verein zur Förderung der Klassischen Musik e.V.

Each submission consists of the completed online submission and two outstanding reviews, unless other requirements are defined in the respective category.

An outstanding review is an above-average review of the submitted publication in a digital medium (e.g. digital editions of magazines, daily newspapers or qualified web forums), a print medium (both daily and weekly newspapers as well as magazines). Reviews on the radio or in a TV programme must be supported by a link, a recording or a copy of a broadcast transcript. The review must evaluate the publication; interviews or concert reviews in which the publication is merely mentioned are not accepted. Reviews in social media or on Youtube/ Vimeo/ Amazon or similar platforms or in in-house publications are not accepted. Reviews are valid in the following languages: German and English - if the review was published in another language, the original review must be submitted with a translation in German or English.

In category 19 (Audiovisual Music Production), 9 copies of each of the audio-visual recordings submitted must be sent to the Verein zur Förderung der Klassischen Musik e.V.

In category 22 (Innovative Audio Productions), 9 copies of each audio recording submitted must be sent to the Verein zur Förderung der Klassischen Musik if it has been physically released.

The Verein zur Förderung der Klassischen Musik e.V. reserves the right to request physical products for all other categories in which a digital submission is generally sufficient, if the jury so desires and needs it. The protective foils must be removed and each sound / audio / visual carrier must be clearly labelled with a label indicating the relevant category /categories and, if applicable, the area in which the product is submitted. Sound carriers that are not labelled or labelled on the protective film will not be considered.

### **Fees**

A one-off processing fee of 60.00 Euros (including VAT) is charged for each submission (not applicable for categories 6, 18, 25, 26 and 27). If a sound carrier is proposed for several categories, there are no additional costs. The fee must be credited to the account of the Verein zur Förderung der Klassischen Musik e.V. no later than 14 days after receipt of the invoice. Submissions for which the fees have not been paid on time cannot be considered.

### **Verein zur Förderung der Klassischen Musik e.V.**

Stralauer Allee 1  
10245 Berlin



## PRICE CATEGORIES OPUS KLASSIK 2024

### **CATEGORY 1 | FEMALE SINGER OF THE YEAR**

The outstanding female singer is honoured for one of the submitted publications.

### **CATEGORY 2 | MALE SINGER OF THE YEAR**

The outstanding male singer is awarded for one of the submitted publications.

### **CATEGORY 3 | INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE YEAR**

Up to three outstanding instrumentalists will be honoured for one of the submitted publications. One prize can be awarded per instrument category.

### **CATEGORY 4 | CONDUCTOR OF THE YEAR**

The outstanding conductor is honoured for one of the submitted publications.

### **CATEGORY 5 | COMPOSER OF THE YEAR**

The award goes to the composer whose work has attracted particular attention during the submission period and has contributed to the enrichment of local classical music life.

A posthumous honour is excluded. Submissions may be made by publishers and labels. The qualification must be justified in writing with the submission and the performance of the work must be documented with a traceable recording: available (permanent) streaming or audio link or on image or sound carrier. One review must be submitted.

### **CATEGORY 6 | AWARD FOR LIFE WORK OF AN ARTIST**

The recognition of the life's work of an artist honours the personality whose artistic oeuvre is particular significance to musical life. A posthumous honour is excluded. The proposal must be accompanied by a written justification (max. 3,300 characters including spaces). The proposal can be made by labels, artists, artist managers, publishers or concert organizers. No processing fees have to be paid and no records or reviews have to be submitted.

### **CATEGORY 7 | YOUNG TALENT OF THE YEAR**

Up to four outstanding young artists in the fields of conducting, singing and instrument will be honoured. Labels, publishers or concert organizers can submit entries. Publications and performances can be submitted that can be documented with a verifiable recording in professional image/ sound quality: permanently available streaming or audio link or image or sound carrier. The underlying release must be the first time that the artist has achieved particular recognition in the German musical life and/ or recording market.

### **CATEGORY 8 | ENSEMBLE / ORCHESTRA OF THE YEAR**

Up to two prizes can be awarded in this category, one to an outstanding symphonic orchestra and one to an outstanding ensemble for one of the submitted publications.

### **CATEGORY 9 | SOLO RECORDING SINGING OF THE YEAR**

Singers are honoured for an outstanding performance in the fields of opera and oratorios as well as concert and song for a publication submitted in these fields. One prize can be awarded for each area.



#### **CATEGORY 10 | SOLO RECORDING INSTRUMENT OF THE YEAR**

Up to three artists will be honoured for a publication of a solo recording submitted in this area. One prize can be awarded per instrument.

#### **CATEGORY 11 | CONCERT RECORDING OF THE YEAR**

The soloist, the conductor and the orchestra are jointly awarded for the outstanding interpretative recording of a concert. Up to three prizes can be awarded for different instruments.

#### **CATEGORY 12 | CHAMBER MUSIC RECORDING OF THE YEAR**

Outstanding recordings in the field of chamber music are honoured. Up to three prizes in different categories (musical ensemble or epoch) can be awarded.

#### **CATEGORY 13 | CLASSIC WITHOUT LIMITS**

Music productions that build a bridge to or from classical music can be submitted. This bridge can be built both by the music and by the artists. On the one hand, classical compositions that are interpreted in a different musical genre or popular compositions that incorporate classical stylistic elements can be honoured. On the other hand, productions by classical artists who have recorded a different musical genre or popular artists who have presented classical productions can be honoured. Operettas and musicals can also be submitted. Up to two prizes can be awarded.

#### **CATEGORY 14 | SYMPHONIC RECORDING OF THE YEAR**

Up to two outstanding recordings and interpretations of a symphonic work from different eras can be awarded. The conductor and the orchestra receive the award.

#### **CATEGORY 15 | CHORAL RECORDING OF THE YEAR**

The award is given for the outstanding recording of a choral work, a cappella music or choral/ensemble music with instrumental accompaniment. The prize goes to the choir/ensemble and the respective leader/conductor.

#### **CATEGORY 16 | OPERA RECORDING OF THE YEAR**

Up to two outstanding opera productions (works from the 17th to the 21st century) in different epochs can be awarded. The award goes to the soloist, the conductor and the orchestra together. Audio productions as well as audiovisual productions can be submitted.

#### **CATEGORY 17 | WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING OF THE YEAR**

The prize is awarded to the world premiere recording of a composition (regardless of when it was composed) that makes a work using classical stylistic devices available on a sound recording. The first recording must account for more than 66% of the total playing time of the sound carrier and be labelled as a first recording. The performers and/or conductor and/or orchestra will be honoured together.

#### **CATEGORY 18 | INNOVATIVE CONCERT OF THE YEAR**

The prize is awarded to the organiser or the artist for an innovative concert experience. Awards can be given for special programmes, but also for a concert experience associated with a special production. The proposal must be substantiated in writing (max. 3,300 characters including spaces) and at least one outstanding concert review must be submitted. Organisers, artists or labels and publishers can submit entries. No processing fees have to be paid.



#### **CATEGORY 19 | AUDIOVISUAL MUSIC PRODUCTION OF THE YEAR**

The award is given to an outstanding long-form video in the field of classical music for music or documentary. The production must have been published on audiovisual media or in the field of home entertainment (on demand) during the submission period.

#### **CATEGORY 20 | VIDEO CLIP OF THE YEAR**

The award is given to a short-form video production that was published during the submission period and is characterized by special quality, exceptional aesthetics and/ or emotional power and media reach. No review needs to be submitted for this category. The OPUS KLASSIK School will also be awarded in this category.

#### **CATEGORY 21 | EDITORIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR**

The award is given to a label/ company for an outstanding editorial achievement in the field of sound recordings that represents a significant enrichment of the repertoire. A precise description and justification of the editorial work must be submitted.

#### **CATEGORY 22 | INNOVATIVE LISTENING EXPERIENCE OF THE YEAR**

An audio production in the field of classical music that uses technological innovations to create a new kind of listening experience, especially those that have an intrinsic aesthetic value and/ or acoustically reflects structural elements of the recorded music, can be awarded.

#### **CATEGORY 23 | FILM MUSIC / SCORE OF THE YEAR**

The award is awarded for the audio production of an outstanding work composed especially for a film or series, or for a computer or video game. Both newly written film scores and outstanding new recordings of classically composed music for films and new recordings of previously published soundtracks or film scores are eligible. Compilation soundtracks composed mainly of pop music or compilation soundtracks of pieces that have already been recorded are not permitted.

#### **CATEGORY 24 | NEW CLASSIC/ NEOCLASSIC**

The award recognises an audio or audiovisual production of a new work or new works that combine stylistic devices from classical music with those from the musical subgenres like neoclassical, minimal music, contemporary music, ambient or electronic music. The innovative character is justified either by the nature of the composition or by the particularly innovative and extraordinary way in which sounds and production methods from the above-mentioned genres are combined with classical music.

#### **CATEGORY 25 | PRIZE FOR THE PROMOTION OF YOUNG TALENTS (child and youth work)**

The prize is awarded to a project that has made an exceptional contribution to promoting the activities of children and young people in the field of classical music during the evaluation period or has familiarised children/young people with classical music in a special way. The prize is awarded to natural or legal persons or their representatives. Anyone who provides information about such a project is entitled to submit an entry. The qualification must be justified in writing with the submission (max. 3,300 characters including spaces) and must be supported by reviews/ press articles and/ or video and/ or audio links. There are no processing fees to be paid.



### **CATEGORY 26 | BEST SELLER**

The award is given to the best-selling new album released during the evaluation period. The recipients of the award are the artists of this album. The decision criterion for the Bestseller of the Year is solely the sales of a full-price sound carrier in the assessment period, determined by GfK Entertainment (including all retail partners shown there). Crossover productions and recordings with Christmas music (e.g. Christmas carols) that are published for seasonal business and that would hardly be listened or purchased outside the Christmas period are not eligible. The exclusion does not include works with an overarching repertoire value such as Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Handel's Messiah, Christmas cantatas, so-called Christmas Concerti grossi etc.

### **CATEGORY 27 | INNOVATION AWARD FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

The innovation award for sustainability honours a relevant initiative, for example to protect the climate and the environment in the field of classical music.

The special prize can be awarded to artists, ensembles or institutions that develop projects or products for sustainable classical music business and thus make a forward-looking contribution to the common good. The prize is awarded in partnership with the Orchester des Wandels Deutschland e.V. No processing fees have to be paid.