



YOUNG OPERA SINGER ACADEMY
ELĪNA GARANČA YOUNG BALTIC VOICES

REGULATIONS

The goal of the Elīna Garanča Opera Academy “Young Baltic Voices” is to build a bridge between education and professional career for exceptionally talented young artists from the Baltic States, providing them with the opportunity to further develop their skills under the guidance of singing teachers and opera artists, to support and promote the career development and advancement of the future opera singers.

The Academy is organised by the Latvian National Opera and Ballet (LNOB) in cooperation with its artistic patron – the world-famous mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča.

1. General rules

- 1.1. These Regulations determine the procedure for the establishment and operation of the Opera Academy as a professional development support programme for young artists.
- 1.2. The Opera Academy takes place every year from September to mid-June, covering one artistic and academic theatre season. In certain cases, the training period may be extended based on the decision of the Opera Academy.
- 1.3. Each year, the Opera Academy accepts no more than 4 participants.
- 1.4. The venue is Riga, Latvia, at the premises of the LNOB or the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music (JVLMA).

2. Programme content

The Opera Academy curriculum includes three main study areas:

2.1. Vocal development:

- 2.1.1. Individual vocal technique and repertoire lessons;
- 2.1.2. Interpretation and style in different eras and periods of the opera;
- 2.1.3. Language and diction training (Italian, German, French, Russian, etc.).

2.2. Stage and acting skills:

- 2.2.1. Acting and character development;
- 2.2.2. Movement, physical expression and actions on stage;
- 2.2.3. Participation in master classes in mise-en-scènes and public concerts.

2.3. Career development and mentoring:

- 2.3.1. Individual work with experienced singers and industry professionals;
- 2.3.2. Seminars on the opera industry, contracts, audition experience and the work of agents;
- 2.3.3. Consultations on media literacy and professional image.

3. Teaching methods

- 3.1. The Opera Academy lessons are developed by the Opera Academy teachers using their chosen teaching methods.
- 3.2. Lessons can be held in Latvian, English or any other language agreed upon with the teacher.
- 3.3. The Opera Academy reserves the right to appoint teachers and replace them during the theatre season.

4. Candidate application procedure and selection process

- 4.1. Candidates who meet the following criteria:
 - 4.1.1. are adult citizens or permanent residents of Latvia, Lithuania or Estonia;
 - 4.1.2. were born in 1996 or later;
 - 4.1.3. have obtained formal vocal education (bachelor's or master's degree);
 - 4.1.4. are able to demonstrate outstanding vocal talent, motivation and potential for a professional opera careercan apply for a participation in the Opera Academy.

- 4.2. When applying for a participation in the Opera Academy, the candidate submits:
 - 4.2.1. a completed application form;
 - 4.2.2. one portrait photo;
 - 4.2.3. video recordings of 2 opera arias and 1 art song with a piano or orchestra accompaniment, no longer than 20 minutes in total and no older than 1 year.

- 4.3. Candidate selection procedure:
 - 4.3.1. The selection of candidates takes place in two rounds:
 - 4.3.1.1. in the first round, the Jury evaluates the candidate recordings and nominates the best (no more than 15 candidates) for audition in the second round;
 - 4.3.1.2. the second round takes place in person in Riga, at the Latvian National Opera.
 - 4.3.1.3. in the second round, the candidate submits the names of 5 opera arias in different characters and sends the music sheet (with a piano excerpt, in PDF format). The pianist for the second round is provided by the Opera Academy.

 - 4.3.2. Based on the competition rules, the Jury selects no more than 4 participants who have successfully passed the audition to become participants of the Opera Academy.

 - 4.3.3. When starting the participation in the Opera Academy, the participant signs an agreement on acquisition of the curriculum.

4.3.4. Upon successful completion of the Opera Academy, the participant receives a certificate of participation in the programme and the acquired curriculum.

5. Participant responsibilities

- 5.1. Actively participate in all seminars and classes.
- 5.2. Participate in concerts, productions and other events organised by the Opera Academy and the LNOB.
- 5.3. Comply with the fire safety, labour protection and other rules and requirements set by the organisers of master classes, concerts, meetings and productions, as well as follow the instructions of the LNOB security officers and other personnel.
- 5.4. Demonstrate professional behaviour, be punctual and treat colleagues and mentors with respect.
- 5.5. Notify the responsible person of the Opera Academy in case of inability to participate in classes due to extraordinary circumstances.
- 5.6. Protect the good name of the LNOB and the Opera Academy.
- 5.7. The participant has the right to withdraw from the Opera Academy at any time by submitting a written notification to the programme manager.
- 5.8. A participant may be expelled from the Opera Academy if he/she:
 - 5.8.1. Repeatedly fails to attend classes, master classes or rehearsals of performances, or concerts;
 - 5.8.2. Does not demonstrate sufficient progress in the professional field of the opera genre;
 - 5.8.3. Does not comply with the rules or norms of conduct of the LNOB or the Opera Academy.
- 5.9. The decision to expel a participant is taken by the programme manager.

6. Financial obligations

- 6.1. The participation in the Opera Academy and in all classes therein are free of charge.
- 6.2. The participant covers his/her own travel expenses to the Opera Academy and accommodation expenses in Riga.

7. The use of photographs and voice recordings of participants

- 7.1. The LNOB has the right to record all auditions, seminars, classes and individual training sessions that take place within the Opera Academy, as well as performances organised by the LNOB where the Opera Academy participants take part.
- 7.2. Participants agree to the above by signing the agreement on participation in the Opera Academy.
- 7.3. The LNOB has the right to publish the materials specified in Clause 1 above at its own discretion, for example, on the Internet, including on the LNOB website or social networks,
- 7.4. Participants have the right to use the aforementioned materials for their own self-promotion or other purposes only with the prior consent of the LNOB, and they must always be referenced as the LNOB materials.

8. Final provisions

8.1. These Regulations are prepared in Latvian and English. In case of ambiguity and different interpretations, the Latvian text shall prevail.

8.2. The Regulations shall enter into force on February 9, 2026.

8.3. All amendments to these Regulations will be published on the website <https://www.youngbalticvoices.com/>

Approved:

Riga, February 9, 2026

By Board of LNOB, decision No 6