

Krastin Nastev, Artistic Director

First Competition for Choral Conductors “Krikor Chetinyan” – Plovdiv October 23-26, 2025

The Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Professor Assen Diamandiev” in Plovdiv, in collaboration with the Creative Laboratory for Choral Music “Krikor Chetinyan” announce the first edition of the International Choral Conducting Competition “Krikor Chetinyan”. The competition is supported by “Plovdiv 2019” Foundation and aims to preserve the legacy of the renowned Bulgarian conductor, teacher and mentor Professor Krikor Chetinyan.

Age Limit:

The competition is open to citizens of any country, born between 1990 and 2005.

Application must include:

1. *Curriculum Vitae* and a short bio (not to exceed 200 words)
2. Link to a YouTube video of two contrasting works, showing the applicant in rehearsal and/or performance in front of a choir or an instrumental ensemble (if a recording with choir is not available). Frontal view with the camera facing the applicant is highly preferred.
3. Non-refundable application fee of 100 BGN (50 Euros) paid to the following account:
Procredit Bank
SWIFT: PRCBBGSF
BG85PRCB92301022500017
Name: Hazaros Chetinyan

Deadline:

Applications must be submitted to competition@chetinyan.org no later than June 15, 11:59 PM (GMT+2)

Preliminary selection:

Application materials will be reviewed by Donka Miteva, Music Director at TU – Berlin (Germany) and Yana Deliradeva – conductor of «Detska kitka» choir, Plovdiv. Twelve candidates will be selected to appear at the first round which will take place on October 23, 2025, at 7 PM at the Small Bishop’s Basilica in Plovdiv. Candidates must be present at the venue no later than 6 PM on the same day.

All selected applicants will receive a formal email invitation by June 20, 2025. A participation fee of 500 BGN (250 Euros) must be paid in full by June 30, 2025, to the bank account listed above.

I. Competition Rules and Regulations:

First Round, October 23

The twelve applicants selected for this round will have 12 minutes each to conduct two songs, one of which is mandatory for all candidates, and the other will be randomly drawn from the list below. The conductors in the first round will work with the Academic Choir “Gaudeamus” (Dr. Vesela Geleva, Music Director)

1. Arvo Pärt – Bogoróditse Djévo /Mandatory piece/
2. Elena Junek – Svete tihy
3. Dobri Hristov – Nine otpushaeshi
4. Konstantin Shvedov – Dostoino est
5. Georgi Sviridov - Sviatiy Bozhe

Second Round, October 24

The jury will announce six candidates who will continue in the Second Round of the competition and conduct “Detska Kitka” Youth Choir (Professor Zlatina Deliradeva and Yana Deliradeva, Music Directors). Each candidate will have 20 minutes to conduct two songs, one mandatory, and the other randomly drawn from the list below.

1. Krassimir Kyurkchiyski – Dilmano, Dilbero – /Mandatory piece/
2. Ola Gejlo – Northern Lights
3. Marc Sirett – Watane
4. Susanna Lindmark – Song of Hope
5. Sandra Milliken – Gloria (Missa piccola)

Third and Final Round, October 25

The jury will announce three candidates who will continue in the Final Round of the competition and conduct “Ivan Spassov” Chamber Choir (Gergana Lutskanova, Music Directors). Each finalist will have 30 minutes to conduct two songs, one mandatory, and the other randomly drawn from the list below.

1. Ivan Spassov – Dimano, belai kadono /Mandatory piece/
2. Aleksandar Tekeliev – Two eyes in the silence
3. Morten Lauridsen – O nata lux
4. Knut Nystedt – Peace I leave with you
5. Bruno Vlahek – Salve Regina

II. Venues and schedule of the competition

23 october 2025

Small Bishop’s Basilica of Philippopolis
“Knyaginya Maria Luisa” 2, bul.

24 october 2025

Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts “Professor Assen Diamandiev “– Plovdiv
Old city, Plovdiv Center
"Todor Samodumov" 2, str., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

25 october 2025

History Museum, Unification Hall - Plovdiv
Square "Unification" 1
4000 Plovdiv

III. Awards

First prize: 1500 BGN and certificate

Second Prize: 1000 BGN and certificate

Third Prize: 600 BGN and certificate

IV. Jury

1. Frieder Bernius - Chairman
2. Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva
3. Prof. Zlatina Deliradeva

4. Prof. Miroslav Popsavov
5. Dr. Krastin Nastev

V. Additional Regulations:

- Registration fee will not be refunded if an applicant cancels participation in the competition due to any reason
- The official languages of the competition are Bulgarian and English
- All decisions of the jury are final
- By submitting the application, all applicants accept the rules and regulations of the competition
- Rounds one and two are closed to the public. Round three will be in front of an audience and is open to the public.

Organizational Committee:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jean Pehlivanov - Rector of AMTII "Prof. Prof. Assen Diamandiev - Plovdiv

Dr. Krastin Nastev - Artistic Director of the Competition

Dr. Hazaros Chetianyan - Administrative Director

Prof. Dr. Vesela Geleva - Profesor in Choral Conducting at AMTII "Prof. Prof. Asen Diamandiev - Plovdiv

Nikoleta Eneva - Artistic Secretary