

The 6th Gryphon Award Young Musician of the Year 2026

GENERAL INFORMATION, RULES & REGULATIONS

The Competition is open to students who attend **full-time** International, private or local schools in Russia who wish to exhibit their talent and abilities in performing classical music. Students who attend special music schools and professional music colleges or who are on distant learning are not permitted to enter. The Competition will be held in two age groups: Students no younger than and no older than 8-12 years old (Junior group) and students no younger than and no older than 13-17 years old (Senior group) on the day of the competition finals (**Gala concert, 22nd of April, 2026**).

The Competition will have five instrumental sections.

- Piano (classical)
- Bowed strings (violin, viola and cello)
- Plucked strings (classical guitar - nylon strings, solo performance only; harp)
- Woodwind and brass (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone)
- Voice (Academic)

STAGES OF THE COMPETITION:

1. Preliminary Round

For this round, all applicants have to present a video recording of their performance. The recording must be made especially for the Competition. The duration of the recording must be between 5 and 10 minutes and it must include not less than 2 pieces of different character, at least one of which must be composed not later than in the 19th Century. All recordings in MPEG4 format must be uploaded to the following application form:

[FORM FOR GRYPHON AWARD.](#)

The deadline for applications is **15th of March, 2026**. A maximum of 3 participants of each age group for each section will be selected to take part in the live auditions for a place in the final.

2. Live Auditions

The live auditions will take place on **Saturday, 18th of April, 2026** in the Performance Hall of Brookes Moscow (7, Lazorevyy proezd). The live auditions will be judged by a board of experienced musicians and music teachers from each discipline. The programme for the live audition must be not less than 4 minutes and not more than 10 minutes long, and it must include not less than 2 and not more than 3 pieces of various styles, at least one of which must be composed not later than in the 19th Century. At least one piece performed in the live audition must be different from those represented in the video recordings. In the case of strings, guitar, voice, woodwind and brass sections, all applicants are welcome to bring their own piano accompanists. An accompanist can be also provided at cost. A maximum of 1 participant of each age group for each section will be selected for the Gala Concert.

3. Final Round (Gala Concert)

The Final round will be held as a recital evening performance which will be open to the public, families of participants and the school's representatives, at **7:00 pm on Wednesday 22nd of April** in the Performance Hall of Brookes Moscow. The duration of the performance must be between 3 and 7 minutes for the Junior age group, and between 5 and 10 minutes for the Senior age group, and it must include 1 or 2 pieces, at least one of which must not be from one of the previous rounds, and at least one of which must be composed not later than in the 19th Century. All participants in the Final Round will receive Diplomas of Laureates, indicating their age group and instrument. The Final round will be judged by a panel of eminent musicians from each discipline. After the Final auditions, the Jury will announce the two winners of **The Gryphon Awards**: Grand Prix (1st place) and Runner-up (2nd place).

APPLICATIONS:

The application must contain the following, on the provided form:

- The letter of application indicating the age of the applicant (on the 22nd of April, 2026).
- The instrument studied.
- The name of the school where the applicant studies full-time. The name of his/her music teacher and whether the applicant would need a piano accompanist during the Competition.
- Short biography of the applicant including his/her music achievements.
- Portrait photo of the applicant suitable for printing in the booklet of the Competition and for other publications.
- The video recording (see above for information from the Preliminary round).