



## NOMINATION AND EVALUATION BASES OPUS KLASSIK 2023

### **Basis for the nomination**

The basis for nominations in the individual OPUS KLASSIK categories are digital and physical publications by one or more artists from the classic genre. In addition, prizes are awarded that are not linked to albums but to projects, compositions, live formats or exceptional achievements or merits.

All artists of classical music who are active in musical life and on the classical market at the time of submission are qualified for the award, regardless of their nationality. In case of doubt, the classification in the Phononet database decides whether an album is to be assigned to the genre classical.

With the submission, the award categories, the submission and evaluation bases as well as the procedure are recognized. The decision of the jury is final.

### **Eligibility to nominate**

All labels and distributors whose albums are constantly sold on the German market and have the corresponding distribution rights to the recordings of the artists are entitled to submit. Any company can nominate any number of albums or video formats. In addition, each nomination 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).

### **Nomination and evaluation periods**

The nomination period lasts from **January 10th, 2023 to March 31, 2023**. The postmark applies to physical submissions. Submissions that are still incomplete after March 31, 2023 cannot be considered. Grace periods are not approved.

The evaluation period for the OPUS KLASSIK 2023 is between **March 1st, 2022 and March 31st, 2023**. All new classical releases that were published between March 1st, 2022 and March 31st, 2023 are eligible for the nomination process with regard to image carriers, sound carriers 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 nominated again. For all other prizes, the relevant period is stipulated when the respective categories are advertised. If no reviews are available for nominations of current publications (publication date: January 01, 2023 to March 31, 2023) by the nomination deadline, these can be submitted to: [info@opusklassik.de](mailto:info@opusklassik.de) by April 30, 2023.



### **Form of submission**

All nominations for the OPUS KLASSIK are made via the online submission system, which can be reached under the following link: <http://nominierung-opusklassik.essenz.de>

The online nomination process must be completed by March 31, 2023 and, in case of doubt, must be supported by a confirmation email. In principle, all recordings to be nominated are submitted digitally (exceptions for categories 19 and 22 here 9 copies must be handed in). During the nomination process a streaming link (Apple Music / Spotify / Idagio / ...) must be entered. If there is no publication on a streaming platform, a download link must be entered in the corresponding field in the nomination tool. In this case, the office of the OPUS KLASSIK 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 can optionally be submitted that have only been released as audio-visual media (DVD / Blu-ray), provided the artist plays a key, clearly prominent role in the recording (no documentation). In this case, 9 copies of each nominated audio / video carrier 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 and magazines). Meetings on the radio or in a TV report must be accompanied by a link, a recording or a copy of a broadcast protocol. The publication must be rated in the review; there are no interviews or concert reviews in which the publication is merely mentioned. 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 into German or English.

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 films must be removed and each sound / audio / visual carrier must be clearly labeled with a clearly visible label indicating the corresponding category /categories and, if applicable, the area in which the product is submitted. Sound carriers that are not marked or marked on the protective film will not be taken into account.

### **Fees**

A one-off fee of 50.00 Euros (including VAT) is charged for each nomination (not applicable for categories 6, 25, 26 and 27). If a sound carrier is proposed for several categories, there are no additional costs. The fee must be received in the account of the Verein zur Förderung der Klassischen Musik e.V. at the latest 14 days after receipt of the invoice. Nominations 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 2023**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A posthumous honour is excluded. Nominations can be made by publishers and labels. The qualification must be justified in writing with the nomination and the performance of the work must be documented with a comprehensible recording: available (permanent) streaming or audio link or on video or audio media. 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 particularly important for musical life. A posthumous honour is excluded. The proposal must be justified in writing with the submission (max. 3,300 characters including spaces). The proposal can be made by labels, artists, artist managers, publishers or concert organizers. There are no nomination fees to be paid and no records or reviews to be submitted.

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

Up to four outstanding young artistic personalities in the fields of conducting, singing and instruments will be honoured. Labels, publishers or concert organizers can submit. Publications and performances can be submitted that can be substantiated with a comprehensible recording in professional image / sound quality: permanently available streaming or audio link or image or sound carrier. With the underlying publication, the artist



must for the first time have achieved particular attention in the German musical life and / or the sound carrier 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 nominated publications.

#### **CATEGORY 9 | SOLO SINGING**

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

#### **CATEGORY 10 | SOLO INSTRUMENT**

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

#### **CATEGORY 11 | CONCERT RECORDING**

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**

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 can be nominated that build a bridge to or from classical music. This building of bridges can come from the music as well as from the artists. Classical compositions that are interpreted in a different music genre or popular compositions that are provided with classical stylistic devices can be awarded. On the other hand, productions by classical artists who have recorded a different genre of music or popular artists who have submitted classical productions can be awarded. Operettas and musicals can also be submitted. Up to two prizes can be awarded.

#### **CATEGORY 14 | SYMPHONIC RECORDING**

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**

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**

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 nominated.

#### **CATEGORY 17 | WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING**

The award goes to the world's first recording of a composition (regardless of the time of its creation) that makes a work that uses classical stylistic devices available on sound storage media. The first recording must amount to more than 66% of the total playing time of the sound carrier and be marked as the first recording. The performers and / or conductor and / or the orchestra are awarded jointly.

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

The concert organizer or artist is honoured for an innovative concert experience. Special programs, but also a concert experience associated with a special staging, can be awarded. The proposal must be justified in writing with the nomination (max. 3,300 characters including spaces) and at least one excellent concert review must be submitted. Concert organizers, artists or labels and publishers can nominate.

#### **CATEGORY 19 | AUDIOVISUAL MUSIC PRODUCTION**

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

#### **CATEGORY 20 | VIDEO CLIP**

The award is given to a short-form video production that was published during the nomination period and that is characterized by its special quality, extraordinary aesthetics and / or emotional power and media reach. There is no need to submit a review for this category.

#### **CATEGORY 21 | EDITORIAL PERFORMANCE**

The award is given to a label / company for an outstanding editorial performance in the field of physical releases, which represents a significant addition to the repertoire. A precise description and justification of the editorial work must be submitted for the nomination.

#### **CATEGORY 22 | INNOVATIVE LISTENING EXPERIENCE**

An audio production in the field of classical music that creates a new kind of listening experience using technological innovations, in particular those that have an intrinsic aesthetic value and / or acoustically reflect structural elements of the recorded music, can be awarded.



### **CATEGORY 23 | FILM MUSIC / SCORE**

The award is given to the audio production of an outstanding work specially composed for a film or series, or for a computer or video game. Newly written film scores as well as new recordings of classically composed music that are outstanding for films and new recordings of already published soundtracks or film scores are permitted.

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 prize is awarded to an audio or audiovisual production that combines stylistic devices from classical music with those from the musical sub-genres of neoclassic, minimal music, contemporary music, ambient or electronic. The innovative character is justified either by the type of composition or by the way sounds and production methods from the above genres are combined with classical music.

### **CATEGORY 25 | PRIZE FOR THE PROMOTION OF YOUNG TALENTS (CHILDREN)**

The award is given to a project which (during the evaluation period) has made an extraordinary contribution to promoting the activities of children and adolescents in the field of classical music or which has brought children / adolescents closer to 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 nominate. The qualification must be justified in writing with the nomination (max. 3,300 characters including spaces) and must be supported by reviews / press articles and / or video and / or audio links. There are no nomination fees to be paid.

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

The best-selling album which has been released during the evaluation period is awarded. The recipients of the award are the artists of this album. The only decision criterion for the bestseller of the year is the sale of a full-price sound carrier in the evaluation 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 heard or purchased outside of the Christmas period are not permitted. 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 who develop projects or products for a 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.