



INTERNATIONAL POP MUSIC FESTIVAL

VOLARE

17th Edition – Piatra Neamț, Romania, 2026

REGULATIONS

The STAR Cultural Association is organizing the 17th edition of the VOLARE International Festival from August 12th to 16th, 2026, in Piatra Neamț, in collaboration with the Piatra Neamț Trade Union Culture House, and Radio Iași.

The VOLARE Festival is a **music performance and creation competition**. The competition aims to encourage the creation of songs for children and contribute to the **discovery and promotion of young light music performers**, both Romanian and foreign. Additionally, the festival seeks to bring attention to the Neamț and Moldova regions for both Romanian and foreign tourists, enhancing Romania's recognition and appreciation abroad.

I. The festival-competition sections are:

1. POP MUSIC PERFORMANCE - INDIVIDUAL

Five age categories: 5 – 7 years, 8 – 9 years, 10 – 11 years, 12 – 14 years, 15 – 17 years, 18 – 25 years. * The age categories may change based on the number of participants for more accurate judging. Aspects to consider:

- The song should match the age characteristics (melody and lyrics),
- The performance should be pleasant, contain original elements, and engage the audience,
- Consideration will be given to the degree of development/correctness of intonation, timbral clarity, vocal range, diction, and vocal emission.
- Performance style specific to the age regarding the expressiveness of the melody and the content of the lyrics,
- Costume appropriate to the age of the contestant and the song.
- Songs will not be repeated within the same age category – the first registered with the song will have priority.

2. POP MUSIC PERFORMANCE - GROUPS

Age categories will be created based on the number of registered groups. Judging will focus on harmony, intonation, synchronization, originality, costume, and choreography.



3. CREATION

The Creation section can be divided into the Children's section, Teen section, Youth section, and Groups section, depending on the number of submitted pieces and the theme of the musical pieces (for children, teens, etc.).

- Only songs that are premieres will participate in the creation – they have not been presented at other events and have not appeared on television shows and/or streaming applications;
- The composer of the song will send a self-declaration to this effect;
- The melody and lyrics should express the aspirations of the contestants.

4. SPECIAL SECTION: "Golden Memories"

The Special Section is where we will bring something new each year, a new theme, to encourage the development of the contestants, challenge them to approach a new musical genre or style, or even a song with a chosen theme or by a specific composer or lyricist. Songs from other musical genres are allowed in the special section, provided they fit the annual theme. Songs from the popular/folklore or traditional genres are not accepted.

This year, at the 17th Edition, through the special section “Golden Memories”, we invite participants to return for a moment to a simpler world, an era when music was listened to on vinyl records, cassette tapes, or on the radio, and emotions were experienced authentically, beyond the fast pace of the digital age.

Through this special section, we aim to bring timeless songs back into the spotlight for the younger generations - songs that have marked generations and continue to move audiences even today. In a time dominated by technology and constantly changing trends, we invite contestants to rediscover the beauty of Romanian and international classic hits and the charm of melodies that have remained in people’s hearts throughout the years.

Within this section, contestants will perform songs originally released before the year 1990, well-known songs that have stood the test of time.

Reinterpretations and re-orchestrations of the songs are accepted; however, they should remain as faithful as possible to the spirit and essence of the original version.

If there are any uncertainties about fitting a song into this section, please contact us via email or Facebook.

- The song should match the age characteristics (melody and lyrics),
- The performance should be pleasant, contain original elements, and engage the audience,
- Consideration will be given to the degree of development/correctness of intonation, timbral clarity, vocal range, diction, and vocal emission.



- Performance style specific to the age regarding the expressiveness of the melody and the content of the lyrics,
- Costume appropriate to the age of the contestant and the song.
- Songs will not be repeated within the same age category – the first registered with the song will have priority.

* In the performance/special section, for each section and age category, prizes will be awarded (category trophy, 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place), mentions, and special prizes. In the **Performance Section**, intermediate trophies will also be awarded for several age groups (Mini Star Trophy, Young Star Trophy, Teen Star Trophy). The VOLARE International Trophy will be awarded to a single contestant regardless of the age category, who is **registered in the Performance Section (at least)** and who will manage to stand out exceptionally through their performance. In the CREATION Section, prizes will be awarded both to the contestants presenting the song and to the composer and lyricist, with 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes, honorable mentions, and the Creation Section Trophy.

* The number of contestants in each age category will be determined by the selection jury based on the vocal qualities of the contestants and the proposed songs.

II. Contestant registration will be done in 2 steps:

To facilitate the processing of participants' materials and minimize errors, the registration form will be completed digitally via a Google form found in point 1, and then the contestant's file with the documents specified in point 2 will be sent by email.

1. Personal data will be entered in the forms for each section in which the participant will compete.

- **Pop Individual performance** form link: will be active from **18.05.2026 to 14.06.2026** <https://forms.gle/wnWcMT6NpXdziVCQA>
- **Pop Groups performance** form link: will be active from **18.05.2026 to 14.06.2026**. <https://forms.gle/yxJLwSHSG3tBhvyq8>
- **Creation section** form link: will be active from **18.05.2026 to 30.06.2026** <https://forms.gle/JL2rS93KUhsZLUiL9>
- **Special Section "Golden Memories"** form link: will be active from **18.05.2026 to 14.06.2026**. <https://forms.gle/ushseeMYgn8Kcuv49>

2. The contestant's file will be sent by email to festivalvolare@yahoo.com with the following components:

- Birth certificate
- Contestant's photo
- Backing track of the song proposed for the final



- Proof of donation
- Composer's declaration (if consent is given) or Cover Declaration
- Positive track of the song or a link to a personal live performance of it.

* Please rename the documents with First Name Last Name and their specifics before sending them.

ATTENTION! Documents sent by email will not be considered if you do not also complete the corresponding forms and vice versa.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

- For participation in a **single section**, an amount of **100 euros/first section**.
- For the **Groups Category**, the donation amount will be **60 EUR/member** if the participant is already registered for another section/category. If the participant **competes exclusively** in the Groups Category, the donation amount will be **100 EUR/member**.
- In the case of a contestant participating in **multiple sections/categories**, the donation will be **150 euros for 2 sections/categories, 200 euros for 3 sections/categories**.

Package Participant/Accompanying person – 200 euros/person

It will include:

- 4 nights accommodation and breakfast – period 12th-16th August 2025. Departing on 17th August 2025, at 11:00
- Opening Ceremony, Festival, Gala Concert
- Sight Seeing in Piatra Neamț
- Broadcast online on www.radioiasi.ro

For additional nights of accommodation, depending on your purchased flight dates, reservations can be made for an extra cost by contacting the Volare Festival organizers via email, Facebook, or WhatsApp.

The donation, including the accommodation cost, is to be paid directly to the organizers, either upon arrival or via bank transfer. For any details or questions, please contact the organizers.

If there are more questions about arriving in Piatra Neamț, you can contact us via email. The closest airports are: Iasi International Airport and "George Enescu" International Airport Bacau. For flights arriving on "Henri Coanda" International Airport, there are more possibilities by train, car or bus to arrive in Piatra Neamț.



III. PARTICIPANTS' OBLIGATIONS:

- To comply with the provisions of these regulations;
- To send the necessary registration documents, backing tracks, positive tracks, or video recording links in a timely manner via email to festivalvolare@yahoo.com;
- To send the donations and maintain silence throughout the competition;
- To have the backing track of the song they are competing with on a stick in case of technical difficulties;
- To arrive at least 30 minutes before the estimated time of their performance;
- The consumption of food and alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the competition hall;
- To be present at the GALA in festive attire to receive the award. Otherwise, the prizes will NOT be sent by post/courier by the organizers;
- To transfer the rights for photography and/or video recording for the contest archive and/or for broadcasting the stage performances in favor of the organizers by accepting the terms at the end of the registration forms and signing the declarations;
- The expenses for transport/accommodation/meals will be borne by the contestants;
- To agree to the processing of personal data provided through the registration form for the purpose of organizing, conducting, and finalizing the competition for which registration was requested.;

IV. ORGANIZERS' OBLIGATIONS:

- To ensure:
 - Rehearsals for sound accommodation;
 - All conditions for the proper conduct of the competition (sound, awards, jury, show, recital, etc.);
 - All coordinating teachers will receive merit diplomas;
 - Hotel services for the jury, presenter, technical team, etc.;
- Not responsible for events or incidents in which contestants may be involved outside the show time;
- To ensure the confidentiality and security of processing the personal data of the registered candidates for the purpose of organizing, conducting, and finalizing the competition for which registration was requested.

V. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Famous songs from the national and international adult repertoire (cover) are allowed only with the consent of the copyright holder or a declaration from the performer's parent assuming responsibility for the assignment of copyright.



No other songs than those admitted following the selection will be presented in the competition.

In the festival final, the same song cannot be performed by multiple contestants in the same age group within the same section.

Backing tracks may contain backing vocals, but they must be on a different melody line than the one performed by the contestant (especially in choruses).

The contestant must have the written consent of the composer and lyricist regarding the assignment of copyright for broadcasting during and after the festival.

The results of the selection of the **performance section** songs will be posted on the festival website www.festivalvolare.ro and on the Volare Denisa Stoian Facebook page by **July 6th, 2026**.

The results of the selection of **the creation section** will be posted on the festival website www.festivalvolare.ro and on the Volare Denisa Stoian Facebook page by **July 6th, 2026**.

COMPETITION (FINAL PHASE): 13 - 14 - 15.08.2026

The organizer reserves the right to modify the conditions regarding the conduct of the 17th edition of the Volare International Music Festival, 2026.

The organizers do not assume responsibility for the copyrights and related rights of the songs performed in the competition; the contestant is solely responsible for any direct or indirect consequences that may arise from participating in this competition.

Contestants may be accompanied by choreographic groups or may provide visual material for the LED screens used, if available.

RECORDING AND BROADCASTING RIGHTS

The rights for photographing and/or video recording for the contest archive and/or for broadcasting the stage performances of the contestants belong to the STAR Cultural Association Piatra Neamț.

JURY

The jury consists of composers/performers, vocal coaches, and personalities from the Romanian and international light music scene.

Scoring in the competition will be done with strict adherence to the judging criteria: vocal qualities, intonation, interpretation, stage presence, expressiveness, artistic personality, difficulty of the piece, and suitability of the piece to the contestant's age.



In case of a tie in points for one or more contestants, the tie will be broken based on the score given by the jury president. If this criterion is not sufficient, the tie will be broken by the direct decision of the jury president.

Jury members will keep the scores and rankings resulting from the judging confidential.

Jury members who are teachers of the contestants admitted to the competition will not judge those candidates, with the note that in such cases, the jury president's score will be doubled. The jury's decisions are final and irrevocable, with the jury having the discretion not to award some prizes or to redistribute them, depending on the age category structure.

Any changes to these Regulations, imposed by situations beyond the organizer's control, will be communicated in a timely manner on the website www.festivalvolare.ro.

Gala attire is mandatory for contestants on the day of each contestant's performance and on the gala day.

The selection and competition jury's decisions are final and cannot be contested.

If a contestant does not appear in the festival final, the donated amount is NON-REFUNDABLE. **Failure to comply with these requirements will result in elimination from the competition.**

Information regarding accommodation and meals will be communicated based on the available options in Piatra Neamț and its surroundings. For example: Hotel Ceahlău – www.hotelceahlau.ro

Additional information can be obtained from the festival secretariat at

via email at festivalvolare@yahoo.com;

+40727753592 (WhatsApp only!)

WEB: www.festivalvolare.ro; Facebook: Volare Denisa Stoian

The regulations and declarations can be downloaded from the website www.festivalvolare.ro.

The schedule for rehearsal and competition days will be posted on the festival website. For any uncertainties, please contact the organizers.

THE ORGANIZERS OF THE FESTIVAL

WISH ALL PARTICIPANTS MUCH SUCCESS!