"Rákóczi 350"

CARPATHIAN BASIN TÁROGATÓ COMPETITION

On the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the birth of

Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II

-SÁROSPATAK-

October 26-27-28, 2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

On the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the birth of Prince Ferenc Rákóczi II, the National Tárogató Institute Foundation announces the first-ever Carpathian Basin Tárogató Competition.

The primary objective of the competition is to preserve the continuity of tárogató traditions, discover young talents, and recognize outstanding artistic achievements. It aims to honor and promote the traditions of the tárogató as a unique Hungarian instrument, ensure the education of the next generation of players, scout for talent, and showcase both historical and contemporary musical works.

The leadership of the Tárogató Institute pays special attention to the presentation of historical melodies and Hungarian musical relics associated with the name of Ferenc Rákóczi II, born 350 years ago, thereby paying tribute to the Prince and the musical heritage of the Kuruc era.

LOCATION OF THE COMPETITION:

The historic building of the

Sárospatak Reformed Theological Academy

(Founded in 1531)

1 Rákóczi Road, Sárospatak, 3950, Hungary

THE JURY OF THE COMPETITION

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

József Balogh

Clarinet and tárogató artist, recipient of the Bartók-Pásztory Award and the Hungarian Golden Cross of Merit; Hungarian Radio Quality Award winner; Associate Professor at the music institutes of Lübeck and Eutin, international soloist, and composer.

Attila Csávás

Clarinet and tárogató artist, multiple eMeRTon Award winner, recipient of the Hungarian Golden Cross of Merit; tárogató soloist for the Hungarian National Dance Ensemble; folk clarinet and tárogató teacher at the Folk Music Department of the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music.

Sándor Szabó

Tárogató artist, recipient of the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit; founder and artistic director of the Gregus Tárogató Quartet of Kecskemét; choir conductor.

György Csajághy

Tárogató artist, music teacher, ethnomusicologist, and orientalist historian; former clarinet, bass-clarinet, and saxophone artist of the National Theatre of Pécs and the Pannon Philharmonic.

Krisztián Tótpati

Tárogató artist, Vice President of the Dumitru Fărcaş Foundation in Cluj-Napoca; founder and organizer of the Dumitru Fărcaş International Festival and Tárogató Masterclass; visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Oradea; saxophone and tárogató teacher at the Satu Mare School of Arts; doctoral student at the Gheorghe Dima National Academy of Music in Cluj-Napoca.

Zoltán Erdő

Clarinet and tárogató artist, recipient of the Transylvanian Hungarian Heritage Award; Chairman and tárogató teacher of the National Tárogató Institute Foundation; clarinet artist and tárogató soloist of the Hungarian Police Orchestra; organizer of the Carpathian Basin Tárogató Competition.

COMPETITION RULES

The organizers primarily welcome applications from tárogató players residing in the following countries of the Carpathian Basin, while also providing the opportunity and warmly welcoming applications from tárogató players from more distant countries:

(Hungary – Slovakia – Ukraine – Romania – Serbia – Croatia – Slovenia – Austria)

AGE GROUPS

The competition is organized in 5 age groups:

Age Group	Age	Date of Birth
Group I	8 – 13 years old	Oct 27, 2012 – Oct 26, 2018
Group II	14 – 19 years old	Oct 27, 2006 – Oct 26, 2012
Group III	20 – 29 years old	Oct 27, 1996 – Oct 26, 2006
Group IV	30 – 49 years old	Oct 27, 1976 – Oct 26, 1996
Group V	Over 50 years old	Born before Oct 26, 1976

The Tárogató Competition:

- **One round** for contestants in **Groups I** and **V**.
- **Two rounds** for contestants in **Groups II, III,** and **IV**.

The performances for the two-round groups will take place on October 26-27 and October 27-28, 2026. The exact dates for each round and age group will be published by the organizers on the official competition website after the application deadline, i.e., after **September 26, 2026.**

https://tarogatointezet.hu/versenyfelhivas/

Repertoire Requirements:

Free-choice musical pieces must be exclusively of Hungarian relevance, including works and transcriptions by Hungarian composers, conforming to one of the following musical styles and eras:

- **Historical music:** 17th – 18th-century melodies, music of the Kuruc era, and melodies of Kuruc Romanticism.
- **Verbunkos music:** 18th – 19th-century Hungarian dance music.
- **Classical and contemporary music:** (Use of a personal piano accompanist is permitted; the organizers will provide a grand piano on-site. Please indicate piano-accompanied performances on the application form).
- **Folk music:** (Use of one accompanying instrument is permitted, e.g., folk viola, zither, accordion, etc. Please indicate accompanied performances on the application form).
- **Folk-style art songs.**
- **Sacred music:** Tárogató and organ (The organizers will provide a concert organ for accompaniment on-site. Please indicate organ-accompanied performances on the application form).
- **Flower songs, military songs, exile songs, "hallgató" melodies, Hungarian popular songs, opera arias, and operetta excerpts.**

Contestants must provide the title, composer (if known), all available information about the piece to be performed, and its approximate duration on the application form.

Examples:

Group III / Round 1 (max. 12 minutes): János Bihari – *Bercsényi's Song* – 4 min (with cimbalom accompaniment) + **Free choice:** *Collection from Kalotaszeg* – 4 min (solo performance), *Sárvár Kuruc Song* from the historical drama "Brigadier Ocskay" – 3 min (solo performance).

Group III / Round 2 (max. 12 minutes): *The Original Rákóczi Song* – 3.5 min (with cimbalom accompaniment) + **Free choice:** *Dance Melodies from Galánta* – 5.5 min (with piano accompaniment – personal accompanist).

The jury of the Tárogató Competition primarily expects well-prepared, polished performances; therefore, performing with a personal accompanist and adhering to the maximum competition time is highly recommended. The jury reserves the right to stop any performance that exceeds the allotted time.

The organizers provide an official piano and cimbalom accompanist for the competition.

Official Accompanists of the Tárogató Competition:

VIRÁG KISS – pianist

JENŐ LISZTES – cimbalom artist

Official Tuning Pitch:

For pieces with **cimbalom** accompaniment: **442 – 443 Hz**

For pieces with **piano** accompaniment: **442 Hz**

For pieces with **organ** accompaniment: **440 Hz**

In case of a private accompanist: If a contestant performs with their own accompanist but wishes to request the sheet music from the organizers, please notify us via email at **kapcsolat@tarogatointezet.hu**.
In case of using the official accompanist: Contestants using the official piano or cimbalom accompanist and performing a freely chosen work not included in the recommended repertoire must submit the sheet music (piano or cimbalom accompaniment) via email no later than the application deadline, **September 26, 2026.**

The jury will evaluate the performances based on the following criteria:

Technical proficiency, intonational security, tone production, timbre, rhythm and tempo, dynamics and articulation, artistic phrasing and interpretation, musical expression, stylistic authenticity, ornamentation technique, preservation of the instrument's character, phrasing, performance style and stage presence, appearance and confidence, repertoire choice and creativity, program selection, selection of melodies, knowledge and application of regional characteristics, and improvisational skills in melodic ornamentation.

COURSE OF THE COMPETITION

In all age groups and rounds, participation is strictly limited to the performance of Hungarian musical works.

For each round, contestants must select one work from the **"Recommended Literature"**specified in the competition announcement. This must be paired with one or more free-choice pieces that comply with the styles prescribed in the competition rules. Therefore, in every round, each contestant must choose one work from the recommended literature of their respective age group; this may be supplemented by any other piece, including works from the recommended literature of other age groups, provided the total performance remains within the time limit.

Works selected from the recommended literature, performed in the structures and keys according to the provided sheet music, will be accompanied by the competition's official accompanists: **Jenő Lisztes (cimbalom)** and **Virág Kiss (piano)**. Accompaniment is not mandatory; solo performances are also welcome. Contestants may also bring their own accompanists. For this purpose, the organizers provide a **Steinway grand piano**, a **modern concert organ**, and the competition's **cimbalom** on-site. Each contestant is permitted to use **one accompanying instrument** (which can be the official cimbalom or piano accompanist, a personal piano or organ accompanist, or a single accompanying instrument such as a three-stringed viola or an accordion). The use of two or more accompanying instruments is **not permitted**.

COMPETITION AGE GROUPS

Group I: Oct 27, 2012 – Oct 26, 2018

Format: One round. Total Performance Time: Maximum 8 minutes.

Free-choice Works: Performance of one or more Hungarian musical works chosen by the contestant, matching the styles prescribed in the call for applications. Contestants may also choose works from the recommended literature of other age groups. Strict adherence to the time limit is requested.

Recommended Literature: Historical pieces in any preferred compilation from the following:

Szól a kakas már – Nagy Bercsényi Miklós – Nagymajtényi síkon – Hej Rákóczi, Bercsényi, Bezerédi – Tyukodi-nóta – Csínom Palkó, csínom Jankó – Törökbársony süvegem – Fordulj kedves lovam – Krasznahorka büszke vára.

Group II: Oct 27, 2006 – Oct 26, 2012

Format: Two rounds. Total Performance Time: Maximum 10 minutes per round.

Free-choice Works: Performance of one or more Hungarian musical works chosen by the contestant, matching the styles prescribed in the call for applications. Contestants may also choose works from the recommended literature of other age groups. Strict adherence to the time limit is requested.

Recommended Literature: One work chosen from the following:

Az eredeti Rákóczi nóta - Hiekisch Henrik: Kis Ábránd - Kodály Zoltán: Este a tábortűznél - Bartók Béla: Este a székelyeknél - Káldy Gyula:Virág dalok - Keresztury-Albert Zsolt: A juhász álma

Group III: Oct 27, 1996 – Oct 26, 2006

Format: Two rounds.Total Performance Time: Maximum 12 minutes per round.

Free-choice Works: Performance of one or more Hungarian musical works chosen by the contestant, matching the styles prescribed in the call for applications. Contestants may also choose works from the recommended literature of other age groups. Strict adherence to the time limit is requested.

Recommended Literature: One work chosen from the following:

Az eredeti Rákóczi nóta - Bihari János: Bercsényi nótája - Cserebogár, sárga cserebogár - Kodály Zoltán:Kállai kettős - Bartók Béla: Három csíkmegyei népdal - Keresztury-Albert Zsolt: Szatmári táncok

Group IV: Oct 27, 1976 – Oct 26, 1996

Format: Two rounds.Total Performance Time: Maximum 15 minutes per round.

Free-choice Works: Performance of one or more Hungarian musical works chosen by the contestant, matching the styles prescribed in the call for applications. Contestants may also choose works from the recommended literature of other age groups. Strict adherence to the time limit is requested.

Recommended Literature: One work chosen from the following:

Az eredeti Rákóczi nóta (group IV sheet music) "with a custom cadenza (maximum 1 minute) in a style matching the musical work - Weiner Leó: Búsuló juhász – Weiner Leó: Csűrdöngölő – Jager Vilmos: Sátoros nóta - Kossovits József: Lassú magyar - Kókai Rezső: Négy magyar tánc, Verbunkos – Keresztury-Albert Zsolt: Délibábos Délvidék –
Botos Gergely: Mémoire

Group V: Born before Oct 26, 1976

Format: One round.Total Performance Time: Maximum 9 minutes.

Free-choice Works: Performance of one or more Hungarian musical works chosen by the contestant, matching the styles prescribed in the call for applications. Contestants may also choose works from the recommended literature of other age groups. Strict adherence to the time limit is requested.

Recommended Literature: One work chosen from the following:

Messze, messze Rodostóban - A kuruc pikulás dala - Kacsóh Pongrác: Rákóczi megtérése – Ne sírj ne sírj Kossuth Lajos

AWARDS

Based on the jury's decision, the winners of each age group will receive the following valuable instruments and prizes:

SPECIAL INSTRUMENT AWARDS AND OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES

Grand Prize of Group I:

A **Temesvár-style tárogató made of mahogany wood** – Offered by György Bendó and József Szijártó.

Grand Prize of Group II:

A **new professional tárogató made of palisander wood** – Offered by Stowasser J. Musical Instrument Manufactory and Corpus Music Shop.

Grand Prize of Group III:

A **new professional Stowasser tárogató made of cocobolo wood** – Offered by Stowasser J. Musical Instrument Manufactory and Corpus Music Shop.

Group IV – THE COMPETITION'S MAIN GRAND PRIZE:

An antique Stowasser tárogató (over 100 years old) made of Madagascar rosewood.

Grand Prize of Group V:

A **professional tárogató instrument case** – Offered by HorvArt Leather Manufactory and tárogató artist Péter Horváth.

Best Soloist Award:

A **performance opportunity as a tárogató soloist with the János Lavotta Chamber Orchestra** of Sátoraljaújhely – Offered by János Dombóvári, leader of the chamber orchestra.

Best Folk Music Soloist Award:

Performance opportunity as a **tárogató soloist** in the Czech Republic, in the birthplace of Vencel József Schunda, at the **3rd Schunda Cimbalom Festival** to be held in Dubeč, Prague. Offered by Krisztián Fekete, President of the Schunda Circle of Friends.

A professional Stowasser-style leather tárogató case – Offered by tárogató maker Péter Molnár.

Professional tárogató mouthpieces from the workshops of master makers – Offered by János Grúber and Sándor Szunyi.

Vouchers for tárogató repairs and full overhauls offered by master instrument makers.

Additional valuable prizes and professional accessories for second and third-place winners, as well as **SPECIAL AWARDS** for the most outstanding performances.

Application Deadline:

September 26, 2026 (Saturday, midnight)

Applications are considered valid only upon the submission of a fully completed and hand-signed application form via email (scanned photo, JPEG, PDF, etc.), along with proof of payment of the registration fee.

The printable version of the application form in Hungarian and English can be downloaded **HERE**.

The sheet music collection of the recommended literature can be downloaded **HERE**.

Please send your applications to: kapcsolat@tarogatointezet.hu

Registration Fee:

The registration fee is **15,000 HUF or 40 EUR**, payable to the bank account of the National Tárogató Institute Foundation (*Nemzeti Tárogatóintézet Alapítvány*). In the "comment/memo" section of the transfer, please include the **contestant's name and country of origin**. The deadline for the transfer is the same as the application deadline: **September 26, 2026, midnight**. In the event of a contestant's withdrawal, the registration fee is non-refundable.

For further information or questions regarding the competition, please contact us via the following email address or phone number:

kapcsolat@tarogatointezet.hu

Zoltán Erdő – Organizer

+36 20 229 2456

Bank Account Details (National Tárogató Institute Foundation):

Account Number: 11713012 - 21480634 – 00000000 (OTP Bank)

IBAN: HU70 11713012-21480634-00000000