

II International Tournament of Jazz Traditionalists



Tournament Rules

(September 05, 2025)

Motto

„The fun is not in winning, but in competing.”

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I Organizer

Traditional Jazz Foundation

Ul. Jagiellońska 21, 44-100 Gliwice, Poland

Tel. +48 606 974 182

E-mail: fit@onet.eu

Website: <https://fjt.com.pl>

II Idea

A reference to the roots of Jazz, through a reference to the street musical duels that took place in New Orleans in the early 20th century.

III Goals and tasks

1. Popularization of Traditional Jazz.
2. Popularization of Polish music.
3. Promotion of creativity and artistic achievements of musicians representing all varieties of Traditional Jazz.
4. Activation of jazz creative circles.
5. Artistic confrontation of the achievements of musicians from different backgrounds including amateur musicians with professionals.
6. Inspiring the creative approach to the best traditions of Jazz, which are the bases of the Tournament.
7. Enabling young artists to perform.

IV Conditions of participation

1. The condition for participation in the Tournament is to send a correctly completed Application Form, signed by the band leader, along with attachments to the Organizer's address until 31 August 2025 (inclusive) until 11.45pm.
2. Required attachments:
 - a) 2-3 current audio recordings in MP3 format.
 - b) 2-3 current, good quality photos in JPG format.
3. You can send your Application Form:
 - a) By traditional post and hand signed by the band leader (to the Organizer's address).
 - b) By electronically, in PDF format, signed with a qualified electronic signature or a trusted signature (to the Organizer's e-mail).
 - c) It is permissible to send an electronic scan or a photo of the hand signed Application Form. In this case, the band leader is obliged to deliver the unaltered original Application Form by traditional post, or in person on the day of the Tournament, before entering the Tournament.
4. Attachments should be described and sent electronically to the Organizer's email address.
 - a) Please include the name of the band in the subject of the message.
 - b) MP3 audio files – provide the name of the band and the titles of the performed songs.
 - c) JPG photo files – provide the name of the band.
5. Sending an Application Form means accepting the provisions of these Rules.

6. The Tournament is intended for instrumental, vocal, instrumental-vocal bands (at least a quartet and a maximum of 10 people, excluding big band and choir), performing traditional varieties of Jazz such as: Jazz Blues, Plantation and Work Songs, Gospel, Negro and White Spirituals, Ragtime, New Orleans and Chicago Jazz, Dixieland, Boogie-Woogie, Swing Era.
7. The Tournament is not intended for individual solo vocalists.
8. The Tournament is open, which allows both amateur and professional bands to participate, with no age restrictions for band members.
9. A maximum of 8 bands can participate in the Tournament.

V Three-stage evaluation

1. Formal evaluation of applications. The evaluation is carried out by the Organizer who:
 - a. In the event of any formal irregularities (lack of proper signatures, failure to fill in all required data and fields in the Application Form, unclear stage requirements, missing attachments, or attachments not described), the band leader is informed of this fact, requested to supplement the deficiencies and correct the errors, and indicates the deadline for submitting the correct Application Form. The information is sent by e-mail.
 - b. It rejects Application Forms submitted after the deadline and those which, despite being requested to correct errors and shortcomings, still do not meet the formal requirements.
2. Artistic evaluation of the entries. The evaluation is made by the Organizer, who:
 - a) Based on audio recordings, the artistic evaluation of bands whose applications meet formal requirements is carried out.
 - b) Rejects bands that do not meet the requirements specified in section IV, point 6 of these Rules.
 - c) It qualifies 8 bands to the Tournament, meeting the requirements specified in section IV, point 6 of these Rules and presenting the highest artistic level.
 - d) It assigns numbers to the qualified bands, based on which it creates the Tournament pairs in which the bands will compete.
 - e) A notification of non-qualification or qualification for the Tournament and the assigned number will be sent to the email address provided in the Application Form.
 - f) Prepares a protocol from the formal and artistic assessment.
3. The Tournament, i.e. the evaluation of the live performance, made by a Jury selected by the Organizer.

VI Detailed course of the Tournament

1. The evaluation of the Tournament bands will be made by a 3-person, professional Jury appointed by the Organizer, and will be composed of high-class artists with many years of experience and extensive knowledge in the field of Traditional Jazz.
2. The Tournament will be proceed in three phases: I Phase, II Phase and Final.
3. The maximum performance time of the bands in each of the Phases is 10-12 minutes (each song maximum 3-4 minutes).
4. The idea of the Tournament assumes a real, almost sporting competition between bands in pairs, and the band considered by the Jury to be better in each pair is qualified for the next Phase.
 - a) The bands are paired based on numbers assigned to them by the Organizer.
 - b) The band numbers are assigned in the order of submitted applications, as follows: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2.
 - c) Taking into account the artistic level of the performers and, consequently, equal opportunities in pairs, the Organizer may refrain from respecting the order of submitted applications.

- d) The Tournament pairs of I Phase are selected according to the following key: Pair A – bands A1, A2, Pair B – bands B1, B2, Pair C – bands C1, C2, Pair D – bands D1, D2.
 - e) The Tournament pairs of II Phase are selected according to the following key: Pair E – winners of pairs A and B, Pair F – winners of pairs C and D.
 - f) The winners of pairs E and F participate in the Final.
5. Repertoire required.
- a) I Phase – 2 any Traditional Jazz standards of a varied character and a Polish piece arranged in a selected Traditional Jazz style (Polish composer, Polish folk melody, etc.).
 - b) II Phase – 2 pieces of any choice, including one based on the blues form and a Polish piece arranged in a selected Traditional Jazz style.
 - c) Final – any 2 Traditional Jazz standards, including one in fast tempo and a Polish piece arranged in a selected Traditional Jazz style.
6. Fewer participants.
- a) In the event of 7, 6, or 5 participants in the Tournament, so that the same bands do not compete with each other, the pairs E and F of II Phase may be selected according to a different key than that specified in section VI, point 4, letter d) of these Rules. The detailed rules in this matter will be determined by the Jury.
 - b) If there are fewer than 5 registered participants, the Tournament will not take place.

VII Evaluation criteria

1. The Jury evaluates the bands according to the following criteria:
 - a) Maintaining the traditional jazz style as defined in section IV, point 6 of these Rules.
 - b) Quality of performance (intonation, rhythm, performance technique, swing feeling, improvisation, etc.).
 - c) Selection of repertoire (Traditional Jazz standards, adaptations of non-jazz pieces, classical music, own compositions, etc., compliance with the repertoire specified in section VI, point 5 of these Regulations).
 - d) Instruments used (in accordance with the era and style performed).
 - e) Stage attire (in keeping with the era and style of performance, uniform).
 - f) The general impression, including compliance with the statutory performance time specified in section VI, point 3 of these Rules.
2. The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

VIII Prizes and awards

1. The results will be announced after the last of Tournament concert, immediately after the Jury has prepared the protocol and approved it by the Organizer.
2. The winning band will receive:
 - a) A statuette and diploma with the title: "Winner of the 2nd International Jazz Traditionalists Tournament 2025".
 - b) A cash prize in the amount of 10 000 PLN gross (say: ten thousand Polish zlotys, 00/100). It is allowed to divide the prize into parts for each band member.
3. The Jury may award a cash prize or an individual distinction, i.e. to a particularly outstanding instrumentalist or vocalist.
4. The distinguished soloist (instrumentalist or vocalist) will receive diploma with the title "Individuality of the 2nd International Jazz Traditionalists Tournament 2025".
5. The Organizer may initiate voting for the audience winner and draw a prize for the person voting from the audience.

6. The prizes will be awarded in accordance with applicable tax regulations, with any income tax due on winnings being paid by the Organizer.
7. The prize for the winning band, the prize or distinction for the soloist and the prize for the person voting among the audience will be awarded during the concert on September 6, 2025.

IX Organizational matters

1. The Tournament will be held in the amphitheater or in the St. Jacek's House at Przedwiośnie 1 Street in Gliwice, on September 5, 2025. The band leaders will receive a detailed Tournament program electronically to the e-mail provided in the Application Form.
2. The winners of the Tournament (band and soloist with their band) and the audience winner are required to take part in a Dixieland Parade through the streets of the city on September 6, 2025. There is no remuneration for participation in the parade.
3. Band leaders have the right to provide them with oral information related to the Jury's assessment, directly and exclusively concerning their band (scoring and comments from the jurors). Information is provided only by the Jury Chairman.
4. The winners of the Tournament (band and soloist with the band) and the audience winner are obliged to perform during the concert on September 6, 2025, performing 3 songs of their choice (maximum 12 minutes). There is no remuneration for participation in the concert.
5. Declarations regarding copyright and related rights and the processing of personal data will be signed by the Tournament participants on the day of the Tournament.
6. The Organizer will provide accommodation from 5 to 6 September 2025 (without breakfast).
7. The Organizer will provide sound equipment and lighting during the performances in accordance with the requirements specified in the Application Form.
8. The Organizer will provide heavy instruments such as electric piano and percussion (possibility to use your own cymbals and snare drum).
9. Musicians playing banjo, guitar, double bass, or bass guitar are required to have their own stage monitors.
10. The Organizer does not refund travel, transport and insurance costs.
11. The Organizer reserves the right to the final interpretation of these Rules and to decide on issues not covered by the Rules.
12. The Rules and Application Form can be downloaded from the Organizer's website (sidebar, "DO POBRANIA / DOWNLOAD" tab <https://fjt.com.pl/o-fundacji/pobierz/>).

Organizer