



3rd Unisa National Voice Competition

12- 19 July 2025

ZK Matthews Great Hall

Miriam Makeba Concert Hall
University of South Africa, Pretoria

Define tomorrow.

UNISA





INTRODUCTION

The 3rd Unisa National Voice Competition is presented to give young South African vocalists experience with the requirements and procedures of an international voice competition. In 2025, the national voice competition will have two categories: classical and jazz. The requirements and procedures for the 3rd National Voice Competition will correspond closely to the requirements and procedures for the 7th Unisa International Voice Competition, which will take place in 2026.

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1. RULES AND PROCEDURES

- All information contained in this booklet was correct when going to press. The organisers of the 3rd Unisa National Voice Competition reserve the right to make changes if circumstances warrant it.
- By signing the entry form, each competitor accepts all the rules and regulations of the competition and jury decisions and agrees to fulfil all obligations associated with the prizes.

Eligibility

- All candidates must be South African citizens. Proof of identity, citizenship and date of birth must accompany the application.
- Age limit: Candidates must be born after 1 February 1993. This is to align with the requirements for the 7th Unisa International Voice Competition which is scheduled to take place at Unisa from 21 January to 1 February 2026.
- A maximum of twenty (20) competitors will be selected for the competition.

Competition Rounds

- The competition will be held in the Z K Matthews Great Hall and Miriam Makeba Concert Hall, Winnie Madikizela Mandela Building, Unisa Muckleneuk Campus, Pretoria.
- All rounds are open to the public, except the qualifying round.
- The competition consists of a qualifying round and four live rounds:
 - Qualifying Round per online recording with a time limit of 20 minutes.
 - First and Second Rounds, after which the first elimination will occur.
 - A Third Round (Semi-final).
 - A Fourth (Final Round) consisting of a performance with an orchestra (classical) or with a rhythm section (jazz).
- Candidates will perform in alphabetical order from Rounds 1 to 3.
- A maximum of five (5) competitors in each category (classical and jazz) will be chosen for the Semi-final Round, and two (2) competitors per category will be chosen for the Final Round, pending the decision of the respective juries.

2. HOW TO ENTER

- The closing date for entries is 12 March 2025. Applicants will be informed of the selection panel's decision no later than 12 April 2025.
- The completed entry form must be submitted with proof of payment of the non-refundable entry fee of R300.
- The entry fee may be paid into the following bank account:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Account holder: | University of South Africa - Income |
| Bank: | First National Bank |
| Branch code: | 250645 |
| Branch name: | Sunnyside |
| Account number: | 62799625200 |
| Reference: | 112200/116700 and your surname |
| SWIFT code: | FIRNZAJJ |

The following items must be enclosed with the entry form:

- a. A recent digital colour photograph (high resolution - 300 dpi) for use in the official competition programme should you be selected to participate.
- b. A typewritten ENGLISH copy of your concise biography (no more than 100 words), CV and a recommendation letter by a teacher or professional musician.
- c. The entry fee of R300.
- d. A certified copy of your birth certificate or identity document showing your date of birth and nationality.
- e. Links to your online application videos (See Qualifying Round on pages 7 & 8). Please ensure all links are active.

The items above must be sent to:

Ms Kgomo Boshelo
Email: boshimk@unisa.ac.za
Tel: + 27 (012) 429-3311/3336
Website: <http://www.unisa.ac.za/musicfoundation>

Physical address (for courier):
O R Tambo Building room 5-34
Unisa Muckleneuk Campus
Preller Street
Pretoria
0003

- Any candidate who provides false or misleading information will be disqualified.
- No application materials will be returned.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Rehearsal times

- All candidates will receive the same amount of rehearsal time in the ZK Matthews Great Hall and/ or the Miriam Makeba Concert Hall and will be informed of the date and time of their performances beforehand.

Competitors must be in Pretoria two days before the competition so that sufficient rehearsal time can be allocated to every competitor.

Accompanists

- All candidates are required to secure their accompanists (at their own expense) for all rounds except for the final round, where the competition organisers will provide an orchestra (for classical vocalists) and a jazz rhythm section comprised of piano, bass and drums (for jazz vocalists).
Voting procedure

Voting procedure

- Members of the jury may not vote for competitors who are currently their students, have been their students in the past five years, or are related to them.

Travel and accommodation arrangements

- Competitors are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The Unisa Music Foundation will provide the following once-off stipends to assist candidates with travel and accommodation expenses:
 - R2 500.00 Candidates living in Gauteng (excludes candidates living in the Tshwane Metro area).
 - R5 000.00 Candidates living outside of Gauteng

Prizes

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| First Prize (Classical Voice): | R90 000 |
| First Prize (Jazz Voice): | R90 000 |
| Second Prize (Classical Voice): | R60 000 |
| Second Prize (Jazz Voice): | R60 000 |

- Special prizes may also be awarded.
- The finalists will automatically be admitted to compete in the 7th Unisa International Voice Competition 2026 which is scheduled for 21 January to 1 February 2026.
- The adjudicators are not obliged to award all the prizes if the standard of the competitors does not warrant it.
- The organisers reserve the right to record all the performances during the competition, which can be used at their discretion for radio and television broadcasts. By signing the entry form, each competitor will renounce all rights, fees and claims relating to such recordings, films and broadcasts.

3. REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

Classical Vocalists

- Singing from memory is compulsory.
- Repeats are not required, but da capos must be performed.
- No work from the repertoire or chosen by the competitor may be performed in more than one live round. (Works recorded for the Qualifying Round may be repeated in the live rounds.)
- The organisers reserve the right to request prospective competitors to change their chosen repertoire should the chosen works not comply with the required standard.
- Competitors must submit copies of scores in advance of the competition.
- Competitors will not be permitted to make repertoire changes after 25 April 2025.
- The order of pieces performed in each round is left to the competitor's discretion.

When selecting repertoire lists for solo rounds, applicants are requested to bear the following criteria in mind:

- Good taste, musicianship and vocal virtuosity;
- Musical expressivity and interpretative ability;
- An understanding of different vocal genres and musical styles.

All repertoire choices are subject to approval.

Jazz Vocalists

- Singing from memory is compulsory.
All pieces in all rounds must feature an improvised section of at least two choruses except ballads where one chorus of improvisation is accepted. Improvisation is defined as the use of 'scat' syllables for the creation of original melodic and rhythmic content.
- Candidates who intend to perform an original composition(s) must include three copies of the composition(s) with their application form.
- No work from the repertoire or chosen by the competitor may be performed in more than one live round. (Works recorded for the Qualifying Round may be repeated in the live rounds.)
- The organisers reserve the right to request prospective competitors to change their chosen repertoire should the chosen works not comply with the required standard.
- Copies of scores/lead sheets will be requested from competitors.
- Competitors will not be permitted to make any repertoire changes after 28 April 2025.
- The order of pieces performed in each round is left to the discretion of the competitor.
- When selecting repertoire lists for solo rounds, applicants are requested to bear the following criteria in mind which will form part of the adjudication process:
 - Vocal quality and ability to swing.
 - Choice of repertoire and use of jazz language.
 - Improvisation, originality and interpretation.
 - Ability to sing different styles (such as Bebop, Latin, and swing).
- All repertoire choices are subject to approval.

Repertoire

Classical Vocalists:

1. Qualifying Round

Each candidate must submit, together with his or her entry, an online recording with a time limit of 20 minutes. **Please ensure that the link(s) to the online video recording(s) are active and can be viewed by the screening panel.** The recording must be of his or her performance of four (4) works chosen from the prescribed repertoire list as follows:

- 1.1 An aria from the 17th or 18th centuries.
- 1.2 Two art songs of which one must be in German.
- 1.3 An opera or concert aria.

2. First Round

(Minimum performance time of 20 minutes and a maximum of 25 minutes)

- 2.1 One aria antica from the 16th, 17th or 18th century sung in the original language.
- 2.2 One art song from the German, French, Italian, Spanish, Scandinavian, Slavic, Russian, English, American or South African repertoire sung in the original language.

- 2.3 Any accompanied or unaccompanied song (composed after 1900) sung in the original language.
- 2.4 Two opera arias of the candidate's own choice from any period, or one opera aria and one operetta aria of the candidate's own choice.
- 2.5 It is compulsory to perform at least one art song or aria by a South African composer in either the first or second round.

3. Second Round

The minimum performance time for this round is 20 minutes and the maximum 25 minutes. It should be a diverse programme that must include the following:

- 3.1 Two opera arias from different periods and languages.
- 3.2 Two art songs in different languages.
- 3.3 One operetta aria.
- 3.4 Works of the candidate's own choice may be added to make up the required minimum performance time.

4. Third Round

A recital comprising works of the candidate's own choice. A minimum performance time of 25 minutes and a maximum of 35 minutes. A five-minute interval will be permitted. This interval does not form part of the performance time. Candidates are required to adhere to the following:

- 4.1 At least half of the programme should include arias or art songs of the bel canto and Romantic periods.
- 4.2 At least one work must be presented from the following list of composers: Bellini, Boito, Donizetti, Leoncavallo, Mascagni, Mozart, Puccini, Rossini, Tchaikovsky, or Verdi.
- 4.3 One of the arias presented must have been composed after 1900.

5. Fourth Round

A recital of minimum 25 minutes and maximum 35 minutes comprised of works from the list of operas and Lieder available on the Unisa Music Foundation's official website. The recital must include at least:

- 5.1 One opera aria (from the list of operas with orchestra).
- 5.2 One Lied (from the list of Lieder with orchestra).

FINAL LIST OF OPERAS AND LIEDER WITH ORCHESTRA AVAILABLE AT [COMPETITIONS](#)

Jazz Vocalists

1. Qualifying Round

Each candidate must submit, together with his or her entry, an online recording with a time limit of 20 minutes. Please ensure that the link(s) to the online video recording(s) are active and can be viewed by the screening panel.



Accompaniment (rhythm section, piano, guitar or jazz play-a-long) is permitted. The recording must be of his or her performance of three (3) works chosen from the prescribed repertoire list as follows:

- 1.1 A jazz standard (medium or up-tempo swing) that includes a minimum of 2 choruses of improvisation.
- 1.2 A Latin American or South African jazz standard that includes a minimum of 2 choruses of improvisation.
- 1.3 A jazz ballad that includes one chorus of improvisation.

2. First Round

A minimum performance time of 20 minutes and a maximum of 25 minutes. The choice of repertoire is left to the discretion of the vocalist but must include:

- 2.1 A medium tempo Blues.
- 2.2 An up-tempo jazz standard.
- 2.3 A Latin American jazz standard.

3. Second Round

A minimum performance time of 20 minutes and a maximum of 25 minutes. Choice of repertoire is left to the discretion of the vocalist but must include:

- 3.1 A jazz ballad.
- 3.2 A South African jazz composition.
- 3.3 A 'contemporary' jazz composition (any piece written after 1975 – including original compositions).
- 3.4 Works of own choice may be added to make up the required minimum performance time.

4. Third Round

A recital comprising work(s) of your own choice. A minimum of 25 minutes and a maximum performance time of 35 minutes. A five-minute interval will be permitted. This interval does not form part of the performance time. Original compositions are permitted.

5. Fourth Round

Finalists will be required to perform a programme of minimum 25 minutes and maximum 35 minutes with a rhythm section supplied by the competition organisers. Candidates may choose their own repertoire but will be required to perform one compulsory work. This work will be given to the candidates at the end of the third round when the finalists have been selected. Original compositions are permitted. Choice of repertoire, programming of selections, originality and improvisation will form part of the adjudication process.

| Schedule | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
| | | | | | 12 Round 1 (Classical voice) | 13 Round 1 (Jazz voice) |
| 14 Round 2 (Classical voice) | 15 Round 2 (Jazz voice) | 16 Round 3 (Classical voice) | 17 Round 3 (Jazz voice) | 18 | 19 Final Round | 20 |



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