



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Childrens' National Palace

Municipality of Nessebar

Municipal children's complex - Nessebar

Nessebar, complex "Mladost" 62, phone/fax 0554/ 45952

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XXIV International Children's Festival "Sun, Joy, Beauty" Nessebar 2026

Invites children's and youth creative groups and teams from Bulgaria and abroad to participate in the program of the XXIV International Children's Festival "Sun, Joy, Beauty" - Nessebar 2026. The festival is held annually under the patronage of the Mayor of the town of Nessebar from June 15 to June 20 on the Black Sea coast.

Nessebar is located on the Black Sea coast, has a millennial history, it is unique in its location, among sand dunes and vegetation, with spacious beaches, hot sun and a rich history. In 1983, Nessebar was declared by UNESCO as the City-Museum, Archaeological and Architectural Reserve.

XXIV International Children's Festival "Sun, Joy, Beauty" - Nessebar 2026 is held with the participation of creative teams and performers from Bulgaria and other countries. The organizers of the events are Nessebar Municipality, Municipal Children's Complex - Nessebar, National Palace of Children - Sofia.

The purpose of the organizers is to develop children's and youth creativity through communication between leaders and children from different countries and to unite young people into creative unions. The festival also contributes to familiarizing them with the culture and natural landmarks of Bulgaria.

Conditions for holding the festival

Collectives, chamber formations, ensembles and solo performers can take part in the festival.

Competition sections:

- **Vocal**
- **Instrumental**
- **Choreography**
- **Art**
- **Non-standard forms**

Age categories:

Group I A - A junior age group - born after 01.01.2020.

Group I – Junior Age Group - born from 2016 to 2019 including

Group II – Junior Age Group - born from 2012 to 2015 including

Group III - Middle Age Group - born from 2008 to 2011 including

Group IV - Senior Age Group - born before 31.12.2007.

Participants' age is determined as of 31.12.2026!

Competition sections, categories

"Vocal" section

Categories:

- a) folk song- soloists and ensembles;
- b) classical singing– soloists and ensembles;
- c) entertaining and pop song - soloists and ensembles.

"Instrumental" Section

Categories:

- a) classical instruments;
- b) folk instruments.

"Choreography" section

Categories:

1. **National Dance:**
 - a) finished folk dance;
 - b) authentic folk dance;
 - c) stylized folk dance.
2. **Classical dance:**
 - a) ballet;
 - b) neoclassics.
3. **Typical dance** - stylized stage forms of folk dances, oriental dance.
4. **Modern dance** - performances of this category can be in the styles:
 - a) jazz dance;
 - b) modern dance /contamporent/;
 - c) graham;
 - d) disco;
 - e) free dance /mixing of styles from this category is allowed.
5. **Street styles /street dance/** - performances of this genre category must be sustained in the style of urban dance and include all styles:
 - a) Hip-Hop;
 - b) Break dance;
 - c) New Style;
 - d) Locking&Popping;
 - e) Krumping;
 - f) Clown dancing;
 - g) Free dance (from that category), etc.
6. **Sport dances**
7. **Cheerleader dances**

"Art" Section

Plain air - 3 days

Conditions for participation in the competition sections

VOCAL Section

Collective and individual performances

1. Performances in the "Vocal" category are live with musical accompaniment or backing vocals of the participant's choice.
Playback and dubbing of the soloist is not allowed.
2. Vocal formations are composed of at least two participants.
3. Duration: up to 5 minutes per song.
4. For participants in the "Folklore song" category:
 - Participants perform two folk songs.
5. For participants in the "Classical singing" category:
 - Participants perform two folk songs.
6. Participants in the category "Entertaining and pop song" perform two songs, one of the performances must be in their native language.

INSTRUMENTAL Section

Collective and individual performances

1. Performances in the Instrumental category are live with musical accompaniment or a participant's choice.
 - Participants perform two plays.

CHOREOGRAPHY section

Collective and individual performances

Each group must present two dances in each genre category.

I. "Folk Dance" Category

Dance folklore groups – ensembles, formations, chamber groups.

1. Authentic folk dance;

2. **Finished folk dance** – national folklore from the country of the performers;

3. Stylized folk dance:

- under folk music;
- folk choreography to modern music with stylized folk costumes and costumes.

Number of participants:

- in chamber dance groups - up to 8 people
- in dance groups and ensembles without restriction.

Duration: Chamber groups to present a program of up to 8 min;

Dance ensembles up to 15 min;

Recommendations: Chamber dances should have a thematic or plot form.

II. "Classic dance" category

An original Choreography of the classic heritage or a new interpretation of known excerpts from ballet works is presented. Performances must be sustained in the style of classic dance. The movements used from classical vocabulary should be tailored to the age of performers.

III. "Typical dance" Category

The choreography has the character of folk dances of everyday life from different nationalities belonging to the genre category.

IV. "Modern dance" Category

Performances in this category can be in the styles: jazz dance, contemporary dance, graham, neo classical, etc.

V. "Street dance" Category

Performances from this genre category must be of high artistic merit in the style of Hip-Hop dance and can include all styles of street dance: New Style, Free dance, Locking & Popping, Krumping, Clowndancing, Break dance, etc.

VI. "Standard and Latin Dancing" Category

Composition to be formed on the basis of the five standard, Latin American dances, salsa, meringue, bacha, etc.

The presentation of the formations (incl. entering and exit) **should not exceed 5 minutes.**

Partner lifts are not allowed.

Formations composition:

a) Children's formations / I age group / - for a formation of 8 pairs - two can be adolescent, in 6 pairs - one.

b) Junior formations / II age group / - for a formation of 8 pairs - two can be youthful, in 6 pairs - one.

c) formations with dancers over 19 years - young people have the right to participate.

The story form is recommended.

NON-STANDARD FORMS Section

Pantomima, Steppe, Sports Rock and Roll, Artistic Word, Circus Acrobatics, Illusionists, Fashion, etc.

ART Section

On 16.06. the plein air is opened. Draw up to three works with a size of 35/50 cm - without restrictions on the type of drawing materials.

Each participant draws with their own materials.

The awarded works remain in the festival fund.

General conditions

Those wishing to take part in the competition should fill in the **Application for Participation** by **30 April 2026**.

The application form is to be completed in the Google form on the website of the Municipal Children's Complex – Nesebar, in the section *Festivals and Competitions* – *Application Forms*. <https://odknebar.com/zayavki-za-uchastie/>

For each entry — whether an individual performer, a group, a section, or a category — a separate application must be submitted.

If you encounter any problems, please contact us at: festivali@nesebar.bg

1. The participants present in the competition 2 /two/ performances with a maximum duration of 5 minutes each in each applied style of nomination.

2. Individual participants can compete in a maximum of two nominations.

3. The leaders of the groups bear a responsibility:

- for accidents and injuries to performers on stage;

- for the behavior of the group members during the events of the festival.

4. Participants are responsible for their own costumes, props and personal belongings.

5. The music for the performances must be submitted together with the application form.

Each file must include the following information – Title of the performance, performer's name, city, and country.

e.g. 'Hurt – Ivan Ivanov – Burgas – Bulgaria'

(Please bring a backup copy of the music for your performances on a USB flash drive!)

6. The same performance that competes in a given style and age group is not eligible to compete in another style of competition.

7. The expenses for the residence of the groups and their accompanying persons regarding travel, daily and overnight expenses are at the expense of the participants.

8. Formations in which performers from more age groups participate in the age group of the oldest participant.

9. Organizers reserve the right to photograph, film, record and distribute execution from the competition program without paying rights and benefits.

10. The schedule for the order of performance is determined by the organizational committee **5 days** before the start of the competition. **Changes are not allowed.**

11. It is a jury right to determine which award - winning participants will be presented at the Gala Concert.

Information about which participants and groups are included in the gala concert will be published on June 19, 2026 after 13:00 at <https://odknesebar.com/novini/> .

12. On 13, 14 and 15 June the organizers hold technical conferences with group leaders.

13. The nomination and award ranking will be carried out on **June 19, 2026** on a schedule determined by the organizers.

14. The event organisers provide transportation only for the opening and closing of the festival.

On the days of the competition the participants need to find their own means of transportation to the festival stages.

AWARDS

The ones who take I, II, III place in each nomination and age group receive a diploma, plaque or medal.

Each group and individual performer receives a diploma for participation.

The jury awards a great award - the Grand Prix for each section: Vocal, Instrumental; Choreography; Art.

Nessebar Municipality has established a prize for: "Music Educator"; "Vocal teacher"; "Choreographer - educator" and "Artist - educator".

Financial conditions International Children's Festival "Sun, Joy, Beauty"

- for groups / all categories – 42 BGN (VAT included) / 21.47 € per participant;
- for artists (visual arts) – 42 BGN (VAT included) / 21.47 €;
- for individual participation – 60 BGN (VAT included) / 30.68 €;
- for duets – 60 BGN (VAT included) / 30.68 € per participant;
- For individual participation in one category and participation in a group, the fee is 60 BGN (VAT included) / 30.68 €;
- For individual participation in two categories and participation in a group, the fee is 60 BGN (VAT included) + 42 BGN (VAT included) / 30.68 € + 21.47 €

In the case of two or more children from one family participate together in the competition program of the respective festival, the fee for the second and next child is paid with a 50 percent discount.

Payment of the participation fee shall be made on the site upon registration or on the following account:

Unicredit Bulbank - Nessebar

BIC: UNCRBGSF

IBAN: BG55UNCR76308400000400 Code: 444000

Recipient: Nessebar Municipality

Fee to participate in International Children's Festival "Sun, Joy, Beauty"

Name of group/performer.....

town.....

Name of the leader.....

PROGRAM

XXIII International Children's Festival "Sun, Joy, Beauty"

Nessebar – 2026

13.06 until 15.06	Registration of participants. Technical conferences with the heads of the Municipal Children's Complex - Nessebar, complex Mladost 62 from 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
15.06.	Opening of the festival. Defile and presentation of participants - Amphitheatre Jana Chimbuleva
16.06.	Opening of the plain air - Amphitheatre Jana Chimbuleva
16, 17, 18.06	Program of the contest
19. 06	Awarding, Gala Concert - Amphitheatre Jana Chimbuleva