



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
Municipality of Nessebar
Municipal children's complex - Nessebar
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XI International Festival

"NESSEBAR - ISLAND OF ARTS"

Nessebar 2026

XI International Festival "NESSEBAR - ISLAND OF ARTS" - 2026 will be held with the participation of ensembles, creative collectives, choirs, formations and performers from Bulgaria and other countries.

The Municipality of Nessebar, Municipal Children's Complex – Nessebar are the organizers of the competition.

Children and youth from all over the world can participate in the XI International Festival "NESSEBAR - ISLAND OF ARTS" - 2026. All young people have the opportunity to show their qualities and talents. Nessebar - a city of world cultural heritage will become a big scene of the arts.

We hope that the meeting of history and art will inspire and illuminate many new talents, and a special atmosphere to be created by the meeting of different cultures, traditions, religions.

The festival is organized annually from July 2 to July 6 in Nessebar, Republic of Bulgaria.

Conditions for holding the festival

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

Competition sections:

- Vocals;
- Choreography.

Age categories:

I A group – junior age group - those born after 01.01.2016

I group – junior age group - those born from 2012 to 2015 inclusive

II group – middle age group - those born from 2008 to 2011 inclusive

III group – senior age group - those born from 2005 to 2007 inclusive

IV group – senior age group - those born before 31.12.2004.

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.

"Choreography" section

Categories:

1. National Dance:

- a) finished folk dance;
- b) authentic folk dance;
- c) stylized folk dance.

2. **Typical dance** - stylized stage forms of folk dances, oriental dance.

3. **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.

4. **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.

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.

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 ensembles 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. "Typical dance" Category

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

III. "Modern dance" Category

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

IV. "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.

The competition program is conducted as follows:

International competition - "NESSEBAR - ISLAND OF ARTS"

General Terms and Conditions

Those wishing to participate in the competition must complete a Participation Application by May 31, 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://odknesebar.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 any issue arises, please write to us at the following e-mail: 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 sent together with the application form. Each file must contain the following information – Title of the performance, name of the performer, city, country.

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

(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 06.07.2026 after 13:00 at the following link: <https://odknessebar.com/novini/> .

12. On July 1st and 2nd, the organizers hold technical conferences with group leaders.

13. The nomination and award ranking will be carried out on 06.07.2026 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 and choreography.

Special Prizes are presented by Nessebar Municipality and Municipal Children's Complex - Nessebar.

Financial conditions

International Competition "Nessebar-Island of Arts"

- for groups / all categories – 42 BGN (VAT included) / 21.47 € per participant;
- 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 an international festival "Nessebar-Island of Arts 2026"

Name of group/performer.....

town.....

Name of the leader

PROGRAM

XIII International Festival "Nessebar - Island of Arts" - 2026

01.07 - 02.07	Registration of participants. Technical conferences with the heads of the Municipal Children's Complex XIII - Nessebar, complex XIII Mladost 62 from 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
02.07.	Opening - Amphitheatre Jana Chimbuleva
03, 04, 05.07	Program of the contest
06.07	Awarding, Gala Concert - Amphitheatre Jana Chimbuleva