

**THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN  
WITH THE LIMITED CAPABILITIES  
«THE STEP TOWARDS!»  
(MARCH 20 - 24 2009)**

**REGULATIONS**

**of the II International Arts Festival of Handicapped Children**

**1. General regulations.**

1.1. The II International Arts Festival for children with the limited capabilities (here and after – Festival) runs annually.

1.2. The festival was founded by Regional NGO St. Petersburg Foundation for the Support and Development of Music and Education.

1.3. The organizer of the Festival is the Regional NGO St. Petersburg Foundation for the Support and Development of Music and Education .

1.4. The II Festival takes place in St. Petersburg from 20 to 24 of March 2009.

**2. Festival concept justification.**

Targeted programmes to protect disabled people as a category of citizens in special need of State support are of great significance today. However, as practice shows, the main attention of State bodies working with the disabled has been focused on social-economic, administrative-legal and holistic medical issues<sup>1</sup>.

For a long time support for the disabled has come in the form of money and housing benefits. Recently this issue has become broader, encompassing suitable social infrastructure: installation of equipment for the disabled in housing, incl. special paths and lifts; rehabilitation schemes, special fitness equipment; adaptation of individual, city and inter-city public transport, communications and information; increase in the production of assisting means in daily life.

In social rehabilitation centres in Russia generally tasks are resolved concerning support of the disabled and people with limited abilities first and foremost in the fields of social, economic and medical support.

Despite the importance and need to resolve these problems it should be noted that the cultural role in the social adaptation and integration of the disabled, including handicapped children, has not been evaluated in full measure. Most citizens vehemently do not wish to see people who cannot move independently, or see, or hear those who are fighting constantly to exist. There are disabled people who cannot fully realize their rights to cultural life and creative processes guaranteed by the State. The need to resolve the problem of cultural access, especially for the disabled and those with limited mobility, was agreed by the Concept for Cultural Development of St. Petersburg for the years 2006-2009 by the Cultural Committee of the Government of our city.

The main activity in this project is to overcome misunderstandings between people and stereotypes about “invalids” and “people with limited abilities” and “the handicapped”.

**3. Aims and Tasks of the Festival**

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<sup>1</sup> Russian Presidential Decree, dated 02.10.92 № 1156 “Methods of forming accessible environments for invalids”; Law dated 24.11.95 N 181-F3 “Social protection of invalids in the Russian Federation”; St Petersburg Governor’s Decree dated 9 December 2000 N 1282-r “Necessary means to ensure the direct access of invalids to social, transport, engineering structures and information and communication links”

The main aim of the Festival is to lay open the talents of disabled children and thus facilitate their full social adaptation.

Main tasks of the Festival:

- to draw society's attention to the creative skills of disabled children as a means of self expression and realisation;
- to develop the skills of disabled children, use their creative and intellectual potential in culture;
- highlight youth talent, support creatively gifted children and young people;
- increasing creative contacts of disabled children from various countries, improve contacts between specialists in the creative abilities of disabled children in Russia and abroad, discussion of psychological and educational aspects of professional work;

It is proposed that as a result of project activity the varied talents and creative abilities of children with limited abilities will emerge, the level of social adaptation of disabled children will rise significantly, and in the future this will help form socially active citizens. Running the Festival will help to create an emotionally positive base for creative activity and will have an effect on the improvement of the life quality of disabled children as a whole. One expected result of the project is the gradual change of society's attitude to the disabled as equals in culture.

#### **4. Festival Self Governing Bodies**

4.1. To coordinate organizational and creative work while preparing and running the Festival there will be created a Festival Working Group, which is the highest authority of the Festival.

4.2. The cast of the Working Group will be confirmed no later than 6 months before the Festival opening and will continue its work until the close of all Festival events.

4.3. The Festival Working Group will include representatives of the Regional NGO St. Petersburg Charitable Foundation for the Support and Development of Music and Education, specialists from the Committees of the St Petersburg City Government and representatives of international organizations.

4.4. To control the activities of the Organizational Committee there is a Board of Guardians consisting of the clergy and cultural figures.

4.5. The Organizational Committee confirms and adopts: the Festival regulations, Festival program, cast of the directing and production team, opening and closing dates of the Festival, and also has having the right to make changes and additions to the Festival Regulations that do not affect its principle stance. The General Director of the Festival is the Executive Director of the Regional NGO St. Petersburg Charitable Foundation for the Support and Development of Music and Education.

4.6. The Festival, its participation conditions, criteria of candidate selection and application timetable, prizes and diplomas are determined by Festival rules.

#### **5. Festival participants**

The festival invites participants under age of 18.

The age is defined on 20.03.2009.

#### **6. Nominations:**

***Art of Music performance:***

- Soloists - vocalists: folk, classical, pop and jazz singing
- Musical performance solo (playing on a musical instrument)
- Musical ensembles: wind instruments, folk, jazz (from 2 to 10 persons)
- Vocal ensembles (from 2 to 10 persons)
- Folklore ensembles

**Performing of classical and jazz repertoire is welcomed!**

***Dancing art***

(number of participants - not more than 10 persons)

- Choreographic miniatures
- Folk dances
- Modernist style

***The fine arts***

The theme in fine arts: my Native land, my World, my Family.

- Art graphic creativity (oil, a water color, gouache, ink, a pencil, the mixed technics).

A format no more 50x70. Works should be issued (a surname, a name, the country, a city, a work format, age in Russian or English languages).

***Arts and crafts creativity***

(Ceramics, batik, woodcarving, stamping, floristic, dolls)

Themes: history of heraldry: heralds, flags of cities and the states

- Life, traditions, history of crafts and arts of nations of the world
- My family (sort history)

**All candidates for participation in the Festival should send the following documents till December, 15<sup>th</sup> 2008:**

- Application form
- A short biography ready to be used for the publication
- A birth certificate and passport copy
- A copy of the insurance certificate
- Two color photos of the participant - not less than 600 pixels
- Copies of passports of accompanying persons
- Two photos of the participant's city

Documents should be send in electronic form to the address: [director@fondkult.ru](mailto:director@fondkult.ru)

Candidates for participation in for nominations «musical-performing art», «dancing art» should send video or DVD record with offered performance at Festival.

Please, pay attention to an example of registration of disks. Each disk should be signed with a marker. The concert program in these nominations should not exceed a time limit of 5 minutes. Video data should be sent mail not later than December, 15th, 2008 to the address:

B. Morskaja str., 53/8, lit. A, 22H, St. Petersburg, 190000, Russia.

FOR: The St. Petersburg Regional Public Charitable Fund for the Support and Development of Musical Culture and Education - the II International Arts Festival “STEP TOWARDS!”

Candidates for participants in nominations «fine arts» and «arts and crafts creativity» should send correctly issued works and their digital copies by mail not later than December, 15th, 2008 to the address:

B. Morskaja str., 53/8, lit. A, 22H, St. – Petersburg, 190000, Russia

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Registration templates are presented on a web site [www.feststep.com](http://www.feststep.com)

All works in nominations «fine arts» and «arts and crafts creativity» will not be reviewed and sent back.

The incomplete set of documents and also their late sending will be obstacle for registration.

The confirmation of registration will be sent to the applicant by fax or e-mail not later than January, 15th, 2009.

The results of selection of participants will define an order of their performance in the Festival.

## **7. Prizes:**

All participants, teachers and heads of collectives will get diplomas with symbols of the Festival and memorable gifts. Participants of the Festival can be noted by special prizes from members of Organizing committee and sponsors. In each nomination the special prize of the Festival will be defined.

## **8. Official languages:**

The official languages of the Festival are Russian and English.

## **9. Events:**

Teachers, tutors, parents and all interested persons can take part in the conference. A conference theme:

«Development of creative abilities as a way of socialisation of children with the limited health possibilities».

Presentation time should not exceed 10 minutes.

Participation in the conference is free. Distributing materials will be given to participants. By the end of the Festival reports will be published. Thesis of reports and a photo of lecturers for the publication in the booklet we ask to send till December 15th, 2008 in electronic form to the address: [director@fondkult.ru](mailto:director@fondkult.ru)

## **10. Accomodation and meals:**

For the period of the Festival ( March, 20-24th 2009 ) the Organizing committee pays hotel and meals of participants of the Festival and accompanying persons (1 person for child).

In case of need or desires of participants and accompanying persons of earlier arrival or later departure, the Organizing committee can assist in hotel booking. Payment for these days is made by participants, accompanying persons or the organizations themselves.

Organizing committee pays for additional days of stay before Festival opening (on March, 19th) for the participants invited for the solemn opening of the Festival and their accompanying persons. Transport and visa expences is incurred by participants of the Festival and persons accompanying them or the organizations directing them. The Organizing Committee provides transportation inside the city from hotel to festival halls.

The Festival Organizing Committee incurs payment and the organization of cultural programs for participants of the Festival and their accompanying persons.

On the day of performance rehearsal possibility in a concert hall is given to each participant or collective.

## **11. Funding**

6.1. Festival funding comprises targeted donations, sponsorship and other sources.

6.2. Any organization or private person that supports aims and tasks, takes part in funding and organization of the Festival can become Patron or Sponsor of the Festival.

6.3. Funds for Festival events will be allocated in accordance with the estimate approved by the working group.

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