

Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program

International announcement of selection for Répétiteurs / Opera coaches

The Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Academy/Florence opera house announces open the enrolment to the selection of **Répétiteurs/Opera coaches** for admission to the **Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program**, a two-year artist residency for advanced training and professional development for répétiteurs/opera coaches and opera singers.

1. Purpose

The course is designed to train and form the opera pianist in their various specializations (repetiteur/opera coaches, piano accompanist, conducting assistant, stage musical assistant, prompter, stage management assistant, lighting musical assistant), as well as to support the beginning and consolidation of their career.

Young pianists will be given the opportunity to follow a highly qualified course of specialization, directed to:

- improvement in technique, style and interpretation;
- piano accompaniment, musical preparation of the opera singer, theatrical lighting and stage management;
- expansion of cultural knowledge necessary to practice the profession.

Regarding professional artistic activity, the young artists may be called to participate in operas and concerts of the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino/Florence opera house, the Academy and/or other partner musical Institutions.

2. Requirements for admission

Admission is reserved for graduated pianists with significant musical abilities, a predisposition to the profession and a solid theoretical and technical base.

Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- to be at least 18 years old;
- not to be 29 years old on the deadline for submitting applications;
- to be in possession of one of the following Graduations of I level (Bachelor), or higher level (example: Master), issued by Music Conservatories, Universities or equal music schools: *Répétiteur/Opera coach, Piano accompanist, Piano, Harpsichord, Conducting, Composition*, or equivalent degrees released by non-Italian musical Institutions.

Further Graduations may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Management.

The selections are open to both Italian and foreign citizens, including citizens coming from countries outside the European Union.

3. Duration

The artist residency lasts two years.

At the end of the first quarter of each year course, if deemed appropriate, the Academy may request a verification exam; in case of failure, the Management may take the following measures:

- reduction or revocation of scholarship;
- exclusion of the participant from the Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program.

At the end of the first year, the Management can decide whether or not to admit the participant to the following year.



The assessment of participants will be carried out on the basis of their performance and conduct demonstrated during the year; the Management can verify the acquired skills at the end of every year with a specific exam.

For the season 2026/2027, activities are due to begin on 2 November 2026, unless otherwise communicated by the Management subsequently the publication of this Announcement.

Classroom and laboratory activities are concentrated in the period between November 2026 and June 2027, while the work experience activities may be extended up to October 2027.

For the second year, the start is scheduled for November 2027 and the end in October 2028.

4. Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program Structure

The curriculum is divided into the following modules: Study of the score; Technical, musical, stylistic and interpretive development; Techniques of the recitativo and Improvisation; Accompaniment practice; The score for the stage and lighting; cultural knowledge of the field; *workshop*; *work experience*.

Based on each particular activity and on the intrinsic characteristics of the same, the instruction may be in individual, group or collective lessons.

The Management may integrate the curriculum with other subjects deemed necessary for the artistic advancement of the participant.

The faculty consists of renowned artists and affirmed professionals. In addition, participants are given the opportunity to join in meetings with conductors, directors and singers, guests of the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino/Florence Opera House, and to assist in all stages of production of the operas and concerts on the playbill.

The Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino/Florence Opera House, the Academy and the partner musical Institutions may offer the participants work experiences in their artistic productions.

Admission to the Program is subject to the signing of the Internal Regulation of the Academy.

5. Location

The activities will take place primarily at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino/Florence Opera House, Piazzale Vittorio Gui, 1 - 50144 Firenze (Italy). Additional locations will be identified during the course.

6. Application to participate in the selections and application deadlines

The application for admission to the selection must be submitted **exclusively online** (go to the webpage <https://www.maggiofiorentino.com/en/academy/announcements>, choose the announcement of selection for Répétiteurs/Opera coaches, then click on the button “Enrol now!”).

The application must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- A digital photograph half-body, format .png or .jpg
- A digital photograph full-length, format .png or .jpg
- Copy of a valid identity document (identity card or passport), format .jpg, .png or .pdf
- A curriculum vitae, format .jpg, .png or .pdf

The size of each file attached to the application must not exceed 2 Mb.

The application for admission to the selection is accepted subject to positive checking of all statements, attached documentation and proof of successful payment. If the verification has failed, the application is rejected.

The above verification can be done by Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Academy even after admission to the selections or to the Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program. If any falsehoods are found, the candidate will be immediately excluded.

The documentation attached to the application for participation in the selection must be mandatorily presented in Italian or English language.

The applications for admission must be submitted by Sunday 26 April 2026, 11:59 pm Italian time.



Applications received after the above deadline may be accepted by the Management at their unappealable judgment.

Anyhow, the term for submitting applications may be modified at the discretion of the Management.

7. Selection dates and Exams

The selection exams will be held at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino/Florence opera house, Piazzale Vittorio Gui, 1 - Firenze (Italy), **approximately from 13 to 16 May 2026**.

Date and time of summons for the Preliminary round will be communicated to each individual candidate by **30 April 2026**; the communication will be sent exclusively via email at the email address provided by the candidate in the application form. No other notification system will be considered.

Inadmissible applications that do not meet the requirements of article 2 of this Announcement will be communicated to the concerned candidates by the date and in the way described in the first paragraph of this article.

If necessary, the Academy reserves the right to modify the audition dates indicated in this announcement.

Exams will consist of Preliminary Round and Final Round, with the following musical program:

Preliminary round:

- a) piano performance of the Finale secondo – Atto II of *La traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi, from number 29 (“Ne appellaste...”) to the end of the act, with humming the vocal parts;
- b) piano performance of Scena and Finale Secondo – Atto I of *Nabucco* by Giuseppe Verdi until the end of quintetto “S’appressan gl’istanti”;
- c) piano performance and realization of a recitativo secco taken from *Il barbiere di Siviglia* by Gioachino Rossini, with humming the vocal parts. The recitative, chosen by the candidate, must include at least two characters.

Final round:

- d) from *Don Pasquale* by Gaetano Donizetti, piano performance of the following pieces, under a conductor and with humming the vocal parts:
 - N. 4 (duet “Pronta io son”);
 - From N. 13 (recitativo accompagnato “Eccoli; attenti ben”) to N. 31;
- e) piano performance under a conductor of *Quadro terzo* of *La bohème* by Giacomo Puccini, from N. 8 (“Mimi?! Speravo di trovarvi qui”) to N. 15, with humming the vocal parts;
- f) sight reading of opera excerpts of the Italian operatic repertoire;
- g) interview.

Admission to the Final is subject to the passing of the Preliminary round.

The Examination Committee reserves the right to listen to all or part of the planned program.

The Commission will be composed of representatives of the Artistic Directions of the Academy and the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; the Management of the Academy reserves the right to appoint external members.

The judgment will be delivered based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Level of technical preparation;
- Musicality;
- Ability in piano accompaniment, including humming of the vocal parts and with a conductor;
- Ability in realization of the recitatives;
- Ability in sight reading.

Admission to the selection is subject to acceptance of all the rules contained in this announcement.

8. Fees for participation in the selections

The enrolment to the selection is subject to payment of a fee equal to euro 90,00 (Ninety/00) VAT included, to be paid by credit card or PayPal at the end of the application form.



In the absence of payment, the application will be considered invalid and the candidate will not be allowed to participate in the selection.

The registration fee paid will not be refunded in any way, except in the case of cancellation of the selection.

9. Candidates admitted to the Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program

At the end of selection, the assessment Commission will prepare the list of eligible candidates to be admitted to the Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program with the right to the scholarship as at following art. 12

The candidates considered eligible but not admitted due to lack of available positions can:

- be invited to attend the training activities as listeners/observers;
- be admitted to possible special projects as active participants;
- take the place of an active participant in the event of a waiver or exclusion of the latter;
- be admitted to the Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program without scholarship or with allowance to be defined at the moment on the basis of budget availability.

The Management reserves the right to admit additional participants to the Program once started, after verification of the eligibility of the candidates. Such discretion may be applied, without limitation, in the case of exchanges of training and/or productive experiences between academies, both on the national and international level.

10. Registration to the Program and attendance fee

For admitted candidates, enrolment and attendance to the Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program **are free**.

11. Attendance and artistic leaves

Attendance is full-time and compulsory; therefore, the enrolment is incompatible with other study, professional and/or artistic commitments. If absences exceed 30% of the assigned hours, the Management may declare the forfeiture of the participant from the right of attendance. The same measure is applied in the case of continuous and unjustified absence beyond 5 days. The artistic commitments undertaken prior to the date of registration will be respected upon authorization by the Management.

Within the limits of absence indicated above, the Management may grant artistic leaves for a maximum 30 days; in particular, the leave is subject to the artistic quality of the commitment, the suitability of the participant for the role to be taken, the compatibility of the undertaking with planned training activities. Such assessments shall be referred to the sole discretion of the Direction of Academy.

12. Scholarships

All candidates admitted to the Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program are assigned a scholarship of **euro 1.000 (One Thousand/00) gross per month**, with effect from November 2026 to June 2027 and from November 2027 to June 2028, subject to any changes that will be communicated within the end of the first year.

The above scholarship, assigned by merit, is personal and not transferable to another person.

In the event of the cancellation of the registration by an admitted candidate or the withdrawal of the participant beneficiary of the economic allowance, the eligible candidate called to take the vacant position will not necessarily have the right to the scholarship. The Management may grant a maintenance allowance, whose amount will be verified according to the circumstances.

The granting of the scholarship is bound to the actual attendance of the Program. In the case that absences exceed 30% of the total number of hours of training provided, the Management reserves the right to revoke the scholarship awarded.

The scholarship may also be reduced or entirely withdrawn if poor performance or misconduct of the participant may be proven.

In addition to the scholarship grants, other prizes may be established by the Management of the Academy.

13. Artistic Activity

The Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino/Florence Opera House, the Academy and the partner musical Institutions may offer the participants work experiences in their artistic productions. The proposals will be subject to the judgment of the Artistic Direction of the Academy, which will express its evaluation according to the artistic suitability of the participant in the proposed role, the educational and artistic return, the regularity observed in the attendance of the training activities, and the effective motivation demonstrated and the approach adopted by the participant during the academic year.

At the end of the course, the organizations as above may offer to graduates additional artistic engagements for roles in productions scheduled in subsequent operatic-symphonic seasons.

14. Admission to the Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Artists Program of non-EU citizens

Upon registering for the Program and for the entire its duration the admitted non-EU citizens will need to demonstrate compliance with current Italian immigration laws. In particular, they will have to provide a copy of their passport and the valid residence permit.

15. Diplomas and certifications

Participants who successfully complete the Program will receive the Diploma of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Academy.

16. Exclusive validity of the announcement for selections in Italian language

This Announcement for selections is published in Italian and English language. In case of dispute only the Italian version will be considered.

17. Privacy

Pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree n. 196/2003 and Regulation EU 2016/679, the applicant's personal data will be collected and treated, including by computer, for the purposes of this selection procedure, as well as for any future similar procedures.

Florence, 13 October 2025



Chairman
(Mario Curia)

For more information

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