

Advanced Course for
ORCHESTRA MUSICIANS

A.Y. 2026-28





If you want a full understanding of how a stage performance develops out of the synergetic work of a diverse team of specialists, the La Scala Academy is the place for you. This is where history meets

the new generations and your passion transforms into a professional career in the arts. Our journey began in **1813** with the **Ballet School**, an expression of Teatro alla Scala's vocation to perpetuate an inestimable cultural heritage. Today, the La Scala Academy is a **unique** educational institution: thanks to its indissoluble bond with one of the world's most prestigious opera houses, it is able to offer courses in **every profession in the performing arts**, from music to dance, from stagecraft to management. With access to an extensive curriculum—ranging from training courses and workshops to university-level bachelor's and master's degree programs—distributed among four departments, you will find ample and unparalleled opportunities to develop your potential.

A distinctive feature of our programs is our **teaching staff**, composed of **internationally renowned experts and talents**. Some of them have built their careers at Teatro alla Scala, on stage or behind the scenes. They now bring their unique and invaluable experience into the learning environment, ensuring solid, cutting-edge guidance for budding talents. Our teaching method combines theory with **intensive practical application**. You will have unique opportunities **to become acquainted with the operations of a performing arts institution, gain familiarity with its various arts, trades, and professions and how they are applied in a real-world context**. At the Academy we **support the professional growth of each individual** with a solid system of values. We invest in your talent so that you can play an active role in shaping tomorrow's performing arts. Our alumni are leading figures in the field. We invite you to take part in this heritage and help us carry it forward. If you are ready to dedicate mind and body to a constantly evolving world, this is your home.

Luisa Vinci
Direttrice Generale
Accademia Teatro alla Scala

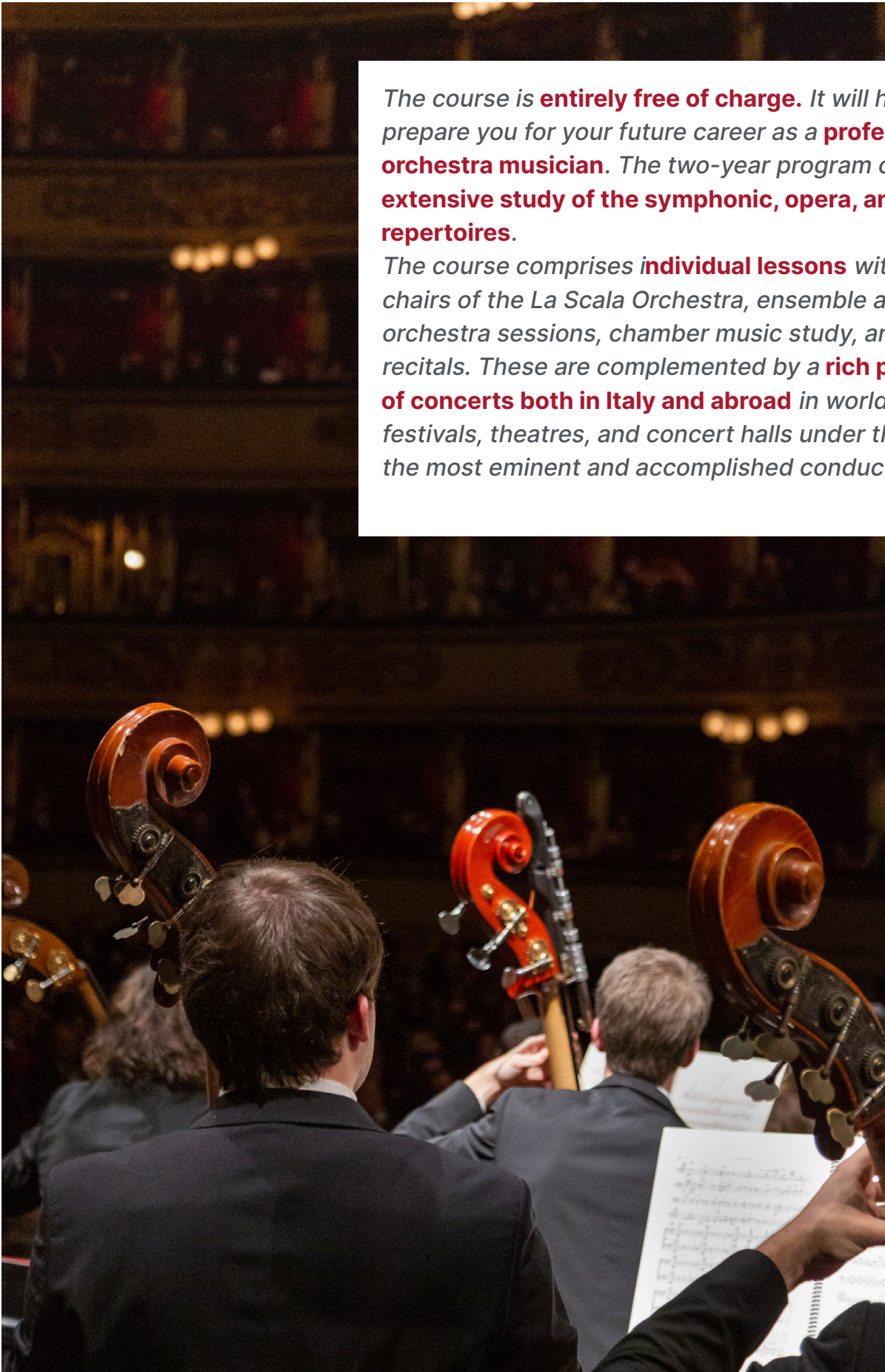
FOUNDING MEMBERS



THE COURSE

The course is **entirely free of charge**. It will help prepare you for your future career as a **professional orchestra musician**. The two-year program offers **extensive study of the symphonic, opera, and ballet repertoires**.

The course comprises **individual lessons** with the first chairs of the La Scala Orchestra, ensemble and full-orchestra sessions, chamber music study, and section recitals. These are complemented by a **rich program of concerts both in Italy and abroad** in world-class festivals, theatres, and concert halls under the baton of the most eminent and accomplished conductors.



A BIT OF HISTORY...

Teatro alla Scala is the second home for the Academy Orchestra, which has been a special guest in Piermarini's auditorium on numerous occasions. Among the most recent productions we mention *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *Ali Baba e i quaranta ladroni*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Prima la musica e poi le parole*, *Rigoletto*, *Il matrimonio segreto*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Il cappello di paglia di Firenze*, *La Cenerentola*, *La Strada*, *Il lago dei cigni*, *Bayadère*, *L'histoire de Manon*. Other engagements at the prestigious theatre include the **Bolshoi Dance Company** in 2018 and the **Tokyo Ballet** in 2019.

WORLD-CLASS VENUES

The Academy Orchestra has performed in countless world-class theatres, concert societies, and music festivals: the Bolshoi Theatre of Moscow, the Saint Petersburg Philharmonia, the Royal Opera House of Muscat, the Harris Theatre of Chicago, Strathmore Hall in Washington D.C., the Peter Norton Symphony Space in New York, the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, the Richardson Auditorium at Princeton University, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, La Fenice of Venice, Teatro Massimo in Palermo, Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Teatro Petruzzelli of Bari, Teatro Bellini of Catania, the Auditorium Rai of Turin, the Ravello Festival, the Valle d'Itria Festival, the Kissinger Sommer Festival, and the Wolfegger Festspiele.

AND PREEMINENT BATONS

The podium has recently featured luminaries of the caliber of Zubin Mehta, Iván Fischer, Fabio Luisi, and Yuri Temirkanov. Over the years the Orchestra has performed under the masterful batons of Marc Albrecht, Giovanni Antonini, Marco Armiliato, John Axelrod, Alessandro Bonato, Roland Böer, Gianluca Capuano, Paolo Carignani, Daniel Cohen, David Coleman, Ottavio Dantone, Óliver Diaz, Plácido Domingo, Gustavo Dudamel, Christoph Eschenbach, Vladimir Ivanovi Fedoseev, Ádám Fischer, Lawrence Foster, Sascha Goetzl, Marco Guidarini, Theodor Guschlbauer, Michael Halász, Simon Hewett, Manfred Honeck, Koen Kessels, Susanna Mälkki, Michele Mariotti, Pietro Mianiti, Gianandrea Noseda, Daniel Oren, Evelino Pidò, Sesto Quatrini, Stefano Ranzani, Donato Renzetti, Daniele Rustioni, Anna Skryleva, Mikhail Tatarnikov, Lorenzo Viotti e Massimo Zanetti.

The Orchestra has also enjoyed collaborations with renowned soloists such as Maurizio Pollini, Lang Lang, Herbie Hancock, Alexei Volodin, Simon Trpčeski, David Fray, Olga Kern, Miriam Prandi, Alessandro Taverna, Giovanni Andrea Zanon, Benjamin Bernheim e Lisette Oropesa.



THE SAME THRILL AWAITS YOU

During the two-year program (2026–28) you too will have the thrill of performing at **Teatro alla Scala in the Academy Project**, an opera on the regular season program produced and directed by Academy students, and in the program of children's operas for a younger audience. You will accompany the talents in the **Academy Ballet School** and in the **La Scala Corps de Ballet** in dance performances and will perform in numerous symphonic and vocal-symphonic concerts in Italy and abroad. And the calendar is constantly enriched with new opportunities to showcase your talent!

AND AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

During the course you will have the opportunity to **perfect your technique and technical skills while working harmoniously with others in complex and varied settings**. You will not only gain mastery of an extensive and diversified repertoire, but also have the **opportunity to perform confidently in a broad variety of professional contexts**, learning to be self-directed in building your musical career.



CURRICULAR UNITS

CORE UNITS

ORCHESTRA EXERCISES

Pietro Mianiti
lead instructor
and **guest conductors**

◆ Symphony repertoire

◆ Opera repertoire

◆ Ballet repertoire

SECTION RECITALS AND CHAMBER MUSIC

*First chairs of the
Teatro alla Scala Orchestra*

◆ Orchestra repertoire by instrument family

◆ Creation of chamber music groups

◆ Orchestral passages per performance
schedule

ENSEMBLE EXERCISES

(FOCUS ON MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY REPERTOIRE)

Marco Angius
lead instructor
and **guest conductors**

◆ Modern repertoire

◆ Contemporary repertoire

BASIC UNITS

INDIVIDUAL INSTRUMENT LESSONS

*First chairs of the
Teatro alla Scala Orchestra*

◆ Instrument technique

◆ Orchestral passages

◆ Specific instrumental repertoire



INSTRUCTORS

◆ Pietro Mianiti
*Lead instructor for
orchestra exercises*

◆ Marco Angius
◆ Wilson Hermanto
◆ Renato Rivolta
Ensemble conductors

◆ Francesco De Angelis
◆ Francesco Manara
◆ Eriko Tsuchihashi
Violin

◆ Joel Imperial
◆ Giuseppe Russo Rossi
Viola

◆ Sandro Laffranchini
◆ Alfredo Persichilli
◆ Massimo Polidori
Cello

◆ Francesco Siragusa
Double bass

◆ Daniele Pascoletti
Strings (collective)

◆ Andrea Manco
◆ Marco Zoni
Flute

◆ Francesco Guggiola
◆ Giovanni Paciello
Piccolo

◆ Pedro Pereira De Sá
◆ Augusto Mianiti
Oboe / English horn

◆ Aron Chiesa
◆ Fabrizio Meloni
◆ Stefano Cardo
Clarinet / Bass clarinet

◆ Gabriele Screpis
◆ Marion Reinhard
Bassoon / Contrabassoon

◆ Emanuele Urso
French horn

◆ Francesco Tamiati
◆ Marco Toro
Trumpet

◆ Daniele Morandini
Trombone

◆ Javier Castaño Medina
Tuba

◆ Olga Mazzia
◆ Luisa Prandina
Harp

◆ Andrea Bindi
◆ Maxime Pidoux
Tympani

◆ Gianni Arfacchia
◆ Francesco Muraca
◆ Gerardo Capaldo
Percussion



KEY POINTS

CONSTANT PRACTICE

The two-year program provides students a nearly constant opportunity to play and perform in individual study, section recitals, and intensive orchestral work.

DIVERSITY OF REPERTOIRE

Broad and in-depth study of the opera, symphonic, and ballet repertoires provides the students with the well-rounded versatility required of an orchestra musician.

WORLD FAMOUS CONDUCTORS

The teachings of some of the world's most renowned and accomplished orchestra conductors ensure a unique and inestimable experience.

IN ITALY AND ABROAD

Performances and tours in Italy and abroad enrich the process of personal and professional growth.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Length



Two years, each consisting of two semesters, from January 2027 to December 2028.



Language



The course will be conducted in Italian and English.



Location



Accademia Teatro alla Scala
Via S. Marta, 18
20123 Milan



Teatro alla Scala
Via dei Filodrammatici, 2
20121 Milan



Partner performing arts institutions.

To access the course, it is necessary to pass a multi-stage admission test.



Attendance



Mandatory, during the day or evenings depending on the period. Absences must be justified and may not exceed 25% of course hours. Students missing more than 25% of lessons will be expelled from the course.

The Academy and Teaching Committee reserve the sole right to make exceptions to this rule.



Permission to perform in non-Academy events is regulated by the educational agreement with Accademia Teatro alla Scala signed by the student at the beginning of the program.



Accommodations



Candidates admitted to the course who reside outside of Milan are responsible for arranging their own accommodations.



Ph: Annachiara DI Stefano

ADMISSION REQUISITES

MANDATORY

- ◆ 18 years old or older on the first day of lessons;
- ◆ born on or after January 1, 2000;
- ◆ first-level diploma in the candidate's chosen instrument (to be played at the audition) issued by an Italian state conservatory or state-authorized music institution or equivalent academic qualification issued outside of Italy;
- ◆ first-time applicants only, those who have taken part in a previous edition of the course are not eligible for admission.



Ph: Marcello Chiappalone



SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must pass a two-part selection process as follows to be admitted to the course:

- ◆ **performance of a piece specified in the audition program**, a piece for solo instrument without piano accompaniment chosen by the applicant, and the orchestral passages specified in the audition program (the selection process for woodwinds, brass, and harp will involve an elimination round and a final round);
- ◆ **an individual interview** to assess the applicant's aptitude and motivation.

WHEN

The auditions are scheduled to start on **November 2026** and may continue for several days depending on the number of applicants. **We will determine the audition calendar in October.** Once the number of applicants for each instrument is known, the office will organize the calendar and notify applicants of the specific date of their audition via email.

WHERE

The selection process will take place in Milan at the La Scala Academy (Via Santa Marta 18), which is relatively close to Piazza Duomo and Teatro alla Scala. It is within walking distance of the following metro lines: M1 (red) Cordusio, Duomo; M2 (green) Sant'Ambrogio; M3 (yellow) Duomo, Missori; M4 (blue) Vetra, De Amicis. You will find signs directing you to the waiting room for the auditions when you arrive at the Academy. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early so you will not be late to the audition in the event of unforeseen delays.

HOW

You will find all details of the audition program on the [Orchestra Musicians Course](#) page on the Academy website starting in May 2026.

The program is open to a maximum of **70 participants: 42 strings** (22 violins, 8 violas, 7 cellos, 5 double basses); **3 flauti***, **3 clarinets***, **3 oboes***, **3 bassoons***, **4 French horns**, **3 trumpets**, **2 trombones**, **1 bass trombone**, **1 tuba**, **1 harp**, **1 tympani**, **3 percussions** (*with special instrument obligations).

The Examining Committee will determine a ranking of students eligible for admission. Eligible students who are **not initially admitted** to the program may be admitted at a later date if any of the admitted students declines to enroll.

The Examining Committee shall make the final and incontestable decision regarding eligibility to attend the program. No explanations of its judgments will be provided.

If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the Academy reserves the right to cancel the course, notifying applicants within 10 working days of the end of the selection process.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with physical or learning disabilities must attach a valid certificate of disability during the online application process to ensure recognition of special conditions.

COST AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The **fee for participation in the audition is 100 euros including VAT**, which will be paid online when you apply. Payment may be made with principal credit/debit cards or by bank transfer via the MyBank circuit (list of participating banks at <https://mybank.eu/banche-e-ppsp-aderenti/>).

Participation in the course is free of charge.

Scholarships are assigned starting in the second semester of the first year of the course on the basis of effective attendance during scheduled coursework and performances.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Application to the selection process must be completed by **September 25, 2026**.

Please follow the steps below to apply:

ENROLLMENT PLATFORM REGISTRATION OR LOGIN

Log in to the Academy enrollment platform at <https://iscrizioni.accademiascala.it> (if you do not already have login credentials from a previous application to another Academy course, you will need to register first). You will apply for the selection process in a subsequent step.

Please enter all information accurately. Make a note of your email address and password because they will be your login credentials [username and password] for your personal page.

You will be asked to accept the Academy privacy policy.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Academy enrollment platform will guide you through the application process.

ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS

The next step is to download and sign (either digitally or by printing and scanning) the “Condizioni di contratto per la partecipazione” [Contract conditions for participation (in the selection process)]. Upload the signed document where indicated. You must complete this step to continue the application process.

ATTACHMENTS

You will be asked to upload the following documents:

◆ **A detailed, signed CV ending with the following statements:**

- 1. I, the undersigned, aware of the criminal penalties provided in Article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28 December 2000 (D.P.R. 445/2000) for false statements and acts, declare, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of said Decree that all information contained in this CV is truthful;*
- 2. I authorize processing of the personal data I have provided for the purposes inherent to using my CV pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 (D.Lgs. 196/2003) and the European General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679);*

- ◆ **A digital passport photo;**
- ◆ **Educational certificates or self-certification of the same;**
- ◆ **Professional certificates or self-certification of the same;**

You will also be asked to state the piece for solo instrument you plan to perform during the audition.

APPLICATION FEE

You will be asked to pay the application fee of **100,00 euros (including VAT)**, by credit or debit card or credit transfer. The payment must be made online during the application process (do not close the page and attempt to pay elsewhere).

COMPLETION OF PROCEDURE

Once the above steps have been completed, a summary will be generated of all information provided. You must print and sign this summary, scan it, and attach it where indicated. **This completes the application for the selection process and all forms will be sent to the Academy Teaching Office [Segreteria Didattica].** Please follow all instructions on your screen or received via email from the enrollment platform. Make sure all the information you provide is correct. Any inaccuracies will result in automatic rejection of your application. The Academy reserves the right to accept applications submitted after the application deadline but before the auditions. The Academy also reserves the right to postpone the application deadline, the auditions, and the beginning of the course.

NOTIFICATIONS

Candidates will be invited to the auditions by email after the application deadline. Once the selection process has been completed, those admitted to the course will receive an email with instructions for enrolling in the course. You must enroll within 5 working days of receiving the email via your personal page on [iscrizioni. accademiascala.it](https://www.iscrizioni.accademiascala.it)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ITALIANS RESIDING ABROAD:

You must provide a copy or translation of all required documents in Italian or English (CV, academic certificates). Non-EU residents who are admitted to the course must also submit documentation required by applicable law and by the Italian Public Security Authorities for persons residing outside of the European Union or before the day that lessons begin (application for a residence permit for reasons of study [permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio]).



LIFE AT THE ACADEMY

Joining the La Scala Academy means becoming a singular point of excellence among a plurality of talents.

When you step into the Academy you are not just entering a building, you are joining a community. We believe in certain values that guide us every day and we hope they will also illuminate your path. If you want to know more, read our Statement of Values and our Guidelines for Inclusive Language. You will find them [here](#)

You are unique

*That is a central value at the Academy.
We recognize and encourage your originality.*

We care about you

We work to make the Academy inclusive, fair, and respectful of diversity. We want everyone to feel welcome and valued in a place where words and actions create a positive space that is accessible to all. No discrimination, only respect.

Creativity is the driving force

We encourage free artistic expression in all its forms. At the Academy you can explore and give form to your art.

You are part of a history and part of a future

The Academy is the steward of the grand tradition of Teatro alla Scala with its eyes to the future. As witness to this heritage, you will be a protagonist of change, preparing the stages of tomorrow. We work to give you training of the highest quality, always with a mind to future challenges.

You will find everything you need to begin in your Welcome Pack!

We know that beginning a new journey can trigger a lot of questions and doubts. This is perfectly normal! We thus welcome you into our community with a very user-friendly Welcome Pack. It will give you all the practical information you will need to find yourself at home and get the most out of your time at the Academy and in the city of Milan:



How to find your way around the Academy



Services offered by our Library



Financial benefits: housing discounts, special rates for theatres, movies, stores, sports facilities, and language course



How to sign up for exams



How to take advantage of the Erasmus+ Programme for an invaluable experience abroad



Bureaucracy: what to do and who to turn to



Where to find vending machines, cafés, and restaurants for a quick break between lessons

And a host of additional tips for getting the most out of the La Scala Academy!

In short, it will be like a compass to keep you from getting lost in our classrooms and corridors and to help you find the answers to all your questions.





YOUR DIPLOMA

After completing the course with at least 75% attendance, you will receive a **diploma from the La Scala Academy, a recognized institution of excellence, your passport to a splendid future career.**

AND AFTER YOUR DEGREE? JOIN THE ACADEMY ALUMNI!

Your degree at the Academy does not mean farewell but rather welcome to the La Scala Academy Alumni community! Think of it as an exclusive club, a highly useful platform designed specifically for those, like you, who have studied with us.

What does the Alumni community offer? A host of exclusive opportunities:

- ◆ **Targeted job offers**
- ◆ **Networking:** add former students and performing arts professionals to your network of contacts
- ◆ **Formazione continua:** you never stop learning and developing
- ◆ **Mentorship:** contacts with consummate professionals
- ◆ **Special events** and occasions
- ◆ A space to **develop your projects** and bring your ideas to life
- ◆ And there are also **special conventions** and discounts just for you!

The Alumni community allows you to remain in constant contact with the Academy and get the most of a world of post-diploma opportunities in the performing arts.

MEET THE STAFF

Teaching
Coordinator
Iván Kreymeyer

Tutor
Francesco Corsi

infocorsi@accademiascala.it

OPEN DAY

Come visit us! Register at
bit.ly/OpendayATS

For questions regarding
the application process:

Giovanna Coletta
Federica Rotondi

☎ (+39) 02-85451160/22

✉ segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it

