



# INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION

(European Community Competition for young opera singers)

**80<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

**25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**President of Jury**  
Donato Renzetti

**Board of Examiners**  
Maria Agresta  
Saverio Clemente  
Enrico Girardi  
Giancarlo Landini

**SPECIAL PRIZE OF € 10.000**

**TEATRO LIRICO SPERIMENTALE  
DI SPOLETO “A. BELLİ”**

with the support of  
MINISTERO DELLA CULTURA  
REGIONE UMBRIA  
COMUNE DI SPOLETO  
FONDAZIONE CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI SPOLETO

**ANNOUNCE THE  
INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION  
79<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

**HOW TO APPLY  
ART. 1**

- a) The Competition is open to all young people who on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 are under **32 years** of age for sopranos and tenors, or **34 years** of age for mezzo-sopranos, contraltos, baritones and basses, providing that they are citizens of the Countries of the European Union (EU), or of the EFTA Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) or citizens of the Countries candidate to accede to the European Union, potential candidates or Countries which can apply to European cultural programmes at the date 10.10.2025 (Creative Europe: Albania, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Tunisia, Armenia, Kosovo -under UN Security Council Resolution No. 1244), with the residence permit for work as employed or self-employed worker.
- b) For singers who are citizens of non-EU Countries, or of Countries which are not listed in this article, there will be auditions outside the competition on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Other possible dates for auditions will be determined during 2026 by the Institution’s Management. For further information and for the procedure to participate in the extra auditions, please visit the website [www.xls-belli.it](http://www.xls-belli.it).
- c) The same economic conditions of the winners are also valid for the singers that will be chosen for the auditions outside the competition in proportion to their work, unless they are awarded other special prizes. Nevertheless, the Institution will define their possible study period, role and participation in the Opera Seasons 2026 and 2027. The decisions of the Institution’s Management are irrevocable.

**ART. 2**

Application for the competition can be submitted online at <https://www.xls-belli.it/concorso-di-canto/>. In the online form, the applicant must specify his/her full name, address, voice range and citizenship. The following documents shall be included:

- a) A copy of the passport or identity card valid for expatriation;
- b) A copy of the certificate or a self-declaration attesting accomplished studies, issued by a Conservatory, a high school or music school. If the studies were accomplished at a private school or with a teacher, the headmaster or the teacher have to issue on his/her responsibility a declaration stating the student’s qualification and level of suitability;
- c) Applicant’s statement in writing that he/she has never played a main role during the opera season of important Opera Houses;

- d) Applicant's statement in writing of any general studies they have completed, or any profession or occupation practiced (CV);
- e) Authorization for the Istituzione Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto "A. Belli", in accordance with the European Data Protection Regulation 679/2016, to handle the personal data supplied in order to participate in the Competition. These data will be used exclusively for the purposes of administration of this Competition. (The holder of these data is the Istituzione Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto "A. Belli");
- f) Receipt of a Eur 75,00 bank transfer sent to: Istituzione Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto "A. Belli" at Intesa Sanpaolo – Branch of Spoleto (PG) - Piazza G. Garibaldi. IBAN IT30R0306921811100000003427, BIC: BCITITMM, reason for payment "Singing Competition admission fee"; the Competition admission fee is not refundable under any circumstances;
- g) 1 passport photograph; 1 full length photograph;
- h) List of the excerpts to be presented as by the form attached at the application form (the list could be send after sending the application form but in any case within the application deadline of the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025);
- i) Copy of the residence permit for work as employed or self-employed worker.

Applications may also be sent by post or courier to: **Istituzione Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto "Adriano Belli" - Piazza G. Bovio, 1 - 06049 Spoleto (PG)**. Applicants who wish to send their application by post or courier should contact the Competition Secretariat for the necessary instructions.

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS is Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

**Candidates must bring to the audition a valid identification document with a photograph, providing citizenship as per art. 1.**

### **ART. 3**

The Institution:

- a) will not consider valid the applications lacking the required attachments specified in Art. 2 above, nor those submitted beyond the deadline (February, 4<sup>th</sup> 2026). **The postmark or the date of the e-mail will be proof of the sending;**
- b) reserves the right to request proof of authenticity of certificates and declarations.

### **ART. 4**

The official auditions of the International Singing Competition will take place at the Teatro Caio Melisso in Spoleto in piazza Duomo **from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2028**. Applicants will be invited to attend the Caio Melisso Theatre in Spoleto at specific times based on the preferences expressed during registration, except in the event of subsequent communications from the Competition Secretariat. For the auditions out of Competition, refer to Art. 1 points b) and c). No travel or living expenses will be refunded to participants.

### **BOARD OF EXAMINERS – EXAMINATIONS**

#### **ART. 5**

The Board of Examiners, appointed by the Institution and communicate to the "Ministero della Cultura - Direzione Generale Spettacolo" of the Italian Republic, will consist of the following members:

- a) representants of the Institutions' Artistic and Didactic Direction and/or other expert appointed by the Institution;
- b) experts chosen among singers, singing teachers, artistic directors of important opera theatres, music critics, musicologists, artist manager, musical and theatre organizers.

## ART. 6

Applicants are required to fill in the form attached to the Notice of Competition, the five excerpts they intend to perform during the Competition and a complete role (including recitatives, scenes, set pieces, etc.). The five excerpts could be chosen from the opera repertory (from the “recitar cantando” of Monteverdi to the contemporary music theatre) or from the sacred music or chamber music (romance, chanson, song ecc.).

The competition is divided into three parts:

**Preliminaries.** The applicant must present two excerpts from opera repertory, of his/her own choice, declared in the application form, except for the excerpts referred to the complete role declared in the application form. The suitable singers will pass to the semifinals.

**Semifinals.** The applicant must present one excerpt from opera repertory at his/her own choice and others requested from the Jury between the excerpts declared in the application form.

Applicants obtaining an average of **7,50 marks out of 10** will pass to the **Finals**.

**Finals.** The applicant must:

1. perform one or some excerpts chosen by the Jury from those presented for the preliminaries and semifinals including excerpts from the complete role as declared in the application form.
2. know the complete role of the opera and be able to perform any excerpt of it;
3. Interview.

Applicants obtaining an average mark of at least **8,50 out of 10** will be declared winners.

## ART. 7

Accompanying pianists will be available for the participants. However, if the applicants prefer a pianist of their own choice can accompany them at their own expense.

## ART. 8

The Jury is valid when the majority of the members is present. The Jury will draw up the pass-list and will declare winners those applicants who have obtained an average mark of at least 8 out of 10. The Jury will also have the option to grade as “**eligible**” those applicants who could be engaged as per **art. 13**.

## PREPARATORY DEBUT OPERA SEASON

### ART. 9

The winners will attend the 2025 and 2026 five-month Preparatory Courses. The Course could also include travels for studies and for specialization in Italy and abroad. The Course will include lessons on theory, acting, stage movement, singing, group exercises and preparation of several operas. The Course will be held in Spoleto at the “Villa Redenta” estate, at “Teatro Caio Melisso”, at “Teatro Nuovo” and/or in Rome or in other places. Those applicants considered “eligible” could be called to attend the last two months of the 2026 Preparatory Course.

**Winners must attend the preparatory courses.**

## ART. 10

The attendance at the Preparatory Course and the participation in the didactic activities as well as in those which are aimed at the direct preparation of the representations of the Opera Season or in other activities set by the Institution is compulsory and free of charge. The winners of the Competition will be also awarded the annual total amount of Euros **5.650,00** gross in 2025 and in 2026. This annual sum will be divided into three Euros **750,00** monthly scholarships. This agreement is made for the period linked, also temporarily, to the activities of direct preparation of the operas and for the period of the Opera Season. If the activities will be extended beyond the five months expected, a sum of money proportional to the amount of the monthly scholarship will be allocated in case of extra didactic activity or a sum of money proportional to the amount of the above-mentioned monthly agreement. The right to the scholarship and to the agreement depends on the constant and fruitful attendance at the Preparatory

Course and on the participation in the Debut Opera Season and it will be proportional to the actual attendance, even though the singers cannot be absent neither in the rehearsal period for the stage setting nor in the performances rehearsals.

Winners non-EU citizens or stateless must be in compliance with the residence permit and the study and/or work visa by the starting of training courses and opera production period.

The first three winning singers, according to the marks given by the Jury, will receive for this Competition's edition, in addition to the aforementioned scholarships, the Special prize of the Teatro Lirico Sperimentale of Eur 10.000,00 as follows:

**First classed, Eur 5.000,00**

**Second classed, Eur 3.000,00**

**Third classed, Eur 2.000,00**

The prizes will be paid as follows:

First classed, Eur 5.000,00, No. 10 extraordinary scholarships of the same amount (of Eur 500,00 gross each one), to be paid during the 2026 and 2027 Preparatory Courses; the scholarships will be paid in proportion to the singers' actual attendance to the scheduled lessons;

Second classed, Eur 3.000,00, No. 10 extraordinary scholarships of the same amount (of Eur 300,00 gross each one), to be paid during the 2026 and 2027 Preparatory Courses; the scholarships will be paid in proportion to the singers' actual attendance to the scheduled lessons;

Third classed, Eur 2.000,00, No. 4 extraordinary scholarships of the same amount (of Eur 250,00 gross each one), to be paid during the 2026 and 2027 Preparatory Courses; the scholarships will be paid in proportion to the singers' actual attendance to the scheduled lessons.

## **ART. 11**

During the whole Course, the students may not be absent. In case, the Institution might allow brief permits for serious reasons or for documented necessity, after having asked for the Artistic-Didactic Direction's advice. Students cannot be absent during opera rehearsals or performances.

## **ART. 12**

The 2025 and 2026 Competition winners who have attended the Course will debut in the 80<sup>th</sup> Opera Season that will take place in Spoleto, in other cities of Umbria or elsewhere and the Institution will stage it within 2025. Performing the roles decided by the Artistic-Didactic Director is compulsory.

## **ART. 13**

The Institution reserves the right to use for vacant roles those students considered "eligible" by the Board of Examiners of this Competition, or the winners of previous competitions of the "Teatro Lirico Sperimentale" or the winners of other competitions as long as they are citizens of a European Union country or of the following countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Albania, Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Ukraine, Tunisia, Armenia, Kosovo, Moldova and Turkey; or singers chosen in auditions especially organized by the Teatro Lirico Sperimentale. The same economic conditions of the winners are also valid for the chosen ones in proportion to their work, unless they are awarded other special prizes. Nevertheless, the Institution will define their possible study period, role and participation in the Opera Season. The decisions of the Institution's Management are irrevocable.

## **ART. 14**

During the Preparatory Course and the Opera Season, the participants undertake to be available for concerts, opera performances, television or radio recordings (partial or complete), and for any other event organized by the Teatro Lirico Sperimentale in Italy and abroad, without any further remuneration. This didactic activity can be scheduled also outside the period of the Preparatory Course and of the Opera Season; in this case participants will receive an additional scholarship whose amount will be quantified afterwards by the Institution's Management.

## **ART. 15**

The application to this Competition implies the acceptance of all provisions in this announcement and, therefore, obligation to fully comply with them.

## **ART. 16**

**The students who do not attend the course regularly, who do not apply themselves, or who seriously breach the regulations will be asked to leave the course, with consequent loss of any right or benefit. Students who do not fulfill Articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 will lose the right specified in this announcement and will have to refund any scholarships and prizes received, as well as paying compensation for damages.**

## **ART. 17**

Any measures taken by the Institution, or any decisions and resolutions of the Board of Examiners are irrevocable.

## **ART. 18**

In case of disputes, only the Italian version of this announcement will have legal value. Any legal lawsuit will be submitted for settlement to the Court of Spoleto.

## **Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto "A. Belli"**

Piazza G. Bovio, 1 - 06049 Spoleto (PG)

Tel. +39 0743 221645

[www.tls-belli.it](http://www.tls-belli.it) - [segreteria.artistica@tls-belli.it](mailto:segreteria.artistica@tls-belli.it)