



“ARIA D'ORO”

II. International Vocal Competition 2026

Puccini Theatre – Merano

18–21 November 2026

Organizer

Cultural Association Kulturverein Amaté EO

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The International Vocal Competition “ARIA D'ORO 2026” will take place from 18–21 November at the Puccini Municipal Theatre in Merano, Italy. All personal designations apply equally to all genders.

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The competition is open to singers of all nationalities born after 01.01.1991.

Evaluations will follow the rules established by the competition jury. The jury's decisions are final. The jury reserves the right to interrupt or stop a performance at any time at its own discretion.

Official pianists will be provided by the competition. Singers may also bring their own accompanists.

By applying, participants agree to comply with the competition rules and accept the decisions of the jury.



Presence at the competition venue

All participants are requested to register personally on 18.11.2026 between 08:00 and 10:00 with a valid ID at the competition office in the Puccini Municipal Theatre in Merano. Participants must remain available in Merano for as long as they take part in the competition.

Accommodation

Participants must arrange their own accommodation. This also applies to private accompanists.

II. REPERTOIRE AND PRIZE CATEGORIES

Each participant must submit their competition program in writing.

Repertoire

All submitted competition programs for the respective prize categories should represent different stylistic periods and include at least two languages.

Submitted programs must include:

- **“ARIA D’ORO 2026”** (Overall Prize 1st–3rd) – a total of 6 arias from opera/operetta/musical/oratorio/concert repertoire (at least 2 of these categories) and 4 songs
- **“Opera Prize”** – 5 opera arias (from at least 2 periods and in 2 different languages)
- **“Music Theatre Prize”** (Operetta, Musical & Chanson) – 4 operetta arias and 4 musical songs or 4 chansons
- **“Song, Oratorio & Concert Prize”** – 3 oratorio or concert arias and 5 songs
- **“Distinguished Artist Prize (35+)”** – 5 pieces of the candidate’s choice (arias/songs/lieder/chansons) (for singers born before 01.01.1991)

All works, except songs and concert oratorio arias, must be performed from memory. Opera, operetta and oratorio arias must be performed in the original key.

Each participant may apply for several prize categories and may use individual pieces for multiple competition programs. The jury reserves the right not to award or to divide a prize.



Prizes

1st Grand Prize “ARIA D’ORO 2026“	€4,000
2nd Grand Prize “ARIA D’ORO 2026“	€1,500
3rd Grand Prize “ARIA D’ORO 2026	€1,000
“Opernpreis”	€1,000
“Unterhaltungstheaterpreis“	€1,000
“Lied-, Oratorien-, Konzertpreis“	€1,000
„Distinguished Artist Prize (35+)“	€1,000

III. COMPETITION PROGRAM

The competition will open on Wednesday, 18.11.2026 at 09:00 at the Puccini Municipal Theatre in Merano.

10:00 – The order of performance will be determined by draw and announced.

1. FIRST ROUND (ALL APPLICANTS)

Each participant may perform one piece of their choice from the submitted competition program. An additional piece may be selected by the jury.

18 November 2026

Round 1 – Part 1 (all applicants) – closed event (11:00 – 13:30)

Round 1 – Part 2 (all applicants) – closed event (15:00 – 18:00)

Round 1 – Part 3 (all applicants) – closed event (19:30 – 22:30)



19 November 2026

Round 1 – Part 4 (all applicants) – closed event (10:00 – 13:30)

Round 1 – Part 5 (all applicants) – closed event (15:00 – 18:00)

Round 1 – Part 6 (all applicants) – closed event (19:30 – 21:00)

21:30 – Announcement of the participants advancing to the 2nd round (Semifinal)

Each participant will perform one or more pieces selected by the jury from the submitted competition program.

2. SECOND ROUND (SEMIFINAL)

20 November 2026

Semifinal – open event for interested audience (10:30 – 13:30)

Semifinal – open event for interested audience (15:00 – 18:00)

Semifinal – open event for interested audience (19:00 – 21:00)

22:00 – Announcement of the finalists “ARIA D’ORO 2026”

3. THIRD ROUND (FINAL)

The jury will determine the final program in consultation with the finalists.

21 November 2026

Internal Final (closed event) (11:00 – 14:00)

Public FINAL CONCERT of the finalists with piano accompaniment (20:00)

Final evaluation and announcement of the prize winners

Award Ceremony “ARIA D’ORO 2026”



IV. APPLICATION

Applicants must apply no later than 30 October 2026 via the organizer's website www.amatemerano.com using the online application link.

Application fee: €80.00 (basic fee for one category)

Applicants may apply for several categories. If a candidate participates in more than one category, the total application fee is €120.

This amount must be transferred to the competition account before submitting the application as a net amount (free of bank charges for the beneficiary). A copy of the payment receipt must be attached to the application.

Bank details: IBAN: IT61Z0811258590000301274988 / Account holder: Kulturverein Amaté EO

Application fees are non-refundable.

The following documents must be attached to the application:

1. Curriculum vitae with photo
2. Program of the pieces the participant intends to perform
3. List of studied/performed repertoire (optional)
4. Copy of passport or identity card
5. Proof of payment of the application fee
6. Letters of recommendation and certificates (optional)

False information or missing or incomplete documentation may result in exclusion from the competition. Applicants must submit their application no later than 30 October 2026 via the organiser's website www.amatemerano.com and the registration link.

V. I. JURY

Richard J. Sigmund (president of the jury) - Merano Academy – Operastudio (I)

Peter Edelmann - Oper Klosterneuburg/MDW (A)

Giacomo Fornari - Conservatorio Monteverdi (I)

Kalle Kanttila - Kanttila Management (D)

Hein Mulders - Oper Köln (D)

Cornelia Preissinger - Oper Leipzig (D)

Sylvia Saavedra-Edelmann - Saavedra-Edelmann Artists (A)

Christian Starinieri - DM Artist Management Agency (CH)