

**FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG OPERA
SINGERS “ROSA PONSELLE CITTA’ DI CAIAZZO” PER I 150 ANNI
DELL’UNITA’ D’ITALIA**

ANNOUNCEMENT

The City of Caiazzo, in collaboration with The San Pietro a Majella Music Conservatory of Naples, The G. Martucci Music Conservatory of Salerno, The Nicola Sala Music Conservatory of Benevento, The Domenico Cimarosa Music Conservatory of Avellino, The Johns Hopkins University Peabody Institute (Maryland) and the Towson University Department of Music (Maryland).

ANNOUNCES

THE FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR YOUNG OPERA SINGERS
“ROSA PONSELLE CITTÀ DI CAIAZZO PER I 150 ANNI DELL’UNITÀ D’ITALIA”

SECTION 1

The International Competition of Young Opera Singers: The Rosa Ponselle Award commemorating the 30th anniversary of the opera singer's death.

The competition is open to all singers who as of June 30, 2011 will be at least 18 years old, but not yet 36 years old. This competition is open to individuals of all nationalities and backgrounds.

SECTION 2

There will be a special category as well for students who are under 26 years old as of June 30, 2011. This category maintains one prize for best singer.

There will also be a special category for students from Campania (natives or up to 2nd generation immigrants from Campania - documentation would need to be included with application), open to students who are under 26 years old as of June 30, 2011. There will be one prize awarded for best singer in this category.

SECTION 3

The competition will take place July 12th through July 16th 2011 at the Civic Center of Palazzo Mazziotti on Via Umberto I and at the Auditorium dell’Annunziata on Via A.A. Caiatino in Caiazzo, Italy.

The competition will have three stages: the qualifying round, the semi-finals and the final round. According to the agreed upon protocols reached by the city of Caiazzo, the four Music Conservatories in Campania and the two participating Universities in Maryland, each of the above music schools will be allowed to select up to three students or alumni who will be guaranteed a place in the semifinals (for a total of 18 participants).

SECTION 4

Applications for the competition must be postmarked by June 12, 2011 and mailed to the following address:

Direttore Artistico M^o Maria Rosaria Minicozzi

PREMIO ROSA PONSELLE

Piazzetta Martiri Caiatini, 1

81013 Caiazzo, Italia

or send by email to: concorsorosaponselle@gmail.com

All further information about the event will be communicated by e-mail using the address given by the participant on his or her application.

The registration fee for participation in the competition is 80 euros to be sent with application.

All applications must contain the following materials:

- Completed application (use downloadable form from website www.comune.caiazzo.ce.it).
- Two recent photos, signed on the back.
- Resume pertaining to your academic and artistic studies as well as biographical information.
- A list of five pieces to be performed, of which one should be by Giuseppe Verdi, or if not appropriate for younger voices, any composer from the Risorgimento Italiano (any Italian operatic composition from 1815 to 1861). In addition, at least one other work should be performed in Italian.
- Photocopies of identification documents that state date of birth, nationality and residence.
- Internationally accepted money order or wire Swift code: BPAMIT3J023 – Beneficiary “Concorso Lirico Rosa Ponselle” - in the amount of 80 euros. The registration fee is non-refundable.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Should an application not be accepted, the registration fee is still non-refundable.

SECTION 5

Registration for the competition closes on June 12, 2011 (all application must be postmarked on this day or before). Application for, and participation in the competition implies the full knowledge and acceptance of the provisions in this announcement. Failure to observe any of these provisions is sufficient to exclude a participant from the competition.

Accepted applicants will receive their confirmation by June 26, 2011. As well, those who are not accepted will receive notice by the same date.

SECTION 6

All accepted participants are welcome to be present for the drawing that will determine the competition's schedule. This drawing of names and the resulting schedule will govern all rehearsal times as well as competition times for all stages of the event.

This drawing will take place July 11, 2011 at 11:00 AM during the Inaugural Ceremony, which will be held at Palazzo Mazziotti on Via Umberto I in Caiazzo.

All participants will perform according to the schedule set from the drawing. This schedule cannot be altered.

SECTION 7

After the drawing, the organization will make two pianists available to the participants (beginning at 1pm on July 11, 2011) at no cost. Participants are free to make their own arrangements for their own accompanist (at their own expense). If one chooses to do this, it must be indicated on their application.

SECTION 8

The competition will take place in three stages, all which are open to the public.

FIRST STAGE: QUALIFYING

The first stage will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday July 12 and 13, 2011 according to the order established by the drawing. Each participant will first perform a piece of his or her choice and then a second piece, if asked by the jury (both pieces from the list of five submitted arias) accompanied by piano.

At the end of the qualifying stage, participants moving on to the semifinals will be notified. They will be notified at this time as well, of the two songs they will perform during the semi-finals.

SECOND STAGE: SEMIFINALS

The semi-finals will take place on July 14 and 15, 2011. The participants will perform two pieces each, accompanied by piano. At the end of this stage, participants moving on to the finals will be notified.

THIRD ROUND: FINALS

The finals will be held "in concert form" on Saturday July 16, 2011 at 6:00 PM with piano accompaniment. Participants should perform the remaining piece from their list. In addition, participants may need to perform a work (selected by the jury) they have already sung during one of the first two rounds. At the end of the finals the jury will draft a list of prize winners. All decisions will be final.

SECTION 9

Participants should perform their pieces from memory, complete of recitativo and cabaletta. All pieces should be performed in their original keys and sung in their original language.

SECTION 10

The jury for the competition will be composed of the following individuals:

Maestro Fabrizio Maria Carminati, Conductor, President

Maestro Edward Polochick, Conductor

Maestro Simeone Tartaglione, Conductor

Maestro Enrico Stinchelli. Music Critic and Film Director

Maestro Maria Anna Dragoni, Soprano

Maestro Marilena Laurenza, Soprano

Maestro Patrizia Greco, Soprano

Maestro Nazzareno Antinori, Tenor,

Maestro Adriana Accardo, Pianist and Choral Director

SECTION 11

The votes of the jury will be tallied using the following methods:

In the First Round: YES/NO

The semi-finals and finals will be evaluated on a ten point scale.

The jury has the right to interrupt the performance of a piece at any time.

SECTION 12

Any jury member in charge of a student should abstain from voting. In this case, the President of the jury will acknowledge a double vote.

SECTION 13

At the end of the first and second rounds the jury will deliberate and announce these results through a public posting of the names of the participants who will advance to the final round.

The winners will be proclaimed publically.

SECTION 14

The following prizes will be awarded:

FIRST PLACE

Award of 4,000 euros

Certificate of honor

Performance at the gala “Omaggio a Rosa Ponselle edizione 2011” to be held in Caiazzo on July 24, 2011 and in Baltimore at Towson University, November 20, 2011.

SECOND PLACE

Award of 3,000 euros

Certificate of honor

Performance at the gala “Omaggio a Rosa Ponselle edizione 2011” to be held in Caiazzo on July 24, 2011 and in Baltimore at Towson University, November 20, 2011.

SPECIAL CAMPANIA AWARD

(awarded to a singer under 26 years old who, as of June 30, 2011, is from Campania, or of Campanian descent - see section 1, above)

Award of 2,000 euros

Certificate of honor

Performance at the gala “Omaggio a Rosa Ponselle edizione 2011” to be held in Caiazzo on July 24 2011 and in Baltimore at Towson University, November 20, 2011.

SPECIAL YOUTH AWARD

(awarded to a singer under 26 years old who as of June 30, 2011)

Award of 2,000 euros

Certificate of honor

Performance at the gala “Omaggio a Rosa Ponselle edizione 2011” to be held in Caiazzo on July 24, 2011.

One singer will be chosen by the sole discretion of the Artistic Director of the “Recanati Opera Festival” to be given an opportunity to perform in their upcoming season.

The Chesapeake Chamber Opera will award one or more singers (to be selected by the CCO delegate and approved by their General Director) with performance opportunities, dependent upon casting availability in the 2011-2012 and/or upcoming seasons.

SECTION 15

The jury reserves the right to award multiple winners for each place in the competition (in these cases the prize money will be split equally) or to not award the first prize if they find that the quality of artistic talent does not meet their standards.

First and second place winners remain eligible for the special prizes (Special Youth Award and Special Campania Award).

SECTION 16

Participation in final concert is mandatory for all prize recipients and failure to participate would result in loss of their prize. Travel and expenses associated with the concert (in Baltimore) will be covered by the Concert Host Committee in Maryland. Arrangements to be determined by the Italian Consulate.

The jury will choose the piece or pieces that the winners will perform in the final concert.

SECTION 17

Participation in this event, presupposes recognition that the jury’s decisions are indisputable and final.

SECTION 18

In the case that the early stages of competition or associated performances are broadcast on television or radio, recorded (CD, DVD etc.) or photographed, the participants cannot exempt themselves and do not have the right to make claims to any payment by the organization.

SECTION 19

If necessary, the Artistic Director reserves the right to present new rules or modify rules if it is essential to improve the quality and outcome of the contest. Any changes will be communicated before the effected stages take place.

SECTION 20

The cost and fees associated with air fare and stay in Caiazzo (room, board etc.) will be the responsibility of the participant.

SECTION 21

The Artistic Director does not assume responsibility for risks or damages of any nature, which may derive from participating in the competition.

SECTION 22

The personal data the competitor provides will be treated in compliance with the law “n. 196 cod. in materia di protezione dei dati personali” (protects personal data) of June 30th, 2006.