

# International announcement of selection for Opera Singers

Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino - Opera di Firenze announces the opening the enrolment to the selections for admission to the Academy of specialization for opera singers, 2016-2017 season.

## **1. Purpose of the course and profile of the participant**

The objective of the course is to train and form the opera singer. Young singers will be given the opportunity to follow a course of highly qualified specialization, with the purpose of improving their musical, technical, stylistic, interpretive and scenic skills as well as the expansion of cultural knowledge necessary to practice the profession. Regarding artistic activity, the candidate may be expected to participate in productions of Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and/or other partner institutions. Those students accepted to the course will receive a scholarship.

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

## **2. Requirements for admission**

Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- to be of majority age;
- to have completed compulsory schooling;
- as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 must be younger than 35 years of age;
- can provide documentation of musical and vocal training at public or private institutions. In the event that the studies were held with a private teacher, the candidate has to provide a written declaration signed by the teacher regarding his maturity and suitability to attend the course.

Selections are open to both European citizens and citizens from countries outside the European Union.

### **3. Coordination**

The coordination of the Academy is entrusted to Gianni Tangucci, in collaboration with the artistic Direction of Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino - Opera di Firenze.

### **4. Duration of the Course**

The course has a duration of one year. For the academic year 2016-2017 activities will begin in November 2016 and will end in June 2017. For some participants the work experience activities may be extended up to the month of October 2017.

If at the end of the training one of the young artists has not reached a technical maturity and/or interpretative suitability for the profession, the Artistic Direction, in its sole discretion, may allow the repetition of another year.

### **5. Course Structure**

The training program includes individual, group and collective classroom lessons; master classes; stage-musical training workshops and possible internships. The curriculum is divided into the following areas: study of the score; musical, stylistic and interpretative refinement; expression of movement and scenic interpretation; cultural insights of the sector; workshops; work experience. The Management may integrate the curriculum with other subjects deemed necessary for the artistic advancement of the participant.

The faculty will consist of affirmed professionals and famous artists. In addition, participants will be able to join in encounters with renowned conductors, directors and singers, guests of Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, and to assist in all stages of production of the operas and concerts on the playbill.

Regarding the artistic activity, the Theatre may offer participants roles and/or covers in operas, concerts and any other event included in their programming; additional participation in artistic productions may be offered by parter musical institutions, both national and international.

At the end of the first quarter of each academic year a verification will be scheduled; in case of failure, the awarded scholarship may be withdrawn.

Admission to the program is subject to the signing of the rules of procedure.

### **6. Location**

The activities will take place primarily at the Opera di Firenze, Piazzale Vittorio Gui, 1 - 50144 Firenze. Additional locations will be identified during the course of the academic year.

## 7. Application to participate in the selections and application deadlines

The application for admission to the selections must be completed exclusively online using the form published on the web page [www.operadifirenze.it/academy/announcement-singers-2016](http://www.operadifirenze.it/academy/announcement-singers-2016) beginning on May 14, 2016. The application must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- A digital photograph half-body, format .png or .jpg (low definition; max 500 kb)
- A digital photograph full-length, format .png or .jpg (low definition; max 500 kb)
- Copy of a valid identity document (identity card or passport), in one of the following formats: .jpg, .png, .pdf (low definition; max 500 kb)
- A curriculum vitae in one of the following formats: .jpg, .png, .pdf, .doc, .docx, .odt. The curriculum must be dated and signed; moreover, it must compulsorily include the following two statements:
  - *The undersigned (name and surname), aware of the penalties provided for art.76 of DPR 28.12.2000 n.445 in the case of false statements and production or use of false documents, declares, pursuant to art. 46 and 47 of the above mentioned decree, that the contents of this CV are true.*
  - *The undersigned (name and surname) authorizes the processing of their personal data contained in this curriculum, pursuant to Legislative Decree n. 196 of 30 June 2003.*
- Letters of reference from prominent figures in the music world, in one of the following formats: .jpg, .png, .pdf, .doc, .docx, .odt;
- Receipt of payment of the registration fee in .jpg, .png, or .pdf format, if the payment is made by bank transfer (cf. paragraph 9);
- The statements made in the application form and curriculum vitae can be verified by Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino at any time, even after admission to the course. If any falsehoods are found, the candidate will be immediately excluded from the selection or, in the case of admission, from the course.

The applications must be compulsorily submitted in Italian or English language.

Applications for admission must be submitted by 23:59 p.m. of Thursday, June 30, 2016, Italian time.

The deadlines for submitting applications may be modified at the discretion of the Management.

The Management also reserves the right to admit additional participants to the course once started, after verification of the eligibility of the candidates. For instance, that discretion can be applied, without limitation, in the case of exchanges of training and/or productive experiences between academies, both nationally and internationally.

## 8. Selection exams

Admission to the course is subject to the passing of the following three phases of selection: preliminary, semifinal and final.

### *8.1 Preliminary: curriculum assessment and video recordings*

In the preliminary round the selection committee will consider the following documentation provided by the candidate at the time of enrolment in the selection:

- Curriculum vitae;
- Two video recordings of two opera arias, one for each recording. At least one aria must be presented in Italian.

Video recordings must have the following specifications:

- the audio-video quality must be of a high professional standard;
- the two opera arias must necessarily be recorded on separate tracks;
- the maximum duration of the two arias must not exceed a total of 15 minutes;
- singers must be filmed frontally.

The candidate must make the video recordings available online, through any type of internet platform (personal website, social network, etc.). The link to the video must be insert in the space provided in the application form. The online loading of recordings may be posted in “public” or “private” mode; in the latter case, if, for the purpose of file sharing a specific e-mail address of the recipient should be requested, use the following email: [iscrizioni.accademia@maggiofiorentino.com](mailto:iscrizioni.accademia@maggiofiorentino.com)

The title of each file must contain the name and surname of the candidate, followed by the title of the aria (if necessary, use abbreviations).

The outcome of the exams will be communicated to all candidates by **Monday, July 11, 2016**. The communication will be transmitted only by electronic mail to the e-mail address provided by the applicant in his application form. No other notification systems will be considered. The same methods of communication are provided for the convocation of candidates for subsequent selection exams.

### 8.2 Semifinals and final: live auditions

The semifinals and final exams will be held at the Opera di Firenze, Piazzale Vittorio Gui, 1 - Firenze (Italy), on the following dates:

➤ From 24 to 26 July 2016: Semifinals

➤ July 27, 2016: Final

The exact date and time of the individual convocation to the semifinal will be communicated to each candidate at the same time as the outcome of the preliminary round.

The candidates admitted to the live auditions are required to present:

- Five opera arias, including at least three in Italian;
- A musical work taken from the sacred or chamber repertoire.

The works will be performed in the original language and tonality, comprehensive of recitative and cabaletta, where required.

**In the semifinal**, the candidate will perform by heart an aria of their choice; the commission reserves the right to require the execution of additional works of their choice from those presented.

**In the final exam**, the candidate must perform by heart one or more opera arias chosen by the commission from the works presented.

The commission reserves the right to listen to all or part of the works presented.

There will also be an interview to verify the level of musical and cultural knowledge as well as the motivations of the candidate. The final exam may be open to the public.

Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino will provide the candidates with a piano accompanist and the possibility of a rehearsal before the audition. It is not allowed to bring your own accompanist. At the exam the applicant must provide scores of the chosen works. Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, however, reserves the right to request a copy of any work presented, even before the date set for the exams.

**The examining committee will be composed of the Artistic Direction of the Academy and the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.** Judgment will be based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Quality of the voice
- Technical and musical preparation
- Interpretation
- Style
- Stage presence

- Diction

Winners of competitions for opera singers of international prestige, so considered at the discretion of the Academy Direction, may be admitted directly to the semi-final or final exams. Should the international competition be conducted between the due date of submission of the application relating to the selections of this announcement and the live exams of the same, the winners of the competition can be invited by the Artistic Director of the Academy to participate directly in the semifinal or final rounds, even in the absence of regular enrolment in the selections by the deadline; however, the candidate is obligated to complete the application form by the date fixed for the live exams in the manner established in art. 7.

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

### **9. Fees for participation in the selections**

The enrolment for the selections is subject to payment of a fee equal to € 80.00 (Eighty/00), including vat, to be paid by:

- Online payment by credit card
- Bank transfer to the following coordinates:

**Beneficiary:** Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Piazzale Vittorio Gui 1 - 50144 Firenze (FI) - Italy

**Bank:** Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, Ag. N. 6

**Iban:** IT10I0616002806000026400C00

**Bic Code/Swift** (for payments from countries other than Italy): CRFIIT3F

**Reason for payment:** Selection opera singers - 2016-17. Candidate: (*name and surname*)

If paying by bank transfer, copy of the payment receipt must be enclosed with the application form (see art. 7 of present announcement).

In the absence of payment, the application will be considered invalid. Therefore, the application form, accompanied by curriculum vitae and video recordings, will not be evaluated by the selection committee, nor will it be possible to participate in the live auditions in the subsequent exams.

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

## **10. Candidates admitted to the course**

At the end of the selection, the assessment commission will prepare the list of eligible candidates to be admitted to the course.

The candidates considered eligible but not admitted due to lack of available positions can be invited to attend the activities of the training course as auditors with the possibility to take the place of an active participant in the event of a waiver or exclusion of the latter.

## **11. Registration fee and attendance of the course**

Enrolment and attendance of the course are free.

## **12. Attendance and artistic leaves**

Attendance is full-time and compulsory; therefore, the enrolment is incompatible with other commitments of study, professional and/or artistic. If absences exceed 30% of the total number of hours of training provided, the participant loses the right to attend. 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 after 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 artistic Direction.

## **13. Scholarships**

All candidates admitted in the selection are assigned a scholarship of € 1,200 (one thousand two hundred/00) gross per month, with effect from November 2016 to June 2017 month included.

The above scholarship, assigned by merit, is personal and not transferable to another person. In the event of the failed to registration of an admitted candidate, or the withdrawal of the beneficiary participant of the economic allowance, the eligible candidate called to take the vacant position will not 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 course. In the case that absences exceed 25% of the total number of hours of training provided (excluding internship), 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.

#### **14. Artistic Activity**

Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and the partner musical institutions reserve the right to offer participants title or cover roles in operas and/or concerts within the playbill of their musical seasons. The assignment of roles will be subject in any case to the judgment of the 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.

Moreover, at the end of the course Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Foundation may offer graduates more artistic engagements for participation in productions scheduled in subsequent operatic-symphonic seasons.

#### **15. Admission to the course of non-EU citizens**

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

#### **16. Diplomas and certifications**

Participants who successfully complete the entire training course will receive the Diploma of Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

#### **17. Exclusive validity of the announcement for selections in Italian language**

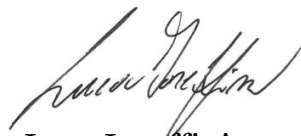
This announcement for selections is published in Italian and English language. In case of dispute only the Italian version will be considered.



## 18. Privacy

Pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 196/2003, the applicants' 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, May 5, 2016



Luca Ioseffini  
(General Director)

*For more information*

Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

Opera di Firenze, Piazzale Vittorio Gui, 1 - 50144 Firenze (FI) - Italy

Tel +39 055 2779335

[iscrizioni.accademia@maggiofiorentino.com](mailto:iscrizioni.accademia@maggiofiorentino.com)

[www.operadifirenze.it/academy/announcement-singers-2016](http://www.operadifirenze.it/academy/announcement-singers-2016)