TEATRO LIRICO SPERIMENTALE

INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION 81st EDITION

16 – 20 February 2027

President of the Jury
Gianni Tangucci

Board of examiners
Luciana Serra
Giancarlo Landini
Andrea De Amici
Enrico Girardi

SPECIAL PRIZE OF € 10.000

TEATRO LIRICO SPERIMENTALE
DI SPOLETO "A. BELLI"

with the support of

MINISTERO DELLA CULTURA

REGIONE UMBRIA

COMUNE DI SPOLETO

FONDAZIONE CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI SPOLETO

ANNOUNCE THE
INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION
81st EDITION

The Teatro Lirico Sperimentale has pursued what would become the founding ideals of the European Union since 1947, promoting a program of cultural training for young opera singers inspired by the Union's fundamental values: equality, solidarity, non-discrimination, and inclusion. Promoting cultural pluralism and international cooperation has become its institutional mission, aimed at nurturing the talents of the competition's winners, guiding them toward their professional futures as mentors rooted in a solid past and participants in a present focused on innovation.

HOW TO APPLY
ART. 1

a) The Competition is open to **a maximum of 100 valid entries** from young people who, on February 1st, 2027, have reached the age of 18 years but are under 32 years and, where necessary, hold a residence permit allowing them to take up employment or self-employment in Italy.

b) On February 1st, 2027, are scheduled Free Auditions with no age restrictions, except to the requirement to hold a residence permit as described in point *a)* of this article. Any further audition sessions will be decided upon during 2027 by the Artistic Direction of the Teatro lirico sperimentale. For full details and information on how to take part in the auditions outside the competition, please visit www.tls-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 2027 and 2028. The decisions of the Artistic Direction are irrevocable.

ART. 2

Application for the competition can be submitted online at https://tls-belli.it/concorso-di-canto/.
In the online form, the applicant must specify his/her full name, residential 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 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 Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto "A. Belli");

f) Receipt of a Eur 100,00 bank transfer sent to: Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto "A. Belli" BCC at Spello e del Velino – Filiale di Spoleto (PG) – Viale Trento e Trieste. IBAN: IT97F0887121800015000124306; BIC: CCRTIT2TSBE, reason for payment "Singing Competition admission fee"; **the Competition admission fee is not refundable under any circumstances;**

g) 1 half-length photograph; 1 full length photograph;

h) a list of the excerpts to be performed, using the template available for download during the registration process;

i) Where necessary, copy of a residence permit allowing them to take up employment or self-employment in Italy.

Applications may also be submitted:

a. by registered post with acknowledgement of receipt to the following address: **Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto "A. Belli" – Piazza G. Garibaldi, Ex Caserma Minervio, snc – 06049 Spoleto (PG)**;

b. by certified email (PEC) to sperimentalespoleto@pec.it.

THE DEADLINE for submitting applications is Monday February 1st, 2027, at 23:59 and cannot be extended.

Candidates must attend the selection with a valid identity document proving their citizenship, as set out in 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 1st, 2027). **Will be proof of the sending: the dispatch receipt for the registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, the delivery confirmation email for the certified email (PEC), and the date on which the online registration form completed;**

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 16th to 20th February 2027**. 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 2027 and 2028 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 2027 Preparatory Course. **Winners must attend the preparatory courses as by art. 10.**

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. In 2027 and in 2028 the winners of the Competition will be also awarded the annual total amount of Euros **5.650,00** gross. This annual sum will be divided into three Euros **750,00** gross 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 f 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 2027 and 2028 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 2027 and 2028 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 200,00 gross each one), to be paid during the 2027 and 2028 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. The Institution might allow brief permits for serious reasons or for documented necessity, after having consulted the Artistic-Didactic Direction.

Students may not, under any circumstances, be absent during the rehearsal period for the staging of productions and performances.

ART. 12

The Competition winners who have attended the Course will debut in the 81st Opera Season that will take place in Spoleto, in other cities of Umbria or elsewhere and the Institution will stage it within 2027. 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, provided they hold a residence permit that allows them to take up employment or self-employment in Italy, 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 Artistic Direction 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 that case, participants will be awarded a supplementary scholarship, the amount of which will be announced later.

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, according to the Artistic Direction's final decision, will be asked to leave the course, with consequent loss of any right or benefit, due to non-compliance of articles 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.
In that case, the student will not only be liable for damages but will also be required to repay the amount already received in the form of scholarships, as well as any remuneration and awards that may have been received.

ART. 17

Any measures taken by the Artistic Direction, 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 - segreteria.artistica@tls-belli.it