



THE TEATRO ALLA SCALA ACADEMY OF LYRIC OPERA

Invitation for Applications

PRINCIPLE TEACHERS: MIRELLA FRENI, RENATO BRUSON, LUCIANA SERRA,
MARCO GANDINI, VINCENT SCALERA, JAMES VAUGHAN

1. Registration

Registration is now open for the entrance exam to the *Teatro alla Scala Academy of Lyric Opera in Milan*.

Applications are welcome from young singers whose artistic and vocal talents are worthy of specialist training for a professional opera career comprising a solid vocal, musical, theatrical and cultural education at the highest level.

2. Prerequisites

Candidates for admission must:

- a) be born on or after **1 September 1979**;
- b) hold a singing degree from a State Conservatoire or equivalent Academy of Music. Where candidates have studied at a private music school or under a private teacher, the school director or teacher must provide a statement declaring that the pupil is fit and ready to complete the course;
- c) have documented experience of performance in operatic productions / concerts / recitals of significant artistic importance, deemed to be so by the appointed Examining Committee.

Preference will be given to candidates who have ranked among the top three places in major national or international singing competitions.

3. Application and deadlines

Applications for admission, including certificates and documentation, should be sent to the Segreteria Didattica dell'Accademia Accademia d'arti e mestieri dello spettacolo Teatro alla Scala, via S. Marta, 18 - 20123 Milan, to **arrive** no later than **MONDAY 1 JUNE 2009 (postage date is NOT valid)**.

Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

- application form completed in full;
- a copy of a document of personal ID (ID card or passport);
- a signed, detailed CV, complete with the following declarations (to be added at the end):
 1. I am aware of the criminal sanctions laid down by Article 76 D.P.R. 28/12/2000 n. 445 for making false or untruthful statements in official documents, and I hereby declare under the terms of Article 46 and 47 D.P.R. 445/2000 that the information contained in this CV corresponds precisely to the truth;
 2. I hereby authorise the processing of my personal details for the purposes of this application, under the terms of DL 30/06/2003 n.196.
- copies of all music and singing diplomas, as indicated at point 2 above;
- a copy of any certificate attesting placement among the first three places in major national or international solo voice competitions;
- two recent photographs: one half bust and one full length;
- proof of payment of the registration fee of €120.00 (one hundred and twenty euro) by bank transfer to IBAN IT69 P030 6909 4000 0005 0771 166, BANCA INTESA SANPAOLO via Verdi, 8 – Milan, made out to **Fondazione Accademia d'arti e mestieri dello spettacolo Teatro alla Scala** and stating motive of payment: **Concorso Accademia di Canto 2009**;
- letters of reference from any prominent figures in the world of music.

Self-certification statements may be sent in place of original diplomas/certificates. In these cases, should any of the information provided prove to be incorrect, the candidate will be automatically excluded from selection or further assessment as provided by law, even after being admitted to the Academy.

4. Admission of non-EU candidates

If selected, candidates from countries outside the EU must provide any documents required of non-EU residents by Italian law or the Police Authorities (application for a student stay permit) prior to the course start date.

5. Entrance exam

The entrance exam consists of three rounds of auditions:

- **elimination, semi-final and final.**

The candidate must perform **6 opera arias**, of which 4 in Italian and 2 in another language, **2 arias from the chamber repertoire and/or from the sacred music repertoire.**

All the excerpts must be sung in the original language.

- For the **first audition** the candidate must perform from memory two pieces of opera, one of which of the candidate's own choosing and one set by the Examining Committee depending on the programme. The Examining Committee may choose to terminate the audition after a single piece.
- For the **semi-final** the candidate must perform from memory one piece of chamber music or sacred music and one piece of opera both set by the Examining Committee. The examination will also include a sight reading test of average difficulty and an interview.
- For the **final exam**, the candidate must perform two pieces of opera set by the Examining Committee.

The Examining Committee may choose to hear each piece in whole or in part and may also cut short the audition after only one part of the programme.

The candidate should bring to the audition copies of the sheet music for the pieces to be performed on the piano by a member of the Academy teaching staff.

It is expressly **forbidden** for candidates to be accompanied on the piano by their own teacher/accompanist.

The exams will be held in July 2009, commencing around Monday the 6th; candidates will be informed of the exact dates via the official invitation from the Academy.

6. Course places

The final pass-list is decided by the adjudicating Committee and is irrefutable. There is only one pass-list. Course places are available for between ten and fifteen pupils. The exact number of candidates admitted will be determined on the basis of the Examining Committee's recommendations, depending on the quality of the entrants.

7. Scholarships for successful candidates

Each successful candidate admitted to the Academy will receive a monthly grant of €700.00 (seven hundred euro) for each month of effective attendance over the duration of the course. These grants are made possible by funding from the **Fondazione Milano per la Scala** and the **Ministry for Foreign Affairs**. Two scholarships are also available specifically for one bass (or baritone) and one tenor respectively thanks to the generosity of the estates of **Paolo Montarsolo** and **Cesare Valletti**.

Students also have privileged use of the school refectory (at subsidised prices) and the Theatre's healthcare services.

The Artistic Director of Teatro alla Scala may also decide, depending on the programme for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 seasons, to assign artistic contracts for performing or role-covering at the Teatro alla Scala.

Throughout the course students may be required to perform in concerts, recitals, chamber music concert series at the Ridotto dei Palchi and in other events as well as the main operatic productions of the Teatro alla Scala season (Progetto Accademia).

Course attendance is full-time and obligatory. It is therefore impossible for a student to do other courses or part-time jobs during a term. If a student accumulates absences amounting to 25% of the total hours of class time for any one year they will not be allowed to continue the course.

8. Course duration and content

The course lasts two years, roughly from 12 October 2009 to 30 June 2011, with a summer vacation in 2010. Successful candidates are required to sign the Academy Regulations prior to commencing the course.

They will then undergo a trial period lasting until 29 January 2010. At the end of the trial the Academy will decide which candidates are effectively admitted to the school.

Students are assessed on their ability/progress at the end of the first year and some may be prevented from continuing the course.

At the end of the two years the Academy may recommend that selected students complete an optional third year of specialization, to include performances in the Theatre's productions.

The school also arranges exchanges with other European opera houses for study, artistic or professional purposes.

The subjects covered by the course are: performance of the operatic and chamber repertoire, coaching by teaching staff, vocal technique, musical dramaturgy, stagecraft, poetry and dramatic literature, foreign language diction, Italian for foreigners.

Where authorised by the Artistic Director, students may attend rehearsals and dress rehearsals for official Teatro alla Scala productions and meet the conductors, directors, singers guested by the Theatre.

Besides the expert teachers, artists and professionals for each subject, the course also includes seminars and masterclasses by top level singers and directors of world renown.

9. Artistic leave

In certain circumstances the Academy may decide to grant specific leave to perform outside the Theatre during the school year, depending on the abilities of the student and the demands of the teaching schedule. Artistic leave may not exceed 30 days and may not involve more than 3 periods of absence. It must be stressed that students do not have the right to leave, but that is granted entirely at the discretion of the school and only in exceptional cases.

10. Pre-emptive right of Teatro alla Scala

At the end of the second year (or third year for those admitted to an extra year of specialisation) Teatro alla Scala shall have the pre-emptive right to contract the services of the pupil for scheduled La Scala productions for a period of three years.

11. Course diploma

On completing the entire course each student will be assessed on their overall level of attainment and their achievement of personal targets and will be issued with a diploma from the *Accademia d'arti e mestieri dello spettacolo Teatro alla Scala*.

12. Equal opportunities

Entrance is open equally to members of both sexes

13. Exclusive validity of Italian text

Any doubts or uncertainties regarding the interpretation of the application procedures will be resolved with reference exclusively to the Italian version of the text.

14. Further information

Inquiries or requests for further information may be addressed to the **Segreteria dell'Accademia d'arti e mestieri dello spettacolo Teatro alla Scala, via Santa Marta, 18 - 20123 Milano - tel. 02/854511.1 - fax 02/86460020.**

e-mail: musica@accademiascala.it

website: www.accademiascala.org

Milan, January 2009

*The General Manager
Luisa Vinci*