

THE TEATRO ALLA SCALA ACADEMY OF LYRIC OPERA ***2014/2016***

Invitation for Applications

SPECIAL SESSION OPEN TO MEZZO-SOPRANOS, TENORS, BARITONES, BASSES

The Fondazione Accademia d'Arti e Mestieri dello Spettacolo Teatro alla Scala hereby announces that registration is now open for auditions to enter the 2014/2016 programme at the *Teatro Alla Scala Academy Of Lyric Opera*. The Examining Committee will have final say on the final ranking. There will be only one ranking. The total number of candidates to be admitted is expected not to exceed 6.

1. Professional Role and purposes of the Programme

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

2. Structure of the Programme

The Programme lasts two years, approximately from the 29th of September 2014 to the 31st of July 2016. Candidates whose applications are successful are required to give signed approval of the Academy Regulations at the beginning of the Programme.

The candidates will then undergo a trial period lasting until the 31st of January 2015. At the end of the trial period the Academy will decide which candidates are effectively admitted to the school.

Students are also assessed on their academic progress and professional ability at the end of the first year and, depending on the results, some may not be considered suitable to continue the Programme.

At the end of the two years, the Accademia may recommend that selected students complete an optional third year of specialisation, to be completed with performances both in the Theatre's and in the Academy's productions.

Classes will include, on a yearly basis:

Interpretation and performance of the operatic and chamber repertoire

Vocal Score Coaching

Vocal and interpretative technique,

Stage Presence and Body Language Techniques for the Stage

Stage Movement

Foreign language Diction

Italian for foreigners

With the authorisation of the Artistic Director, students may attend rehearsals and dress rehearsals of Teatro alla Scala productions and meet the conductors, directors and singers hosted by the Theatre.

Further, the Artistic Director of the Teatro alla Scala will decide whether to assign contracts as a performer or understudy for roles in the La Scala programme for the seasons of 2013/2014, 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

During the course, there will also be a series of concerts with orchestra or piano accompaniment, chamber music concert festivals at the Ridotto dei Palchi del Teatro alla Scala, national and international tours, as well as the staging of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* in the Teatro alla Scala during the 2014/2015 season, Verdi's *Falstaff* at the Royal Opera House of Muscat during the winter season of 2014/2015 and Rossini's *Barber of Seville* at the Teatro alla Scala during the 2015 summer season.

The principal teachers are: Renato Bruson, Luciana D'Intino, Juan Diego Florez (a masterclass), Luciana Serra, Umberto Finazzi, Marco Gandini and Vincenzo Scalerà.

3. Course Locations

The course will for the most part be held at the following locations

- Fondazione Accademia d'Arti e Mestieri dello Spettacolo Teatro alla Scala, Via S. Marta 18 - 20123 Milano
- Fondazione Teatro alla Scala, via Filodrammatici 2 - 20121 Milan
- Laboratori Ansaldo, Via Bergognone 34 - 20144 Milan
- Sala Prove Abanella, via Bottelli 11 - 20125 Milan

4. Prerequisites

Candidates for admission must:

- a) be born on or after **1 January 1984**
- 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 enter the Programme;

- c) have documented experience of performance in operatic productions/concerts /competitions of significant artistic importance, deemed to be so by the appointed Examining Committee.

The course is not open to underage minors.

5. Application Procedure and Deadlines

The on line application form (<https://www.yaptracker.com/applications/teatro-alla-scala-academy-2014>) must be sent along with any supporting certificates and documentation by 11.59 PM on TUESDAY *the 10th of June 2014*. You do not need to be a paying subscriber to YAP tracker to use the application form, although you will need an account.

Applications must include the following documentation:

- Fully completed application form;
- a scanned copy of a personal identity document (national ID card or passport);
- scanned copies of all music and singing diplomas, as indicated in point 4 above;
- Two video recordings of the candidate performing arias by two different composers, at least one of which must be in Italian. These arias should not be professionally recorded, rather, they are to be amateur recordings without any re-editing. All that is required is a clean sound quality and the candidate to be within clear view. **The examining committee will then examine the materials it receives and in good time formally invite selected candidates to the audition days in Milan.**
- 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.
- two recent digital photographs: one half bust and one full length;
- a scanned copy of any certificate attesting placement among the first three places in major national or international solo voice competition(optional);
- letters of reference from any prominent figures in the world of music (optional).
- the payment of 80.00 Euros (eighty/00) inclusive of VAT.

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. Candidates resident abroad must provide translations in Italian or English of all the requested documentation. The registration fee will not under any circumstances be refunded.

6. Selection Process

Candidates will be admitted onto the course who pass a selection process consisting of the following two stages:

- **An Elimination Round**
- **A Final Round.**

The candidate must perform **4 opera arias**, of which 3 in Italian and 1 in another language. **The candidate must include among this list the two arias previously chosen for the video recording.**

- For the **Elimination Round** the candidate must perform by heart two opera arias, one of which of the candidate's own choice and one chosen by the Examining Committee. The Examining Committee may choose to terminate the audition after a single performance.
- For the **Final Round**, the candidate must perform two opera pieces chosen by the Examining Committee. All opera pieces are to be sung exclusively in their original language.

There will also be a sight reading of average difficulty, a test of stage technique and a motivational interview.

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

The candidate must bring to the audition each and every music sheet 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 are expected to be held in July 2014; the exact dates will be announced with plenty of notice by means of an official Accademia meeting.

Admission to the auditions is subject to accepting all the provisions contained in this Invitation.

7. Course Diploma

On completing the entire Programme 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*.

8. Fees and Scholarships

The attendance fee for each year of the Programme is **8,000.00** (*eight thousand/00*) **Euros** inclusive of VAT. The fee for the first year must be paid in the following manner:

THREE BANK TRANSFERS as detailed below:

- **A first bank transfer of 2,000.00** (two thousand/00) Euros, **to be made by the third day preceding the beginning of the Programme**. A copy of the bank transfer must be provided along with the documentation before the beginning of the course.
- **A second transfer of 2,000.00** (*two thousand/00*) Euros, **by the 15th of January 2015**.
- **A third transfer of 4,000.00** (*four thousand/00*) Euros, **by the 31st of May 2015**.

Students may choose to make the third payment by applying a 70% DEDUCTION ON THE NET VALUE OF ANY REMUNERATION ARISING FROM ARTISTIC WORK organised internally or externally by the Accademia and/or by the Teatro alla Scala (SEE POINT 2 ABOVE), until settlement has been made of the total amount due at the end of the two year Programme.

The Accademia Teatro alla Scala also provides access to subsidised loans – called ‘prestiti d’onore’ – which have been set up to help finance tuition fees (see attached documentation).

The attendance fee remains payable in full if the participant voluntarily ceases to attend the Programme.

Each successful candidate admitted to the Academy will receive a MONTHLY GRANT OF € 860.00 (eight hundred and sixty Euros) gross, subject to effective attendance and restricted to the actual months of the course.

Course attendance is full time and compulsory; it is therefore incompatible with other work or study commitments. In the event a participant's absences exceed 25% of the total number of hours of the course in each year, the participant shall no longer be able to continue with the course.

9. 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 the Permit of Stay for students) prior to the Programme start date.

10. 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 quality of the performance given 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 leave is granted entirely at the discretion of the school and only in exceptional cases.

11. Pre-emptive right of Teatro alla Scala and of the Accademia

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

12. 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.

13. Open day

The Academy opens its doors on the 16th of May 2014.

14. Meet the Staff coordinating the Programme

You can request an appointment with the staff coordinating the Programme by writing to:

Paola Cavani, *Programme Coordinator*, musica@accademiascala.it

Ilaria Pachera, *Programme Tutor*, musica@accademiascala.it

For further information please contact

Tel. +39 02 8545111 (option 2) – Fax +39 02 86460020

Via Santa Marta 18 - Milano:

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday – 10.00 till 13.00 and 14.30 till 17.00

e-mail: segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it

musica@accademiascala.it

web site: www.accademiascala.it

Milan, the 31st of March 2014

*The Managing Director
Luisa Vinci*