



Institution for the Protection of Italian Lyrical Heritage

# 1st Edition “Premio E.L.I.” 2026

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR OPERA SINGERS

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**Municipal Theatre of Casale Monferrato (AL) – From October 21 to 24, 2026**

**Prize pool 40.000€ - Jury President: Mario Daccò**



## PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

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The "Premio E.L.I." established by Ente Lirico Italiano aims to support, enhance, and promote vocal talent at all stages of the artistic career.

Particular attention is given to young singers, who are offered concrete growth opportunities through scholarships, training programs, and debut opportunities in theaters.

At the same time, the competition stands out for its inclusive and realistic approach to the world of opera, extending its support even to older singers.

Aware of the difficulties that adult artists often encounter in accessing new professional opportunities, the Competition is committed to providing them with visibility and integration into the theatrical circuit.

Through auditions, cash prizes, scholarships, and artistic contracts, the competition thus aims to serve as a concrete bridge between study and profession, contributing to the discovery of new talents and the revival of already established artistic careers, in the spirit of enhancing the Italian Lyrical Heritage.

In addition to its own theatrical circuit, the Organization has a dense network of collaborations with Foundations and other musical institutions to further facilitate the artistic careers of the participants.

### ARTICLE 1 - PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

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Sopranos, Mezzo-sopranos, Contraltos, Tenors, Baritones, and Basses of any nationality who are at least 18 years old by August 31, 2026, may participate in the Competition.

Singers who have signed representation contracts with artistic agencies cannot participate, except for those who have been winners (1st/2nd/3rd place and special prizes) in one of the competitions mentioned in Article 7 in the last 3 years (*this rule is introduced to facilitate the access of emerging talents, who are not yet on a professional career path, to the competition*).

All singers who were finalists in any of the competitions mentioned in Article 7 in the years 2025 and 2026 are directly admitted to the semifinal stage.

The arias to be included in the registration form are six and must be performed in the original key and language (*except for: Don Carlos, and Les Vêpres Siciliennes which can be performed in Italian*).

Where provided, the arias must include recitative and cabaletta.

At least four arias must be taken from the Italian operatic repertoire and must be performed exclusively in the Italian language.

Chamber music, sacred, symphonic pieces, or excerpts from oratorios, operettas, or any other repertoire different from the operatic one are not allowed.

## ARTICLE 2 - REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

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The enrollment application must be filled out and submitted online at the following address: <https://www.enteliricoitaliano.it/premioeli> by August 31, 2026 (The registration deadline will be automatically brought forward if the maximum quota of 130 participants is reached before that date).

The competitors, after filling out the online registration form and making the payment, must send an email to: [premioeli2026@gmail.com](mailto:premioeli2026@gmail.com) with the following documentation:

- Photo of a valid identification document
- Artistic resume, specifying the educational background and any debuts.  
The curriculum must be in doc or PDF format with an attached photo;
- A high-quality close-up photograph (in addition to the one in the resume)
- Receipt of the registration fee, which for the year 2026 is €190 (€200 via PayPal)

Below are the payment methods for the registration fee and the corresponding amounts:

### **Payment via Bank Transfer (recommended method):**

Addressed to:

**E.L.I. - Ente Lirico Italiano**

IBAN: IT96A0623022601000047024918

Bic/Swift CRPPIT2P353

**Amount: 190€**

**The reason for payment must include the candidate's first and last name.**

### **Payment via PayPal:**

**Amount: 200€**

You can pay via PayPal directly at this link:

<https://www.enteliricoitaliano.it/premioeli/pagamento-paypal>

## **YOU CAN FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM ONLINE AT THIS LINK**

<https://www.enteliricoitaliano.it/premioeli/modulo-di-iscrizione-2026/>

The application will NOT be considered if the competitor has not submitted the registration form online or has not paid the registration fee.

By the registration deadline, the candidate can no longer modify the indicated arias.

The candidate who needs to obtain a visa for their stay in Italy can contact the Competition Office via email at: [info@enteliricoitaliano.it](mailto:info@enteliricoitaliano.it) to request an invitation letter.

No expense reimbursement of any kind is provided to the participants.

In the event of non-participation in the Competition, the Organization is NOT obliged, in any case, to refund the registration fee, except in the case of cancelation of the Competition due to the Organization's responsibility.

## ARTICLE 3 – CONDUCT OF THE COMPETITION

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The Competition is divided into four phases: PRE-SELECTION, ELIMINATION, SEMIFINAL, and FINAL.

The pre-selection, elimination, and semi-final phases are called in alphabetical order.

All competitors must present themselves according to the schedule prepared for the auditions and for the rehearsals with the pianists (for those called in the morning of the 21st, the rehearsals will take place on the 20th).

The competitors who are absent from one or more phases are excluded from the Competition.

### PRE-SELECTION

The competitors can choose to participate in the preselection through:

- **VIDEO RECORDING**

Applicants must submit **an UNEDITED version of a digital video recording.**

The recording for the pre-selection must be recent and must contain two opera arias of the candidate's choice (from the six indicated in the registration form), one of which must be in Italian.

Please, remember that the arias chosen for the preliminary selection can also be used for the competition program.

Format: the digital recording must be sent by uploading the video on YouTube (in the settings, you can select "unlisted" to allow viewing only to those who have the internet address of the video). In the Title of the video(s), you must indicate "Pre-selection E.L.I. Award 2026"

In the description of the YouTube video, information regarding the candidate, the recording date, and the program must be included.

Please, remember that it is necessary to indicate the Internet address where the video is available in the appropriate box on the registration form.

It is recommended, in the interest of the candidates, to make a recording of excellent quality, both audio and video.

- **IN-PERSON AUDITION (closed-door)**

September 5 and/or 6, 2026, Casale Monferrato (AL), Italy

The competitors present two arias of their choice (from the six indicated in the registration form), one of which must be in Italian.

The Chairman of the jury reserves the right, at any time, to interrupt the contestant or decide to listen to only one aria among those presented.

The competitors must bring an identification document and a copy of the sheet music of the arias to be performed (for the pianists of the Competition). For the pre-selection phase, the accompanying pianist is Maestro Sergio Castoreale.

The candidates admitted to the ELIMINATION phase will be announced by September 15, 2026.

For a proper listening experience of the competitors by the jury, not influenced by inadequate environments and spaces, the ELIMINATION, SEMIFINAL, and FINAL stages will take place

at the Municipal Theatre of Casale Monferrato.

*“Opera singers must perform in the theatre, therefore they must be listened to and evaluated in the theatre”.*

#### **ELIMINATION (closed-door)**

- **October 21 and 22, 2026, Municipal Theatre of Casale Monferrato (AL) – ITALY**

The competitors admitted to the ELIMINATION phase will present two additional arias of their choice from those indicated in the registration form (at least one of which must be in Italian) and NOT performed in the PRE-SELECTION for a total duration between 6 and 13 minutes. The pieces must be communicated via email to the address: [premioeli2026@gmail.com](mailto:premioeli2026@gmail.com) by September 30, 2026.

The Chairman of the jury reserves the right, at any time, to interrupt the contestant or decide to listen to only one aria among those presented. For the ELIMINATION phase, the collaborating pianists are Maestro Margherita Colombo and Maestro Sergio Castoreale.

#### **SEMIFINAL (closed-door)**

- **October 23, 2026, Municipal Theatre of Casale Monferrato (AL) – ITALY**

The competitors admitted to the Semifinal must perform one or two arias that will be chosen by the Chairman of the jury from those indicated on the registration form. The arias performed in the ELIMINATION phase will not be required. The President of the jury reserves the right, at any time, to interrupt the competitor or decide to listen to only one aria.

For the SEMIFINAL phase, the collaborating pianists are Maestro Margherita Colombo and Maestro Sergio Castoreale.

#### **FINAL – Grand Gala open to the public**

**October 24, 2026, Municipal Theatre of Casale Monferrato (AL) – ITALY**

The final is open to the public and performed in the form of a Gala Concert in the presence of important authorities and entertainment figures.

The finalists perform one or two arias chosen by the Commission from those indicated on the registration form. The singers are accompanied on the piano by Maestro Margherita Colombo. The direction is handled by Aurora Catalfamo.

For all phases of the Competition, competitors must be equipped with an identification document and a copy of the sheet music of the arias to be performed.

## ARTICLE 4 - PRIZES

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The prize pool for the 2026 edition of the "E.L.I. Award" is **€40,000**.

To promote technical refinement and debut on the various stages of the Italian Opera Circuit, it has been divided as follows:

### CATEGORY UNDER 33

- 1° PRIZE worth 10.000€\* and a plaque of "PREMIO E.L.I."
- 2° PRIZE worth 5.000€\* and a plaque of "PREMIO E.L.I."
- 3° PRIZE worth 2.500€\* and a plaque of "PREMIO E.L.I."

### CATEGORY OVER 33

- 1° PRIZE worth 10.000€\* and a plaque of "PREMIO E.L.I."
- 2° PRIZE worth 5.000€\* and a plaque of "PREMIO E.L.I."
- 3° PRIZE worth 2.500€\* and a plaque of "PREMIO E.L.I."

### OTHER OUT-OF-CATEGORY PRIZES:

- Prize "*PromOpera - Young Female Talent*" under 27 worth 1.000€\*\*  
in addition to the artistic representation contract signed with PromOpera Artists Management
- Prize "*PromOpera - Young Male Talent*" under 27 worth 1.000€\*\*  
in addition to the artistic representation contract signed with PromOpera Artists Management
- Prize "*Giacomo Puccini*" to the best Puccini interpreter worth 500€\*\*\*
- Prize "*Giuseppe Verdi*" to the best Verie interpreter worth 500€\*\*\*
- Prize "*Arrigo Pola*" to the best Italian tenor worth 500€\*\*\*
- Prize "*Francesco Buccino*" worth 500€\*\*\*\*

Even the winners of the out-of-category prizes will receive the "Premio E.L.I." plaque.

In case of a tie in the score, the prizes will be equally divided, or if deemed appropriate, the Jury President may exercise the right to a double vote to award the prize to a single competitor or in any other case where deemed appropriate. The committee reserves the right not to award one or more prizes if it deems the candidates unsuitable.

All FINALISTS are issued a "DIPLOMA," while other participants are issued a Certificate of Participation upon request.

\*50% will be paid in cash, the remaining 50% will be divided as follows: 30% in the form of artistic engagements for the debut in one or more theaters in the circuit during the 2027 and/or

2028 seasons (at the discretion of the institution). The remaining 20% in the form of a scholarship (educational credit issued by Ente Lirico Italiano).

\*\*200€ will be paid in cash and 600€ in the form of artistic writings for the debut in one or more theaters in the circuit during the 2027 and/or 2028 seasons (at the discretion of the institution). 200€ in the form of a scholarship (educational credit issued by the Ente Lirico Italiano) The prize is offered by PromOpera Artists Management.

\*\*\*100€ will be paid in cash and 400€ in the form of artistic writings for the debut in one or more theaters in the circuit during the 2027 and/or 2028 seasons (at the discretion of the institution).

\*\*\*\*The amount of €500 will be awarded in the form of a scholarship. The prize is offered by Paola Giordano and will be awarded by her, in memory of her husband, Francesco Buccino, to the singer she deems most deserving.

Any taxes required by the Italian State will be the responsibility of the competitor.

## ARTICLE 5 - JURY COMPOSITION

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The Artistic Commission of the Preselections is composed of the board of Ente Lirico Italiano, presided by tenor Mario Daccò.

From the Elimination phase, the jury will be composed as follows:

**Chairman: Mario Daccò**, *Tenor, President of E.L.I. - Ente Lirico Italiano and CEO of PromOpera Artists Management*

**Ilaria Galgani**: *Internationally renowned Soprano*

**Mauro Trombetta**: *Conductor, former Artistic Director of the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma and the Arena di Verona*

**Carmelo Corrado Caruso**: *Internationally renowned Baritone*

**Roberto Pani**: *Member of the board of directors of the Teatro Regio di Torino*

The judgment of the Commission is final. At the conclusion of the competition, upon the request of the competitor, the Competition Management may indicate the reason for any negative judgment.

## ARTICLE 6 – ACCOMPANYING PIANISTS

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The competitors can take advantage of the collaboration of the accompanying pianists provided by the Artistic Management of the Competition AT NO ADDITIONAL COST, who for the 2026 edition are Maestro Margherita Colombo and Maestro Sergio Castoreale. It is at the discretion of the competitors to present themselves with their own accompanying pianist at their own expense, in all phases of the competition, except for the final.

## ARTICLE 7 – COMPETITIONS

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The finalists of the last 2 editions of one or more competitions listed below are entitled to directly access the ELIMINATION phase:

- Competition “AsLiCo”
- Competition “CLIP Portofino”
- Competition “Magda Olivero”
- Competition “Salvatore Licitra”
- Competition “Ottavio Ziino”
- Competition “Iris Adami Corradetti”
- Competition “Riccardo Zandonai”
- Competition “Toti Dal Monte”
- Competition “Giovan Battista Viotti”
- Competition “Tullio Serafin”
- Competition “Spoleto”
- Competition “Città di Busseto”
- Competition “Pavia Lirica”
- All other singing competitions not mentioned but adhering to the World Federation of International Music Competitions (WFIMC)

## ARTICLE 8 - RELEASE

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Ente Lirico Italiano reserves the right to film and record with videotape, tape, CD-DVD, film, internet, social media, radio and TV, streaming, and any other means of communication including print media all phases of the competition without owing anything to the competitors in any capacity. Ente Lirico Italiano has unlimited rights for transmission through all the mentioned channels. Participation in this competition entails a release for the exploitation of both image and vocal performance for any potential radio, television, and internet broadcasts of the performances carried out during the entire event, the writings and concerts that are the subject of the prize, and all other related activities that take place even outside the event, such as video shoots or promotional videos, photo shoots before, during, and after the event, and other events connected to it that are part of the prize pool (artistic writings, etc.). For everything indicated in this article,

no rights or compensation of any kind will be provided for any cause or reason. Participation in the "E.L.I. Award" 2026 Competition implies tacit consent to the above.

## **ARTICLE 9 - AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS**

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The Artistic Management and the Organization of the Competition reserve the right to make changes to these regulations if necessary and to promptly communicate them to the participants.

## **ARTICLE 10 - JURISDICTION**

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In case of dispute, the Court of Alessandria is competent, and the Italian version of the regulation is valid.

## **ARTICLE 11 - ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES**

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The submission of the application implies the total and unconditional acceptance of all the rules contained in this announcement and any amendments provided for by Article 9.

## **ARTICLE 12 - PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING**

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Under the European Regulation GDPR 679/2016 on the protection of personal data, Ente Lirico Italiano informs that the data provided in the registration form will be stored and used exclusively for the purpose of sending information related to the Organization, which, under the aforementioned Legislative Decree, the data subject has the right to know, update, delete, and rectify their data or oppose their use.

**E.L.I. - Ente Lirico Italiano - ETS**

Palazzo Sannazzaro - Via Goffredo Mameli, 63 - 15033 Casale Monferrato (AL) - Italy  
C.F. 91037820064 - [www.enteliricoitaliano.it](http://www.enteliricoitaliano.it) - [info@enteliricoitaliano.it](mailto:info@enteliricoitaliano.it) - Tel. +39 0142691781