



Organization for the Protection of Italian Lyrical Heritage

1st Edition of the "Premio E.L.I." 2026

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR OPERA SINGERS

Municipal Theater of Casale Monferrato (AL) - October 21 to 24, 2026

Prize: €40,000 - Jury President: Mario Daccò



Under the Patronage of:



PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

The "Premio E.L.I.", established by the Italian Opera Organization, was created with the aim of supporting, enhancing, and promoting vocal talent at all stages of an artistic career.

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

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

Aware of the difficulties that adult artists often face in accessing new professional opportunities, the Competition is committed to promoting opportunities for them to gain visibility and enter the theater scene.

Through auditions, cash prizes, scholarships, and artistic engagements, the competition aims to act as a concrete bridge between study and career, contributing to the discovery of new talent and the revitalization of established artistic careers, all while promoting Italy's operatic heritage.

In addition to its own theater network, the organization maintains a close network of collaborations with foundations and other musical institutions to further facilitate the artistic careers of participants.

ARTICLE 1 - PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

The Competition is open to sopranos, mezzo-sopranos, contralts, tenors, baritones, and basses of all nationalities who are 18 years of age or older by August 31, 2026.

All singers who, in any of the last three editions, have been awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd Prize, or have received a Special Prize in one of the competitions listed in Article 7, shall be admitted directly to the SEMIFINAL ROUND.

All singers who, in any of the last three editions, have been finalists in one of the competitions listed in Article 7, shall be admitted directly to the PRELIMINARY ROUND.

Six arias must be included on the application form and must be performed in their original key and language (*with the exception of Don Carlos and Les Vespres Siciliennes, which may be performed in Italian*).

Where applicable, arias must include recitative and cabaletta.

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

Pieces from chamber music, sacred music, symphonic music, or from oratorios, operettas, or other non-operatic repertoire are not permitted.

ARTICLE 2 - APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The registration application must be completed and submitted online at:

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

by August 31, 2026 (Registration will automatically close early if the maximum number of 130 participants is reached before this date).

The following documents must be attached to the application form:

- Artistic CV, specifying the student's studies and any debuts. The CV must be in .doc or PDF
- A good-quality headshot (in addition to the one on your resume)
- Receipt for the registration fee, **which for 2026 is €190 (€200 via PayPal)**

The following are the payment methods for the registration fee and the corresponding amounts:

Payment by Bank Transfer:

Payable to:

E.L.I. - Ente Lirico Italiano

IBAN: IT96A0623022601000047024918

Bic/Swift CRPPIT2P353

Amount: €190

The applicant's name and surname must be indicated in the payment description.

Payment via PayPal:

Amount: €200

You can pay via PayPal directly at this link:

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

YOU CAN COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM ONLINE AT THIS LINK

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

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

After the registration deadline, the applicant may no longer change the arias entered.

Candidates requiring a visa to stay in Italy can contact the Competition Secretariat by email at mailto: info@enteliricoitaliano.it to obtain a letter of invitation.

No reimbursement of expenses of any kind will be made to competitors.

In the event of non-participation in the Competition, the Organization is NOT obligated to refund the registration fee, except in the case of cancellation of the Competition due to the organizer's fault

ARTICLE 3 – COMPETITION PROCEDURE

The Competition is divided into four phases: PRESELECTION, PRELIMINARY, SEMIFINAL, and FINAL.

The call order for the preselection, preliminary, and semifinal phases will be in alphabetical order. All competitors must appear according to the scheduled auditions and rehearsals with the pianists (for those invited on the morning of the 21st, rehearsals will take place on the 20th).

Competitors who are absent from one or more phases will be excluded from the Competition.

PRESELECTION

Competitors may choose to participate in the preselection through:

• VIDEO RECORDING

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

The preselection recording must be recent and must contain two opera arias of the candidate's choice (from the six indicated on the application form), one of which must be in Italian.

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

Method: The digital recording must be uploaded to YouTube (in the settings, you can select "unlisted" to allow viewing only to those with the video's web address). The title of the video(s) must include "Pre-selection E.L.I. Prize 2026."

The YouTube video description must include information about the candidate, the recording date, and the program.

Please note that the web address where the video is available must be indicated in the appropriate box on the registration form.

In the candidates' best interests, it is recommended that the recording be of excellent audio and video quality.

• IN-PERSON AUDITION (closed session)

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

Competitors will perform two arias of their choice (from the six listed on the registration form), one of which must be in Italian.

The President of the Jury reserves the right, at any time, to interrupt a competitor or decide to listen to only one aria from those presented.

Competitors must bring identification and a copy of the scores of the arias to be performed (for pianists in the Competition). For the pre-selection phase, the assistant pianist is Maestro Sergio Castoreale.

Candidates admitted to the PRELIMINARY phase will be announced by September 15, 2026.

O ensure that the jury can hear the competitors properly, without being hindered by inadequate environments

and spaces, the PRELIMINARY, SEMIFINAL, and FINAL rounds will be held at the Casale Monferrato Municipal Theater.

"Opera singers must perform in the Theater, therefore they must be heard and evaluated there."

PRELIMINARY (behind closed doors)

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

Competitors admitted to the PRELIMINARY round must present two additional arias of their choice from those indicated on the registration form (at least one of which must be in Italian) and NOT performed in the PRELIMINARY round, for a total length of between 6 and 13 minutes. The pieces must be submitted via email to premioeli2026@gmail.com by September 30, 2026. The President of the Jury reserves the right to interrupt a competitor at any time or decide to listen to only one aria. from those submitted. For the PRELIMINARY round, the collaborating pianists are Maestro Margherita Colombo and Maestro Sergio Castoreale.

SEMI-FINAL (behind closed doors)

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

Competitors admitted to the Semi-Final must perform one or two arias, which will be chosen by the President of the Jury from those listed on the registration form. Arias performed in the PRELIMINARY round will not be required. The President of the Jury reserves the right to interrupt a competitor or decide to listen to only one aria at any time.

For the SEMI-FINAL round, the collaborating pianists are Maestro Margherita Colombo and Maestro Sergio Castoreale.

FINAL – Grand Gala open to the public

- **October 24, 2026, Casale Monferrato Municipal Theater (AL) – ITALY**

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

Contestants admitted to the Finals perform one or two arias chosen by the Jury from those listed on the application form. Singers are accompanied on the piano by Maestro Margherita Colombo. The direction is by Aurora Catalfamo.

For all stages of the Competition, contestants must bring identification and a copy of the scores of the arias they will perform.

ARTICLE 4 - PRIZES

The prize money for the 2026 "Premio E.L.I." is **€40,000**.

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

UNDER 33 CATEGORY

- **1st PRIZE** worth €10,000* and "Premio E.L.I." plaque

- 2nd PRIZE worth €5,000* and "Premio E.L.I." plaque
- 3rd PRIZE worth €2,500* and "Premio E.L.I." plaque

OVER 33 CATEGORY

- 1st PRIZE worth €10,000* and "Premio E.L.I." plaque
- 2nd PRIZE worth €5,000* and an "Premio E.L.I." plaque
- 3rd PRIZE worth €2,500* and an "Premio E.L.I." plaque

OTHER OUT-OF-CATEGORY PRIZES:

- *"PromOpera - Promising Young Female" Award for under-27s* worth €1,000**
in addition to the artistic representation contract stipulated with PromOpera Artists Management
- *"PromOpera - Promising Young Male" Award for under-27s* worth €1,000**
in addition to the artistic representation contract stipulated with PromOpera Artists Management
- *"Giacomo Puccini" Award* for the best Puccini performer worth €1000***
- *"Giuseppe Verdi" Award* for the best Verdi performer worth €1000***
- *"Arrigo Pola" Award* for the best Italian Tenor worth €500***
- *"Francesco Buccino" Award* worth €500****

The winners of the out-of-category prizes will also be awarded the "Premio E.L.I." plaque.

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

All FINALISTS will receive a "DIPLOMA," while other competitors will receive, upon request, a Certificate of Participation.

*50% will be paid in cash, and the remaining 50% will be divided as follows: 30% will be awarded artistic contracts for debut performances in one or more theaters in the circuit during the 2027 and/or 2028 seasons (at the discretion of the organization). The remaining 20% will be awarded a scholarship (educational credit issued by the Ente Lirico Italiano).

**€200 will be awarded in cash and €600 in the form of artistic contracts for a debut performance at one or more theaters in the circuit during the 2027 and/or 2028 seasons (at the discretion of the organization). €200 will be awarded 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 awarded in cash and €400 in the form of artistic contracts for a debut performance at one or more theaters in the circuit during the 2027 and/or 2028 seasons (at the organization's discretion).

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

Any taxes required by the Italian government will be borne by the competitor.

ARTICLE 5 - COMPOSITION OF THE JURY

The Artistic Committee for the Pre-selections is composed of the board of directors of the “E.L.I. – Ente Lirico Italiano”.

From the Preliminary Round, the jury will be composed as follows:

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

Ilaria Galgani: *World-renowned Soprano*

Mauro Trombetta: *Conductor, Artistic Director of the “Teatro dell’Opera di Roma” and the “Arena di Verona”*

Roberto Pani: *Member of the Board of Directors of the Teatro Regio di Torino*

Carmelo Corrado Caruso: *World-renowned Baritone*

The Jury's decision is final. At the conclusion of the competition, upon the competitor's request, the Competition Director may provide the reason for any negative decision.

ARTICLE 6 – ACCOMPANYING PIANISTS

Competitors may avail themselves of the accompanist pianists provided by the Artistic Director of the Competition AT NO ADDITIONAL COST. For the 2026 edition, these are Maestro Margherita Colombo and Maestro Sergio Castoreale.

Competitors may bring their own accompanying pianist at their own expense for all stages of the competition, except the final.

ARTICLE 7 – COMPETITIONS

All singers who, in any of the last three editions, have been awarded 1st, 2nd or 3rd Prize, or have received a Special Prize in one of the competitions listed below have direct access to the SEMI-FINAL round:

Finalists from the last two editions of one or more of the competitions listed below have direct access to the PRELIMINARY round:

- 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”
 - Competition “Renata Tebaldi”
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- All other singing competitions not mentioned but affiliated with the World Federation of Geneva International Music Competitions (WFIMC)

ARTICLE 8 - RELEASE

The “E.L.I. – Ente Lirico Itaiano” reserves the right to film and record all phases of the competition using videotape, tape, CD-DVD, film, the internet, social media, radio and TV, streaming, and any other means of communication, including print media, without owing competitors anything whatsoever. The Italian Opera House has unlimited broadcast rights through all the aforementioned channels. Participation in this competition implies a release from the use of both image and song for any radio, television, and internet broadcast of the performances performed throughout the event, the writings and concerts for which the prize is awarded, and all other related activities, including those taking place outside of the event, such as video shoots or promotional videos, photo shoots, before, during, and after the event and other related events that are part of the prize pool (artistic writings, etc.). No rights or compensation of any kind will be granted for any reason whatsoever for any reason whatsoever. Participation in the 2026 “Premio E.L.I.” Competition implies tacit consent to the above.

ARTICLE 9 - CHANGES TO THE REGULATIONS

The Artistic Director and the Competition Organizers reserve the right to make changes to these regulations if necessary and to promptly notify participants.

ARTICLE 10 - JURISDICTION

In the event of a dispute, the Court of Alessandria shall have jurisdiction and the Italian text of the regulation shall be valid.

ARTICLE 11 - ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

Submission of the application implies full and unconditional acceptance of all the rules contained in this announcement and any amendments provided for in Article 9.

ARTICLE 12 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Pursuant to the European Regulation GDPR 679/2016 on the protection of personal data, the Italian Opera Organization informs that the data provided in the registration form will be stored and used exclusively for the purpose of sending information relating to the Organization. Pursuant to the aforementioned Legislative Decree, the data subject has the right to access, update, delete, and correct his or her data, or to object to its use.