

“Rodolfo Celletti” Belcanto Academy

Training year 2011

Selection announcement

1. Enrolment

It is now possible to enrol for the selections for admission to the training year 2011 of the “*Rodolfo Celletti*” *Belcanto Academy* in Martina Franca, promoted and organised by the Fondazione “Paolo Grassi” with the collaboration of the Festival della Valle d’Itria. The Academy’s high-level improvement courses are for candidates possessing the necessary artistic qualities and predisposition for the profession; not to mention solid basic techniques, essential for a complete understanding of this highly specialised education and for practical-experience training, with the aim of gaining professional experience in the field of the ***belcanto* repertoire**.

2. Requirements

The course is aimed at opera singers from Italy and abroad, including non-EU citizens. The candidates intending to enrol for selection must meet the following essential requirements:

- by 31/12/2010 must be under the age of 35. The Direction may allow exceptions according to merit;
- they must be able to show documentation proving they have received musical and vocal training in public or private institutions.

Preferential titles for the selection:

- State-recognised Conservatoire or musical Institution diploma, meaning a level I or II academic diploma issued by one of the above-mentioned musical Institutions;
- classification in the first three places in the final list of vocal competitions of international importance;
- a good knowledge of a foreign language (English, French, German) and of the Italian language for foreign candidates;
- professional opera experience through participation in operatic performances or concerts of significant artistic importance, which will be evaluated by the examining committee chosen for the selection. The adjudicating committee’s judgement is final.

3. Characteristics and aims of the course

The course, led by the artistic director of the Festival della Valle d'Itria, is an opportunity to improve various aspects of **vocal technique and interpretation** in the field of the Italian *belcanto* repertoire (from Monteverdi to Protoromanticism), including an analysis of the various styles of the tradition of Western musical theatre. A knowledge of this kind is essential for an aware performer.

On the basis of personal vocal characteristics, interests and aptitude, which will be verified during the admission phase, students will be divided into two groups with the following orientations: “**Baroque and Pre-Classical**” (group A) and “**Classical and Protoromantic**” (group B).

Each student will be constantly guided towards the full **awareness and mastery of his/her own vocal skills** and of the **specific techniques** required by the appropriate repertoire.

The students will also participate in **technical acting training** activities of particular importance, which stems from the need for a mature and correct knowledge of physicality and the main psycho-emotional mechanisms, in order to achieve full awareness of the principal performative instruments required by modern musical theatre, in terms of physique, and of performing character roles. The course aims to train professional operatic artists who, in the light of the needs and characteristics of the modern musical theatre, intend to make the most of a solid **culture of the profession** and of a complete knowledge of their role as singer-actor performers. In order to have a better knowledge of the professional working world, young singers may be given precious opportunities of **direct on-stage experience**, starting from the performances during the Festival della Valle d'Itria: those who have completed fully and meritoriously the whole course may be assigned, with a contract, to perform in the Festival's productions.

4. Duration and structure of the course

The course is divided into **three different sessions** of advanced theoretical-technical study and technical acting training, with considerable laboratory and concert *work-experience* activity, including participation in the summer productions of the Festival della Valle d'Itria.

Each session – autumnal, spring and summer – consists in **highly specialised teaching** – structured in individual and group courses – and in prestigious **masterclasses**. The students will be taught by expert artists, teachers and maestros. The schedule for the training year 2011 is as follows:

spring session: **2 - 13 March 2011**

summer session: **17 - 26 June 2011**

Masterclass with Fabio Luisi: **5, 6 e 7 July 2011**

autumnal session: **November - December 2011**

for a total of **600 hours**, of which 200 will be work experience activities.

At the end of every session a public concert will be organised, in which all of the students will in turn participate. During the course will take a place the **work experience phase in collaboration with the Festival della Valle d'Itria**: the most meritorious students will have the chance to participate in the artistic activity of the festival, also in the *Opera Workshop* section, with an **operatic production chosen for the occasion**.

5. Subjects

The course includes the following subjects:

- Style applications: from *Lied* to the vocality in the contemporary music
- Technical and vocal in-depth study
- Art and technique of recitative
- Art and technique of Baroque recitative
- Art and technique of *coloratura*
- Phonetics and diction
- Study of sheet music
- "Body" training
- Acting and performing technique
- Awareness of breathing dynamics
- Culture of the profession of the operatic singer
- Workshop: singing, performing practice, study of sheet music, acting.

6. Masterclass and teachers

The course includes a masterclass in "Art and technique of performance" with some of the most illustrious maestros of the *belcanto*, singers and conductors. Each student is guaranteed 50 hours of practical training for the masterclass during each session. For the 2011 course the masterclasses will take place with **Alberto Zedda, Raul Giménez, Fabio Luisi** and **Daniela Dessì**, besides individual lessons of "Art and technique of *coloratura*" with **Stefania Bonfadelli**.

Laboratories of acting and performing technique will be directed, among other teachers, by **Rosetta Cucchi** and **Juliette Deschamps**.

Among the many teachers of the Academy are:

Alfonso Antoniozzi, Mariano Bauduin, Tiziana Fabbricini, Sherman Lowe, Paola Pittaluga, Gianni Tangucci and Vittorio Terranova.

The Direction of the Course may, however, substitute the above-mentioned teachers with equally prestigious names, in the event of an impossibility to participate in the masterclasses.

7. Location of the Course

The theoretical-technical lessons will take place in the Fondazione "Paolo Grassi" in Martina Franca, in Via Metastasio, 20; the work experience activities will take place, apart from the above-mentioned location, in the areas dedicated to the Festival della Valle d'Itria.

8. Applications and deadlines

Applications for selection must be sent to the Fondazione "Paolo Grassi", via Metastasio 20, 74015 Martina Franca (TA), or by e-mail to the following address: accademia@fondazionepaolograssi.it. Besides the application form, the following documentation must be included:

- specific application form published and downloadable from the website of the Fondazione "Paolo Grassi", www.fondazionepaolograssi.it;
- one close-up photograph, and one full-shot photograph;
- the candidate's CV;
- a copy of a valid identification document;
- if available, letters of reference from authoritative representatives of the music world.

Applications must be sent by **28 February 2011**.

8. 1 Evaluation of the curricula and selection tests

Admittance to the selection tests is subordinate to the positive evaluation of the candidate's CV. This evaluation will be made by the Direction of the *School* and its judgement is final. The candidates admitted to the selection tests will be notified by e-mail only, and they will be obliged to pay the fee (see point 9). The selection tests will take place in the Fondazione "Paolo Grassi" in two phases, eliminatory and final, on **1 March 2011**.

8. 2 Exam tests:

Candidates must prepare four arias, of which at least three must be in Italian, and one must include a secco recitative. The arias must be chosen according to the following criteria:

- 2 arias from the 17th - 18th century repertoire;
- 2 arias from the early 19th century repertoire.

The arias must be sung by heart in the original language and key, including, when applicable, the recitativo and cabaletta.

The adjudicating committee has the right to choose whether to listen to whole or only part of the programme. First-sight musical reading of a medium-difficulty piece may also be requested, besides a motivational interview.

The Accademia del Belcanto allows candidates the right to have a collaborating maestro. **The candidate must send a copy of the scores for each piece of his/her programme to the Fondazione (Via Metastasio 20 - 74015 Martina Franca - TA) , before the date of the audition.**

It is the candidate's right to be accompanied on the piano by his/her accompanying maestro, whose expenses are, however, to be paid by the candidate.

9. Fees: participation in the selection tests

The candidates admitted to the selection tests must pay a participation fee of € 50,00 (fifty euro) to be sent by banker's order to the bank account addressed to the Fondazione Paolo Grassi, c/o BANCA PROSSIMA, with the following bank details:

- **IBAN: IT95 M033 5901 6001 0000 0002 715**
- **BIC code: BCITITMX**

Reason for payment: Quota partecipazione selezioni Accademia del Belcanto - a.f. 2011.

A copy of the payment receipt must be sent to the administration secretary office by the convocation date, by fax at the following number: +390804805120 or by e-mail at the following address: accademia@fondazionepaolograssi.it. Alternatively, the receipt may be handed in by hand on the day of the audition. No candidate will be admitted to the audition without having previously paid the participation fee. If the candidate fails to turn up for the audition, the fee will not be reimbursed.

10. Number of candidates admitted to the Academy

The adjudicating committee shall decide on the final list of eligible candidates, and its decision is final. The remaining suitable candidates may be invited to attend the training activities as listeners. They may take the place of the selected students in case any drop out. They may also be pointed out to the artistic direction of the Festival della Valle d'Itria.

11. Subscription fee

Admitted candidates must pay the enrolment and attendance fee of € 2000 (two thousand) euros, which includes teaching, administrative and insurance costs. Students who wish to follow the courses as listeners are to pay a subscription fee of 150 (one hundred and fifty) euros.

The subscription fee must be paid in three transactions: 1.000 (one thousand) euros upon subscribing, and 500 (five hundred) euros at the beginning of the summer and autumnal sessions. The payment must be made in cash or by banker's order to the bank account addressed to the Fondazione Paolo Grassi, c/o BANCA PROSSIMA, to the following bank details:

- **IBAN: IT95 M033 5901 6001 0000 0002 715**

- **BIC code: BCITITMX**

Reason for payment: Quota partecipazione Accademia del Belcanto - a.f. 2011.

The Direction of the Academy is entitled to give indications for accommodation at agreed rates. Should the student fail to complete the course for reasons not attributable to the organisation, he/she is not entitled to reimbursement, not even in part, of the enrolment fee.

12. Scholarships

The Academy may provide scholarships covering a part of the enrolment and attendance fee. The scholarships will be assigned on the basis of merit, which will be evaluated according to the results produced during the course, whose decision is final.

13. Attendance certificates

At the end of the course an attendance certificate of the Accademia del Belcanto will be issued.

14. Handling of personal information

According to law no. 196/2003, candidates personal information will be collected and handled exclusively to guarantee the above-mentioned selection procedure.

Martina Franca, 25 January 2011