

Accademia del Belcanto “Rodolfo Celletti”

Study and work experience:
technique, style, and performance of Italian Belcanto

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018 Call for applications

STRUCTURE and LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE COURSE

The Accademia del Belcanto “Rodolfo Celletti” of Martina Franca is promoted and organised by the Fondazione Paolo Grassi in collaboration with the Festival della Valle d’Itria. It was established in 2010 with the aim of providing young opera singers with a **highly specialised training in the various aspects of the technique, style, and performance of Italian Belcanto** (from Monteverdi to proto-Romanticism), as well as analysis and study praxis in the different fields of Western music theatre, including the various expressions of contemporary music.

The course is articulated in several laboratories for performance practice, applied to Belcanto’s specific techniques and aesthetics: from seventeenth-century “*recitar cantando*” to *coloratura*, to the art of variation in the Italian belcanto tradition of the 1800s.

Specific practical experiences organised during the Festival della Valle d’Itria will enrich the students’ training, and made all the more precious as they will be taught by top-class coaches, performers, and directors.

The training plan also boasts a specific section specialising on **Baroque Belcanto**, with prestigious master-classes and one-to-one lessons for those young performers who are particularly interested in and inclined towards this kind of repertoire. The specialised and personalised study is all the richer for the work experiences lined up during the programme of the Festival della Valle d’Itria.

CALENDAR

Fabio Luisi, music Director of the Accademia del Belcanto and of the Festival della Valle d’Itria, will coordinate the activity of internationally-renowned coaches and performers.

2018 comprises of two study sessions:

- a **FIRST SESSION** from the 18th to the 28th April 2018;
- a **SECOND SESSION** from the 6th June to the 4th July 2018, followed by a phase dedicated to a pool of students identified as suitable for a **work-experience within the 44th Festival della Valle d’Itria**: www.festivaldellavalleditria.it

SUBJECTS AND COACHES

The study plan for 2018 is articulated as follows:

- Art and technique of recitative
- Art and technique of seventeenth-century vocality
- Art and technique of belcanto coloratura
- Art and technique of Baroque coloratura
- Art and technique of variation
- Phonetics and diction
- Study of the score and sheet music
- Awareness of breathing dynamics
- Culture and profession of the opera singer
- Character analysis
- Physiology and hygiene of the instrument
- From Baroque to vocality in twentieth-century music

- History and culture of Belcanto
- Workshop: singing, performance practice, study of the score, and acting
- Master-class in style and interpretation
- Master-class on the style of belcanto

Coaches: **Marco Beghelli, Stefania Bonfadelli, Domenico Colaianni, Giacomo Ferraù, Sara Gamarro, Luca Gorla, Antonio Greco, Renata Lamanda, Cristina Liuzzi, Sherman Lowe, Fabio Luisi, Ettore Papadia, Jacopo Raffaele, Giorgio Sangati, Carmen Santoro, Roberto Servile, Vittorio Terranova.**

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS and PROCEDURES

The courses have limited enrolment numbers, and entry is based on selection of candidates no older than 35 years of age.

There are **fifteen places** available.

Any candidate passing the selection, who are not from a non-EU country, must demonstrate they conform with the present regulations. Failing to do so will incur in exclusion from the course.

Candidates who have:

- a diploma from a Conservatoire or an equivalent Music Institution;
- professional experience in the field of opera theatre, through participation to artistically noteworthy operas or concerts (their merit will be assessed and established by the examining board and their decision is final) will be at an advantage in the selection process.

The candidates will be selected on the basis of their qualifications, and following an AUDITION to be held in one of the following venues:

- in **Florence**: on the 18th February 2018 at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino;
- in **Martina Franca**: 27th March 2018 at the Fondazione Paolo Grassi, headquarters of the Accademia;
- in **Milan**: 12th April 2018 (venue tbc).

Each candidate may sit the audition for the academic year 2018 only once, in only one of the three available dates. The auditions will be chaired by M° Fabio Luisi, alongside the Artistic Director of the Festival della Valle d'Itria, Alberto Triola.

Those who wish to sit the audition must send the **online application form for the audition** (together with a full-shot photo and a CV) to the Fondazione Paolo Grassi, by means of the dedicated form at the following address:

<http://www.fondazionepaolograssi.it/registrazione-accademiabelcanto.aspx>

The office must receive the application form at least seven days in advance of the selected date (by the 11th February for the Florence auditions; by the 20th March for Martina Franca; by the 5th April for Milan). Applications received after those dates will be rejected.

The details regarding the convocation to the audition will be communicated to the enrolled students directly.

The candidates should bring three opera arias complete with recitative and cabaletta (where available) in the original key; one should come from early nineteenth-century Italian repertoire. A seventeenth-century aria is optional.

The examining Board has the right to listen to the whole or part of the programme indicated on the application form. Medium-difficulty first-sight music reading may also be requested.

The students will have an accompanist at the piano provided by the organisation.

Students wishing to bring their own accompanist should see to the extra expenses themselves.

Upon request of the organising admin office, the candidate must provide a copy of the scores for the selected pieces via e-mail, at accademia@fondazionepaolograssi.it

In order to participate to the auditions, the candidates are required to pay an enrolment fee of € 40,00, by banker's order to the account of the Fondazione Paolo Grassi, at BANCA PROSSIMA, with the following credentials:

- IBAN: IT95 M033 5901 6001 0000 0002 715
- BIC code: BCITITMX
- Reason: "Quota iscrizione alla selezione Accademia del Belcanto - A.A. 2018"

Each candidate must show the invoice for the banker's order on the day of the audition.
Only candidates who have paid the enrolment fee may sit the audition.
In case of no-show at the audition, the fee will not be reimbursed.

The Management has the right to admit to the courses singers who have demonstrable artistic merit, attested by means of music production, prizes, or *ex-tempore* auditions, and who are particularly versed in the belcanto repertoire.

ATTENDANCE

Participation to the courses for the selected students is free, as long as they can guarantee attendance to the courses.

No more than 5 days' absence are permitted during the whole course. Any absence for serious health reasons must be communicated and documented to the Management.

Students who do not comply with this regulation will be automatically excluded from the course.

VENUE

The lessons will take place at the headquarters of the Fondazione Paolo Grassi in Martina Franca.

The work experience will take place in the venues of the Festival della Valle d'Itria, as well as in the offices mentioned above.

The staff of the Fondazione Paolo Grassi and the Management of the Accademia may, upon necessity, provide advice and indications for accommodation at corporate rates.

COLLABORATION CONTRACT

The students selected to participate in the productions of the 44th Festival della Valle d'Itria will be engaged directly by the Management of the Festival, and they will sign a collaboration contract, with a fee commensurate to the required obligations and tasks.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

At the end of the courses, the Accademia del Belcanto will issue a certificate of attendance to all participants who have completed the programme.

INFO AND CONTACTS

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