



Accademia del Belcanto “Rodolfo Celletti”

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

ACADEMIC YEAR 2014 Call for subscriptions

STRUCTURE AND AIMS OF THE COURSE

The Accademia del Belcanto “Rodolfo Celletti” in Martina Franca is promoted and organised by the Fondazione Paolo Grassi, in collaboration with the Festival della Valle d’Itria. It was set up in 2010 to provide young lyrical singers with a **highly specific training on the various aspects of vocal technique and performance of the Italian Belcanto repertoire** (from Monteverdi to proto-Romanticism), comprising of analysis and practice of the various styles of Western musical theatre, including many expressions of modernity. The course also includes various practical workshops, applied to specific Belcanto techniques and aesthetics: from seventeenth-century *recitar cantando* to expressions of the Apulian and Neapolitan school; from *coloratura* techniques to variations in early nineteenth-century Italian Belcanto tradition.

During the 2014 edition of the Festival della Valle d’Itria, students will have the opportunity of gaining specific practical experience, thus enriching their training. They will be guided by great supervisors, prominent interpreters and concert-masters. Particular importance will also be given to physical and acting training, and to correct, accurate Italian diction – necessary characteristics for today’s ‘acting singers’ engaged in conveying the essential theatrical dimension of opera.

Starting from 2013, the Academy’s academic scheme also includes a section specialising in an in-depth analysis of **Baroque Belcanto**, with prestigious master-classes and valuable one-to-one lessons for young performers with a particular interest in, and inclination towards, this kind of repertoire. This specific, personalised course is enriched with opportunities for practical work experiences during the 2014 edition of the Festival.

CALENDAR

Alberto Triola, the artistic director of the Festival della Valle d’Itria and of the ‘Accademia del Belcanto’, will coordinate the activities of internationally renowned teachers and artists.

For 2014 there will be three study sessions:

- the **FIRST SESSION (from the 8th to the 16th March 2014)** will be preparatory, and will include a selection of the students to be admitted to the course;
- the **SECOND SESSION (from the 28th April to the 3rd May 2014)** will be dedicated to study; roles and repertoires will be assigned;

- the **THIRD SESSION (from 6th to 27th June 2014)** will be dedicated to specific study. A selection of students identified as suited for the position will engage in a **phase of practical work-experience within the 40th edition of the Festival della Valle d'Itria** (www.festivaldellavalleditria.it).

SUBJECTS AND TEACHERS

The course for the academic year 2014 includes the following subjects:

- Art and technique of the 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
- Verification of vocal techniques
- Phonetics and diction
- Study of sheet music
- Awareness of breathing dynamics
- Culture and profession of the operatic singer
- Body training
- Acting and performance technique
- Stage presence/improvisation
- Role analysis
- Style applications: from *Baroque* to contemporary music vocality
- Workshop: singing, performing practice, study of sheet music, acting
- Performance master-class
- Belcanto style master-class

Teachers: **Stefania Bonfadelli, Lella Cuberli, Juliette Deschamps, Antonio Greco, Sherman Lowe, Roberta Mameli, Nikos Lagousakos, Fabio Luisi, Ettore Papadia, Alessandro Patalini, Paola Pittaluga, Sonia Prina, Vincenzo Rana, Carmen Santoro, Benedetto Sicca, Vittorio Terranova.**

REQUIREMENTS AND ENROLLMENT

Places for this course are limited; therefore admission is subject to selection procedures.

The selection of the candidates will be carried out by the Judging Panel (presided by the Director of the Academy) on the basis of the shown qualifications and after a **public audition** which will be held in Martina Franca at the Fondazione Paolo Grassi, on the first day of the preparatory session (**8th March 2014, at 3:00 p.m.**).

The details of the convocation for the audition will be communicated directly to the candidates.

The Artistic Director has the right to admit to the courses singers who, during *ex-tempore* competitions or auditions, have shown artistic merit and a particular predisposition towards the Belcanto repertoire.

There are up to twenty-five places available for the course.

The students who have not passed the selection can still attend training activities as listeners, and they may take the place of selected students in case any should drop out.

Upon admission to the course, **non-EU candidates** must comply with requisites of the current legislation, as failing to do so may ultimately result in exclusion from the course.

Precedence will be given to candidates possessing:

- a State-recognised Conservatoire or Musical Institution diploma, or level I or II academic diploma issued by one of the above-mentioned Musical Institutions;
- classification in the first three places in the final classifications in internationally-renowned vocal competitions;
- good knowledge of a foreign language (English, French, German) and, for foreign candidates, of Italian;
- professional experience in the field of opera theatre, through participation in artistically significant operas and concerts, which will be evaluated by the judging panel. The judges' selection and decision is final.

Applications must be sent by the 28th February 2014 (together with a full-figure photograph and an academic and professional CV) to the Fondazione Paolo Grassi, either by post at the following address: Via Metastasio, 20 - 74015 Martina Franca, (TA) , or online by filling in the application form at the following address:

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

The selection is open to applicants who will be no older than 32 year old (for sopranos/tenors) and 35 years old (for contraltos/baritones/basses). Exceptions due to particular merit may apply.

For the audition, candidates should prepare two operatic arias including recitative and cabaletta (when applicable) in the original key; one of which one must come from early-nineteenth-century Italian Operatic Repertoire. It is advisable, but not compulsory, to also prepare an aria from seventeenth-century repertoire.

The examining Committee has the right to choose whether to listen to the whole or only part of the programme indicated in the application. A medium-difficulty first-sight music reading may also be requested.

For the auditions we will provide a collaborating maestro for piano accompaniment. It is the candidate's right to be accompanied on the piano by his/her accompanying maestro, whose expenses are, however, to be paid entirely by the candidate.

The candidate must send a copy of the scores for each piece of his/her programme to the 'Fondazione Paolo Grassi' (via post or e-mail), before the date of the audition.

To participate to the PUBLIC AUDITION the candidates must pay a fee of

€ 30,00 (thirty/00) to be sent by banker's order to the 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 selezione Accademia del Belcanto - A.F. 2014*"

A copy of the payment receipt must be sent to the 'Fondazione 'Paolo Grassi'' by the convocation date. This can be done either by fax to the following number: +39 080 4805120, or by e-mail to the following address: accademia@fondazionepaolograssi.it. Alternatively, the receipt may be handed in personally on the day of the audition. **Admission will not be granted to candidates who have failed to pay the participation fee.** If the candidate fails to turn up for the audition, the fee will not be reimbursed. **Invited auditioners are exempted from paying the fee.**

SUBSCRIPTION FEES AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

IT IS MANDATORY TO ATTEND THE WHOLE ACADEMIC YEAR IE EACH OF THE THREE STUDY SESSIONS PROVIDED FOR THE TEACHING PLAN.

For auditors, however, attendance for the whole academic year is NOT mandatory.

Students admitted during the auditions must pay the following participation fees, which partially cover teaching, administrative and insurance costs:

- **€ 150,00 (one hundred and fifty/00)** for the 1st session;
- **€ 150,00 (one hundred and fifty/00)** for the 2nd session;
- **€ 500,00 (five hundred/00)** for the 3rd session.

For **listeners**, participation fees are the following:

- **€ 80,00 (eighty/00)** for the 1st session;
- **€ 80,00 (eighty/00)** for the 2nd session;
- **€ 150,00 (one hundred and fifty/00)** for the 3rd session.

These fees must be paid at the beginning of each session, or in full in one lump-sum at the beginning of the first (April) session. Payment must be in cash, or done by banker's order to the bank account addressed to 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 frequenza Accademia del Belcanto - A.F. 2014*"

Should the student (whether admitted to the courses as an actual participant or as a listener) fail to complete the Course for reasons not attributable to the organisation, he/she will not be entitled to reimbursement of the enrolment fee. **No candidate will be admitted to the course without having paid the tuition fee.**

LOCATION OF THE COURSE

Lessons will take place mainly at the 'Fondazione 'Paolo Grassi'' in Martina Franca. Practical work experience will take place, apart from the above-mentioned location, in the areas dedicated to the Festival della Valle d'Itria.

Staff of the 'Fondazione 'Paolo Grassi'' and the Artistic Direction will be happy to help with indications and support with solutions for accommodation at established rates.

COLLABORATION CONTRACT

The students selected to take part in **the 40th edition of the Festival della Valle d'Itria** will be signed up by the Direction of the Festival; they will be entitled to a collaboration contract, and will be paid according to the level of engagement required by their role.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE

At the end of the courses, the 'Accademia del Belcanto' will issue an **attendance certificate** for those students (active and listeners) who have successfully completed the course.

INFO AND CONTACTS

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