

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
INTERNATIONAL OPERA SINGING COMPETITION
“VALERIO GENTILE”
XXVIII Edition
December 8–9, 2025
FASANO - Italy

REGULATIONS

Art. 1)

To honor the memory of Valerio Gentile, a young music lover and opera singing student who passed away tragically and prematurely, his family, in collaboration with the Conservatories of Music “Niccolò Piccinni” in Bari and “Nino Rota” in Monopoli, established in 1997 the International Opera Singing Competition – Scholarship “Valerio Gentile.”

The competition is held annually on December 8 and 9 at the Teatro Sociale in Fasano.

Art. 2)

The Competition is open to young opera singers who, as of January 1, 2025, are under 32 y.o.

Art. 3)

Applications must be submitted using the admission form available online at www.valeriogentile.it and filled out in its entirety. Please carefully follow the instructions regarding file naming.

Application deadline: November 29, 2025

Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

- A copy of a valid passport or identity document – Each file must be named as follows: SURNAME NAME – ID Doc (e.g., ROSSI MARIO – ID Doc);
- One (or more) portrait photos (artistic), digital format, vertical orientation, high resolution, color. Each file must be named as follows: SURNAME NAME – photo (e.g., ROSSI MARIO – photo);
- Bank transfer receipt (IBAN IT65P0306967684510341258102, payable to NICOLA GENTILE – President of the Cultural Association Centro Studi “Valerio Gentile”) of €40.00 for applicants not requiring a pianist, or €80.00 for those requiring a pianist. Each file must be named as follows: SURNAME NAME – Transfer (e.g., ROSSI MARIO – Transfer). The official pianist of the Competition will be Maestro Ettore Papadia;
- Copies of the scores of the selected arias, including any personal markings for the pianist. Each file must be named as follows: COMPOSER – Opera – Character – Aria (e.g., MOZART – Le Nozze di Figaro – Susanna – Venite, inginocchiatevi).

Art. 4)

The Competition reserve the right to use audio and video recordings and photographs of the Competition rounds, and retain unlimited rights to broadcast such images via television, radio, and the internet, without compensation to participants. Participation implies tacit acceptance of these conditions.

Art. 5)

The organization reserves the right to verify the authenticity of certificates and the accuracy of submitted information.

PRIZES

Art. 6)

Prizes, awarded in the form of scholarships, are intended exclusively to support artistic projects freely chosen by the winners (e.g., tuition for academies or advanced training courses, CD/DVD productions, etc.).

- 1st Prize – Scholarship of €2,000, diploma, and paid concerts within the programming of the Committee's institutions
- 2nd Prize – Scholarship of €1,000, diploma, and paid concerts within the programming of the Committee's institutions
- 3rd Prize – Scholarship of €500, diploma, and paid concerts within the programming of the Committee's institutions
- Scholarship in memory of Katia Barbanente Petrosillo – €500
- Lions Club Fasano Scholarship – €500
- Scholarship offered by the Gentile-Latorre Family, in memory of Margherita Latorre, for the youngest participant in the Final Round – €300
- City of Fasano Scholarship, offered by the Municipal Administration, awarded to a finalist chosen by audience vote – €500
- Festival Ritratti and/or Associazione Musicale Euterpe: concert(s) within the 2026/2027 season
- Pescocostanzo Classica: concert in the 2026 season
- L'Atelier delle Arti of Palazzo Pesce in Mola di Bari: Scholarship for participation in a Master-class and concert within the 2026 season
- Fondazione Paolo Grassi of Martina Franca: free participation in the 2026 Belcanto Academy
- Associazione Musicale "Opera Prima": concert in the 2026 season

JURY

- **Ildebrando D'Arcangelo** bass, Jury President
- **Marco Impallomeni**, opera agent, MC Domani
- **Alessandro Trebeschi**, Artistic Secretary of Teatro di Brescia and Casting Manager, Festival della Valle d'Itria
- **Alessandra Volpe**, mezzo-soprano, former winner of the "Valerio Gentile" Prize
- **Michele D'Elia**, pianist and vocal coach at Accademia della Scala, Milan

COMPETITION ARTISTIC COMMITTEE

- **Festival Ritratti / Associazione Euterpe** – Artistic Director: Antonia Valente
- **Fondazione Paolo Grassi** – Director: Gennaro Carrieri
- **L'Atelier delle Arti di Palazzo Pesce** – Artistic Director: Margherita Rotondi
- **Associazione "Opera Prima"** – Artistic Directors: Vincenzo Rana and Ludovica Rana
- **Ettore Papadia** – Pianist and répétiteur
- **Pescocostanzo Classica** Guido Galterio – Artistic Director

PROGRAM AND ROUNDS

Art. 7)

The repertoire listed in the application must include four opera arias.

The chosen arias must be by different composers (with only one repetition permitted), and must include at least one aria in Italian and one in a foreign language. All arias must be performed from memory, in the original language and key, with recitative and cabaletta if applicable.

- First Round – December 8 (Preliminary): performance of two arias, chosen by the Jury
- Second Round – December 9 (Semifinal, morning): performance of the remaining arias not sung in the Preliminary round
- Final Round – December 9, 7:30 p.m.: opera gala concert featuring the finalists, after which the winners will be announced

The order of performances will be communicated to the contestants by December 2, 2025.

Art. 8)

Contestants who have won First Prize in international opera competitions during the past two years (2024–2025) will be admitted directly to the Semifinal Round, subject to submission of the relevant documentation and Jury approval.

Art. 9)

By applying, participants fully accept these regulations as well as any subsequent modifications deemed necessary. The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Artistic Coordination:

Associazione Musicale Euterpe premioliricogentile@gmail.com



PAST WINNERS

1997 **Vittorio Bari** baritono

1998 **Grazia Coppolecchia** soprano

1999 **Gabriella Grassi** mezzosoprano

2000 **Tiziana Minoia** so-

prano 2001 **WonSinLee**

soprano

2002 **Tiziana Falco** soprano

2003 **Maria Luisa Dituri**

soprano

2004 **Angela Nisi** soprano

2005 **WooYongKwon** bari-

tono 2006 **Benedetta Ba-**

gnara soprano

2007 **Aurelio Schiavoni** contro-

tenore 2008 *ex-aequo*

Damiana Mizzi so-

prano **Gaia Petrone**

mezzosoprano

2009 **Lucia Conte** soprano

2010 Primo Premio non as-

segnato 2011 **Choi Byung**

Hyuk baritono 2012 **Annali-**

sa Ferrarini soprano 2013

Roberta Mantegna soprano

2014 Maria Luisa Iacobellis soprano

2015 *ex-aequo*

M. Cristina Bellantuono soprano

Paola Leoci soprano

2016 Sara Intagliata soprano

2017 Giulia Mazzola soprano

2018 Marianna Mappa soprano

2020 *ex-aequo*

Angelica Di Santo soprano
Claudia Urru

soprano

2021 *ex-aequo*

Antonio Mandrillo tenore

Chiara Maria Fiorani soprano

2022 Carmen Maria Bocale soprano

2023 *ex-aequo*

Oksana Pynchuk soprano

Juliette Chauvet-Kumpfel soprano

2024 Francesca Loverso soprano