CALL FOR ENTRIES
INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR OPERATIC SINGING
SCHOLARSHIP
"VALERIO GENTILE"
XXIX Edition
8-9 December 2026 FASANO

REGULATIONS

Art.1)
To commemorate **Valerio Gentile**, a young lover of music and student of opera singing who died prematurely and tragically, his family, in collaboration with the "N. Piccinni" Conservatory of Music in Bari and the "N. Rota" Conservatory in Monopoli, established in 1997 the International Opera Singing Prize – "Valerio Gentile" Scholarship. The competition takes place every year on **8 and 9 December** at the **Teatro Sociale in Fasano**.

Art. 2)
Young opera singers who have not turned **32** by **1 January** 2026 may take part in the Competition.

Art. 3)
Applications must be submitted using the admission form published online at www.valeriogentile.it and completed in full. Please pay attention to the instructions on how to name the attached files.

The application deadline is 29 November 2026

The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- Photocopy of a passport or of a valid identity document – *Each file must be named according to the model: SURNAME NAME – Doc ID, e.g. ROSSI MARIO - Doc ID;*

- At least 1 (or more) artistic portrait photo(s) in digital format, vertical orientation, high resolution, in colour. *Each file must be named according to the model: SURNAME NAME – foto – e.g. ROSSI MARIO - foto;*

- Receipt of the bank transfer, IBAN IT65P0306967684510341258102 made out to NICOLA GENTILE – President of the Cultural Association Centro Studi "Valerio Gentile" – for €40.00 as the registration fee for those who do not need piano accompaniment, or €80.00 as the registration fee for those who need piano accompaniment. *Each file must be named according to the model: SURNAME NAME – Bonifico, e.g. ROSSI MARIO - Bonifico.* The official pianist of the Prize will be Maestro **Ettore Papadia**

- Copies of the scores of the pieces to be performed, with any customisations for the pianist, named according to the example model MOZART – Le Nozze di Figaro – Susanna – *Venite, inginocchiatevi.*

Art.4)
The organisers of the Competition reserve the right to use audio and video recordings and photographs of the Competition rounds, and hold unlimited rights to broadcast images of the Competition on television, radio and the Internet, without any compensation to the contestants. Participation in the Competition implies tacit consent to the foregoing.

Art. 5)
The organisers reserve the right to request confirmation of the authenticity of certificates and the truthfulness of statements.

PRIZES

Art. 6)

The prizes, **in the form of scholarships**, are intended exclusively to finance artistic projects freely chosen by the winners (e.g., enrolment fees for academies or advanced courses, record or video productions, etc).

- **1st place – Scholarship worth €2,000.00** – diploma and paid concerts in the programming of the bodies of the Artistic Committee
- **2nd place – Scholarship worth €1,000.00** – diploma and paid concerts in the programming of the bodies of the Artistic Committee
- **3rd place – Scholarship worth €500.00** – diploma and paid concerts in the programming of the bodies of the Artistic Committee
- **Scholarship** in memory of Margherita Latorre, for the youngest singer among the finalists, worth **€300.00**
- **Scholarship** TALENTItalia, provided by the social promotion association of the same name, promoted by ACLI of Brindisi, worth **€750.00**
- **Scholarship** Lions Club Fasano worth **€500.00**.
- **Scholarship of the Municipal Administration of Fasano,** provided by the Municipal Administration, for the finalist chosen by public vote, worth **€500.00**
- **Festival Ritratti and/or Associazione Musicale Euterpe:** concert(s) as part of the 2027/2028 programming
- **Pescocostanzo Classica**, concert as part of the 2027 programming
- **L'Atelier delle Arti** at **Palazzo Pesce in Mola di Bari:** Scholarship to take part in a Masterclass and concert as part of the 2027 programming
- **Fondazione Paolo Grassi of Martina Franca** Free participation in the 2027 Belcanto Academy.
- **Associazione Musicale "Opera Prima"** Concert in the 2027 season

JURY

- **Maria AGRESTA** soprano, **President of the Jury**
- **Emanuele DESTRINI** opera agent, TACT
- **Giuseppe FINZI** conductor
- **Franziska KAISER** casting manager, Wiesbaden Theatre
- **Maria Pia PISCITELLI** soprano

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE OF THE PRIZE

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

PROGRAMME AND ROUNDS

Art.7)

The performance programme, to be indicated in the application form, must contain four opera pieces.
The pieces chosen must be by different composers (only one composer may be repeated), **with at least 1 piece in Italian and 1 piece in a foreign language required.** The pieces must be performed from memory, in the original language and key, including recitative and cabaletta.

- **First round, 8 December – Preliminary**: performance of two pieces, chosen by the Jury

- **Second round, 9 December** morning – **Semifinal**: performance of pieces not sung in the Preliminary round

- **Final round, 9 December, 7:30 p.m.**: opera gala, concert of the finalists, at the end of which the winners will be announced

The order of performance will be sent to the contestants by 2 December 2026

Art. 8)
Candidates who have won First Prize in international opera competitions in the last two years (2025-2026) will be admitted directly to the semifinal round, subject to presentation of the appropriate documentation and approval by the Jury.

Art. 9)
By registering for the Competition, participants fully accept these rules and any subsequent changes that may become necessary.

The decisions of the Jury are final and not open to appeal.

Artistic coordination:
Associazione Musicale Euterpe
premioliricogentile@gmail.com

Administrative coordination:
Prof. Nicola Gentile
premio@valeriogentile.it



PRIZE ROLL OF HONOUR

1997 **Vittorio Bari** *baritone*

1998 **Grazia Coppolecchia** *soprano*

1999 **Gabriella Grassi** *mezzo-soprano*

2000 **Tiziana Minoia** *soprano*

2001 **Won Sin Lee** *soprano*

2002 **Tiziana Falco** *soprano*

2003 **Maria Luisa Dituri** *soprano*

2004 **Angela Nisi** *soprano*

2005 **WooYongKwon** *baritone*

2006 **Benedetta Bagnara** *soprano*

2007 **Aurelio Schiavoni** *countertenor*

2008 *ex aequo*

Damiana Mizzi *soprano*

Gaia Petrone *mezzo-soprano*

2009 **Lucia Conte** *soprano*

2010 *First Prize not awarded*

2011 **Choi Byung Hyuk** *baritone*

2012 **Annalisa Ferrarini** *soprano*

2013 **Roberta Mantegna** *soprano*

2014 **Maria Luisa Iacobellis** *soprano*

2015 *ex aequo*

Maria 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 *tenor*

Chiara Maria Fiorani *soprano*

2022 **Carmen Maria Bocale** *soprano*

2023 ex aequo

Oksana Pynchuk *soprano*

Juliette Chauvet-Kumpfel *soprano*

2024 **Francesca Loverso** *soprano*

2025 **Donatella De Luca** *soprano*