



COURSE
ANNOUNCEMENT

LA SCALA OPERA ACADEMY

BIENNIUM 2023/25

ACCADEMIA
TEATRO ALLA SCALA

— AT SCHOOL WITH LA SCALA —

The La Scala Academy provides thorough, in-depth training to professional figures involved in the performing arts through its **four departments**: Music, Dance, Stagecraft, Management. Its broad curriculum ranges from basic and core training courses to specialization courses and professional workshops.

The **highest level of instruction** is ensured by Teatro alla Scala professionals, acclaimed performers, and renowned experts in the performing arts.

The teaching method derives from the philosophy of ***learning by doing*** and prepares students for their future career through intense daily exposure to the performing arts in a real world context.

— FOUNDING PARTNERS —



WITH THE SUPPORT OF



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COURSE

The La Scala Opera Academy has a long and prestigious history. In 1946 the *“Scuola di perfezionamento per giovani artisti lirici”* [Advanced School for Young Opera Artists] was organized by then superintendent Antonio Ghiringhelli and Arturo Toscanini. After 1953 the school was better known as the *“Scuola dei Cadetti della Scala”*. The school has produced notable voices – suffice it to mention the names of Luis Alva and Paolo Montarsolo – and was given new vigor in 1997 as the *Accademia di perfezionamento per cantanti lirici* [La Scala Opera Academy] under the guidance of Carlo Fontana and Riccardo Muti, who entrusted artistic direction to **Leyla Gencer**. After the death of the great soprano, the place of honor has been occupied by artistic directors of the caliber of **Mirelli Freni** and **Renato Bruson**. Today it is **Luciana D’Intino** who holds the reins, accompanied by artists and instructors of unquestionable quality, all sharing the objective of guiding young singers who have a solid musical background to a professional career through a rigorous two-year program.

The intensive program couples daily study with frequent participation in small roles in Teatro alla Scala productions, as well as a title on the season program entrusted entirely to Academy students, the Academy Project. Over the course of their two years at the Academy, students thus have the regular opportunity to put themselves to the test on one of the world’s most prestigious stages in the company of world renowned performers, conductors, and directors, both in new and in historical productions. This participation in the La Scala season program, coupled with a rich performance schedule in Italy and abroad, makes this program like no other in the world. While it is true that role and repertory study in the classroom is critical for honing technique, actual performance on stage is essential not only for refining one’s interpretive skills but also for developing real world professional experience.

The course is free of charge and students are given a monthly stipend.

In the 2023-2025 biennium, Luciana D’Intino will conduct

lessons on vocal and interpretive technique, with role study entrusted to acclaimed opera coaches and piano accompanists such as Vincenzo Scalera, James Vaughan, Umberto Finazzi, and Michele D'Elia, and stage arts in the capable hands of Marina Bianchi.

Master classes will be held by Gregory Kunde, Michele Pertusi, Pietro Spagnoli and other well-known artists to be defined. They join an impressive list of artists who have enriched the student's preparation in the various editions of the Opera Academy, such as Luis Alva, Marcelo Álvarez, Teresa Berganza, Enzo Dara, Juan Diego Flórez, Christa Ludwig, Eva Mei, Giorgio Merighi, Leo Nucci, Ruggero Raimondi, Renata Scotto, Luciana Serra, and Shirley Verrett.

Among the directors who have staged new productions of the Academy Project we mention: Antonio Albanese (*Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali*), Woody Allen (*Gianni Schicchi*), Grischa Asagaroff (*Prima la musica, poi le parole*), Sven-Eric Bechtolf (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Irina Brook (*Il matrimonio segreto*), Liliana Cavani (*Ali Baba e i 40 ladroni*), Guido De Monticelli (*Ugo, conte di Parigi*), Damiano Michieletto (*La scala di seta*), Franco Ripa di Meana (*Ascanio in Alba*), Peter Stein (*Die Zauberflöte*).

And that is without counting historical productions staged by some of the world's most renowned opera directors: Jean-Pierre Ponnelle (*Il barbiere di Siviglia; L'Italiana in Algeri; L'occasione fa il ladro*), Franco Zeffirelli (*La bohème*), Giorgio Strehler (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Michael Hampe (*Così fan tutte*), Jonathan Miller (*Don Pasquale*), Pier Luigi Pizzi (*Un giorno di regno*), Pier'Alli (*Oberto, conte di San Bonifacio*), Gilbert Deflo (*Rigoletto*).

We must also mention productions staged in other theatres: *Nina, o sia la pazza per amore* and *Così fan tutte* at Teatro Strehler in Milan, *Parisina* and *Chiara e Serafina* at Teatro Donizetti in Bergamo, *Un giorno di regno* e *Cenerentola* at Teatro Filarmonico in Verona, *Falstaff* at Teatro Verdi in Busseto, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Teatro Valli in Reggio Emilia and at Teatro Comunale in Modena, *Falstaff* and *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Royal Opera House in Muscat (Oman), *Così fan tutte* at Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa.

Among the prestigious conductors leading the orchestra in both opera and symphonic repertoires, we mention Roberto Abbado, Marc Albrecht, Giovanni Antonini, Ottavio Dantone, Ádám Fischer, Fabio Luisi, Nicola Luisotti, Daniel Oren, Donato Renzetti, Christophe Rousset, Daniele Rustioni.



Photo: Anna Doris Capitelli

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

The Academy prepares young singers possessing notable artistic and vocal qualities for a professional career as opera singers with a solid and high level vocal, musical, theatrical, and cultural background.

-SHARED TALENT AND EXPERTISE-

The Artistic Director may authorize participants to take part in off-stage and stage rehearsals of operas on the Teatro alla Scala program and meet with orchestra conductors, directors, and performers who are guests of the theatre.

ARTISTIC ACTIVITY

The Artistic Direction of Teatro alla Scala will assess the option of assigning artistic contracts for roles or stand-ins for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 seasons. Also planned during the course are concerts with the orchestra or piano accompaniment, concert series in the Ridotto dei Palchi, tours in Italy and abroad, as well as the Academy Project (see COURSE, above) in 2024 and 2025.

At the end of the two-year program, Teatro alla Scala will have preemption rights for artistic contracts for productions in the season program for the following year.



Photo: Daniele Fontana

– CURRICULAR UNITS AND TEACHING STAFF –

Vocal and interpretive technique

Luciana D'Intino (Lead Instructor)

Master class

Barbara Frittoli, Gregory Kunde, Michele Pertusi, Pietro Spagnoli

Role study

Beatrice Benzi, Nelson Guido Calzi, Margherita Colombo, Michele D'Elia, Federica Falasconi, Umberto Finazzi, Jeong Un Kim, Paolo Spadaro Munitto, Vincenzo Scalera, James Vaughan

Stage arts

Marina Bianchi

Stage movement

Emanuela Tagliavia

Italian for foreigners

Alessia Benenti

French diction

Francine Garino

German diction

Reinhard Nill

Self-entrepreneurship *Performing arts professionals*

Specialized seminars on vocal chamber music, the lied repertoire, and the Baroque repertoire will be conducted during the two-year program. Thanks to a joint project with the Palazetto Bru Zane – Centre de musique romantique française, Opera Academy students will have the chance to deepen their knowledge of the French romantic repertoire.

The list of curricular units and teaching staff is subject to modification.

KEY POINTS



TEACHING STAFF

Course participants study with artists and performing arts professionals of the highest caliber.



TUTORING

The teaching coordinator and the tutor, key figures at the La Scala Academy, provide constant support to each participant, ensuring the best conditions for learning and valorizing the individual's specific program.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

To further increase the visibility already ensured by performance opportunities during the course, auditions with agents, conductors, and artistic directors of reputable theatres are organized during the two-year program for direct contact with the job market.



TEATRO ALLA SCALA

Over the course of the Biennium, Teatro alla Scala provides the opportunity to attend rehearsals and performances and assigns stage roles in titles on the season program based on each student's development.



Photo: Anna Sincini

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



COURSE LENGTH

24 months,
October 1, 2023
to September 30, 2025



HOURS PER YEAR

1,300 hours of study each
year.



LANGUAGE

The course is conducted in
Italian.

A course in Italian for
foreigners is included in
the curriculum according
to need.



ATTENDANCE

■ Attendance is full-time
and mandatory and thus not
compatible with other work
or study commitments.
Students missing 25% or
more of each year's lessons
will be expelled from the
program.

■ The Academy may grant
students a leave of absence
for artistic purposes for
a maximum of 30 days
per year if such leave
is compatible with the
Academy's own artistic
program and is deemed to
be of sufficient quality to
be warranted. Such leave is
granted exclusively at the
Academy's discretion; it is
not a student's right.



COURSE LOCATION

Accademia Teatro alla Scala

Via S. Marta 18, Milan

Teatro alla Scala

Via Filodrammatici 2, Milan

Sala Prove Visconti

Via Stendhal 28, Milan

Sala Prove Abanella

Via Bottelli 11, Milan

Applicants must pass a selection
process to be admitted to the
course.

APPLICANT PROFILE



- Age of at least eighteen and born after January 1, 1993;

- academic diploma in voice from a music conservatory or officially recognized institute of music. If studies were undertaken at a private school of music or with a private teacher, the director of the school or the teacher must issue, under his/her own responsibility, a statement attesting to the student's qualifications.



SELECTION PROCESS

As part of the application process, candidates must submit **a video of themselves performing two opera arias** (see Application Process, Point 3 – Attachments, below). The selection process for those whose videos are accepted will take place **July 12–17, 2023** and consist of three steps: **elimination round, semifinal round, final round**. Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

Candidates must prepare **six pieces taken from operas** (including the two pieces performed in the pre-selection video; pieces from operettas, zarzuelas, or oratorios will not be accepted)—**four in Italian and two in another language**—and two pieces from the chamber music and/or sacred music repertoires. The complete list of eight pieces must be submitted during the application process.

All pieces must be sung in their original language.

■ **Elimination round:** the candidate must perform two opera arias by heart, one chosen by the candidate and the other chosen by the Examining Committee from the list presented by the candidate. The Examining Committee reserves the right to limit the audition to a single piece.

■ **Semifinal round:** the candidate must perform by heart a piece of chamber music or sacred music and an opera aria, both of which will be chosen by the Examining Committee. Candidates who pass this stage will be asked to demonstrate their sight-reading ability and their stage abilities, and sit for a motivational interview.

■ **Final round:** the candidate will sing two opera pieces chosen by the Examining Committee.

The Examining Committee may opt to listen to all or only some of the required pieces and to limit the audition to a part of the proposed program.

The candidate must provide sheet music for the audition to be performed on piano by a piano accompanist provided by the La Scala Academy. The candidate may not bring their own piano accompanist.

Admission to the selection process is contingent upon accepting all provisions contained in this admissions announcement.

The Examining Committee will determine which candidates

are eligible for admission.

The Committee's decisions are final and uncontestable and the Academy will provide no explanations regarding the outcome of the selection process or non-admission to the course.

Those admitted to the course will begin with a trial period that ends on February 28, 2024. Those completing the trial period in good standing may consider themselves fully enrolled in the Academy.

There will be a selective exam at the end of the first year to determine which students are fit to continue their studies.

COSTS

The course itself is free of charge.

There is an application fee of **85 euros**, including VAT, to be paid online during the application process.

STIPEND

Each student admitted to the La Scala Opera Academy will receive a monthly stipend of **900 euros**, contingent upon effective attendance and limited to the months during which the course is offered.

The stipend is made possible thanks to contributions from a large group of patrons, including foundations, associations, businesses, individuals, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, which offers up to ten scholarships to foreign students as part of initiatives to promote cultural exchange, internationalization, Italian culture, and higher education.

HOW TO APPLY

You must apply on or before **May 19, 2023**.

Please follow the steps described below:

1

REGISTRATION ON THE ENROLLMENT PLATFORM

Go to <https://www.yaptracker.com/register-applicant> and register on the website (registration is free).

2

BEGIN APPLICATION PROCESS

Complete and submit the application using the system provided on www.yaptracker.com (<https://www.yaptracker.com/applications/teatro-alla-scala-academy-2023>).

3

ATTACHMENTS

The application must be submitted with the following attachments:

- scanned copy of identity document (national ID or passport);
- scanned copy of music and voice study certificates (see "Admission Requisites", above);
- two links to video recordings of the candidate performing

two opera arias (at least one must be in Italian; pieces from operettas, zarzuelas, or oratorios are not accepted) by different composers. The videos must be of amateur quality and unedited; professionally produced videos will not be accepted. The only requirements are clean sound and good visibility of the candidate. The Examining Committee will review the videos and other submitted documents and promptly provide eligible candidates with an invitation to the auditions (selection process) in Milan;

■ detailed CV, signed and dated and including the following statements at the end of the CV:

1. I, the undersigned, aware of criminal penalties provided in Article 76 of Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28, 2000 (D.P.R. 445/2000) in the case of false statements or acts, state, per Articles 46 and 47 of said Presidential Decree, that the content of this CV is true to the best of my knowledge;

2. Pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 196 of June 30, 2003 (D.Lgs. 196/2003 - "Privacy Law") and EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation), I hereby authorize processing of the personal data I have provided for the purposes of using my CV.

■ two recent digital photographs: one head and shoulders, the other full figure;

■ scanned copy of document certifying placement in the top three positions in national or international solo voice competitions (optional);

■ letters of reference from qualified music experts (optional).

The requested documents may be replaced by self-certifications. In this case the candidate accepts all penalties for false statements, including exclusion/expulsion from the Academy.

4

APPLICATION FEE

Pay the application fee of €85 (eighty-five euros), including VAT, by credit card.

5

NOTIFICATIONS

Candidates who pass the pre-selection process (see Point 3, third bullet point, above) will promptly be notified via email, inviting them to the selection process, **currently scheduled for July 12–17, 2023** at Accademia Teatro alla Scala, Via Santa Marta 18, or at Teatro alla Scala venues.

The Academy reserves the right to accept applications received after the deadline specified above. No applications will be accepted after the selection process has begun.

Candidates will be notified of the outcome of the selection process after the auditions have ended on the day of the final round. On or before September 30, 2023, students admitted to the course will receive instructions for completing their enrollment, which must be formalized on or before October 10, 2023.

FINAL CERTIFICATION

Students who complete the course with attendance of 75% or better will receive, during the Final Academy Concert, a diploma issued by the Academy.



ALUMNI

After completing the course, the student may join the community of **La Scala Academy Alumni**, a platform that provides former Academy students with a range of exclusive services: job offers, networking, ongoing training, mentorship, events, project incubator, as well as special rates and discounts.

Visit the website alumni.accademiascala.it

MEET THE STAFF



INFORMATION ON COURSE PROGRAM

Paola Cavani
Teaching coordinator

Antonio Olivieri
Tutor

infocorsi@accademiascala.it



OPEN DAY:

register at
bit.ly/OpenDayATS