



POLO NAZIONALE ARTISTICO

Alta Specializzazione



VERONA
ACCADEMIA
PER L'OPERA

1st COMPETITION - INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCE FOR THE MUSICAL THEATRE OF THE XXI CENTURY "OPERA FACTOR" FOR COMPOSERS AND LIBRETTISTS

The Polo Nazionale Artistico - Verona Accademia per l'Opera - in collaboration with the NED Ensemble, The Librettist and Edizioni SEDAM of Rome announces the 1st Competition-International Residence for the XXI Century Musical Theatre "OPERA FACTOR" reserved to composers and writers of opera and musical dramaturgy (hereinafter referred to as the "librettists") of all nationality\ies without age limits.

INTRODUCTION

In the recent decades, the Regietheatre and literary and musical experimentation - influenced as never before by technological progress and digital arts - together with the interdisciplinary nature of the art world, have encouraged the desclerotisation of classical musical theatre. Recent proof thereof is the award of the Leone d'Oro of The 58th International Art Exhibition of Venice 2019 at the opera-performance for thirteen voices "Sun & Sea (Marina)" realized by the Lithuanian Pavilion that certainly leads a reflection on the present etymological meaning of the word "opera", pushing the contemporary opera world to reconsider its positions and accelerate an international dialogue around the semantic metamorphosis and metonymy of the term.

In the light of these new dynamics and of the contemporary nature of social narratives, it seems of fundamental importance to support initiatives, implement projects and educational and innovative platforms that inspire, orient and finally promote the new generations of opera artists. While the survival of the musical theatre of the XXI century is necessarily linked to the academic and artistic offer, the Polo Nazionale Artistico Artistico - Verona Accademia per l'Opera - is institutionally committed to cultivating new talents and offering new artistic and cultural opportunities aimed at contributing to the development and contemporary international dialogue - historical, cultural and social - surrounding "opera".

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THE COMPETITION

The 1st International Competition for the Musical Theatre of the XXI Century "OPERA FACTOR" is a training and artistic promotion project aimed at supporting and producing three "low-budget" operas, in the form of musical theatre operas or artistic-musical performances. The competition is open both to teams - or author couples - consisting of a composer and a librettist, and to individual composers and librettists. For these latter, at the time of selection, it will be the Juries of the Competition to compose the teams - or authorship couples. Each team - selected and/or formed by the Juries - shall produce an opera work not exceeding a duration of 25 minutes. The works will then be performed.

REGULATION

ARTICLE 1

The competition is open to teams formed (at the time of submission of the application) by a composer and a librettist and to individual composers and librettists of all nationalities without age limits.

ARTICLE 2

Applicants must comply with the following procedures for filing the applications:

- **TEAM**

By team we mean an author couple formed by a composer and a librettist at the time of submission of the application for the Competition. The teams - or author couples - who wish to take part in the Competition will have to send a musical and dramaturgical idea, be it musical theatre operas or artistic-musical performances, of a maximum duration of 25 minutes, with an ensemble of three to six instruments chosen by the candidate among flute (also piccolo), Bb clarinet (also bass clarinet), piano, violin, viola and cello and two to four voices among soprano, tenor, baritone and reciting voice. Both the musical idea and the dramaturgical idea must be unpublished and original.

To participate in the Competition as a team you must submit the following documentation via DRIVE or DROPBOX and send the shared link of the folder(s) to info@veronaaccademiaopera.it :

1. Presentation of the project and the musical and dramaturgical idea in PDF (one page maximum). The musical and dramaturgical idea should exemplify the originality and compositional and dramaturgical experimentation of the project presented in relation to the artistic, social and political evolution of the operatic genre and musical theatre;
2. Synopsis of the text in PDF (one page maximum);
3. Dramaturgical fragment of the text in PDF (one page maximum). The librettos or texts can be written in Italian and English: for other languages a translation in Italian or English is required;

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4. Three scores for different groups in musical, vocal and instrumental theatre with presentation, synopsis and technical data sheet in PDF (preferably works created for or together with the librettist included in the team);
5. Recordings of the three compositions (preferably works created for or together with the librettist included in the team) in MP3;
6. PDF documentation of at least one work of dramaturgical character and one of dramaturgical and/or poetic character of the librettist (preferably works created for or together with the composer included in the team and/or musical theatre);
7. Participation form (ANNEX A) duly completed and signed by the composer and librettist in PDF;
8. Synthetic biography (one page maximum) and Curriculum Vitae of the composer in PDF;
9. Synthetic biography (one page maximum) and Curriculum Vitae of the librettist in PDF;
10. Declaration that the subject and the musical idea are unpublished and have never been selected or awarded in other competitions in PDF;
11. Receipt in PDF of the wire transfer of € 80.00 for each application submitted (see ART. 12 and 13). The surnames of the composer and the librettist must be indicated in the purpose of payment;
12. Present document duly signed by the composer and librettist in PDF;

Applications must be sent no later than 11.59 p.m. on 29 February 2020 (**deadline extended to 31 May 2020**).

Each team will be able to participate with more proposals (e.g. musical idea and subject and dramaturgical idea), making a separate submission for each of them (with related fee).

The team can choose to send the documentation in Italian or English.

- **COMPOSERS**

Individual candidates presenting themselves as composers will have to provide the background material necessary to assess the candidate's quality and professional relevance to the project.

To participate in the Competition as a composer you must submit the following documentation via DRIVE or DROPBOX and send the shared link of the folder(s) to info@veronaaccademiaopera.it :

1. Three scores for different groups in the field of musical, vocal and instrumental theatre with presentation, synopsis and technical data sheet in PDF;
2. Recordings of the three compositions in MP3;
3. Application form (ANNEX B) duly completed and signed in PDF;
4. Synthetic biography (one page maximum) and Curriculum Vitae in PDF;
5. Receipt in PDF of the wire transfer of € 50.00 for each application submitted (see ART. 12 and 13). The name and surname of the composer must be indicated in the purpose of payment;

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6. Present document duly signed by the composer in PDF;

Applications must be sent no later than 11.59 p.m. on 29 February 2020 (**deadline extended to 31 May 2020**).

Each composer may send only one application.

The composer can choose to send the documentation in Italian or English.

- **LIBRETTISTS**

Librettists are all those writers who are interested in opera, artistic-musical dramaturgy and musical and performative narration.

The candidate librettist shall send a subject having a maximum duration of 25 minutes and is thought between two and four voices between soprano, tenor, baritone and reciting voice. The subject must be unpublished and original.

To participate in the Competition as a librettist you must submit the following documentation via DRIVE or DROPBOX and send the shared link of the folder(s) to info@veronaaccademiaopera.it :

1. Presentation of the project and the dramaturgical idea in PDF (one page maximum). The dramaturgical idea should exemplify the originality and dramaturgical experimentation of the text in relation to both the direction of the librettist's work and development of aesthetics and the artistic, social and political evolution of the genre of operatic dramaturgy;
2. Synopsis of the text in PDF (one page maximum);
3. Dramaturgical fragment of the text in PDF (one page maximum). The librettos or texts can be written in Italian and English: for other languages a translation in Italian or English is required;
4. PDF documentation of at least one work of dramaturgical character and one of dramaturgical and/or poetic character (preferably musical theatre);
5. Application form (ANNEX C) duly completed and signed in PDF;
6. Synthetic biography (one page maximum) and Curriculum Vitae in PDF;
7. Declaration that the subject is original and has never been used for the writing of a libretto or any other dramaturgical text nor selected or awarded in other competitions in PDF;
8. Receipt in PDF of the wire transfer of € 50.00 for each application submitted (see ART. 12 and 13). The name and surname of the librettist must be indicated in the purpose of payment;
9. Present document duly signed by the librettist in PDF;

Applications must be sent no later than 11.59 p.m. on 29 February 2020 (**deadline extended to 31 May 2020**).

Each librettist will be able to participate with different proposals (e.g. subject and dramaturgical idea), submitting a separate application for each of them (with related fee).

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The librettist can choose to send the documentation in Italian or English.

ARTICLE 3

Candidates will have to ensure a dramaturgy that includes essential and low-budget staging. In the case of a performance, candidates must ensure minimalist (or interactive) stage development.

ARTICLE 4

A Facebook page related to the competition will be made available to facilitate knowledge among potential candidates, especially for individual artists who wish to form a team - or creative couple - before the application to the Competition is formalized.

ARTICLE 5

No replacement of selected team members will be possible after the application has been submitted.

ARTICLE 6

The Competition Management reserves the right to exclude selected candidates, if necessary, if they intentionally cause damage of any kind to the other participants and/or to the very image of the Competition or of the parties involved.

ARTICLE 7

The Competition is divided into the following phases:

Phase One - From 1 to 15 March 2020 (**extended: from 1 to 15 June 2020**).

In the first phase of the Competition, the Jury for the Composition and the Jury for the Librettist will select - and will form in the case of individual candidates - three teams composed of a composer and a librettist. The artists will be notified by the Competition Management, which will communicate the results and team by 15 March 2020 (**extended: 15 June 2020**). In the case of individual participations, the Juries will be in charge of connecting the composers and librettists of the new teams.

Phase Two - By 30 April 2020 (**extended: 31 July 2020**).

In the second phase, each team will have to start collaborating for the creation of a "low budget" opera work, be it a musical theatre opera or an artistic-musical performance, based on the original subject and dramaturgical/musical idea selected and lasting a maximum of 25 minutes. The librettos can be written in Italian and English: for other languages a translation in Italian or English is required. The teams will be joined, during the development phase of the project, by a tutor for the composition and a tutor for librettos identified by the President of the Jury for Composition, Andrea Mannucci and the President of the Jury for the Librettist, Fabrizio Funari respectively. During the second phase, the tutors will schedule with the teams a workshop session via Skype or, should logistics allow it, live, where the project will be discussed, the timing and dynamics of the libretto and the composition. The librettists must send

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a complete first draft (to which, at the composer's and librettist's discretion, changes may be made in the next phase) of the libretto by 30 April 2020 (**extended: 31 July 2020**).

Phase Three - By 15 July 2020 (**extended: 15 October 2020**).

During the third phase, each work will be assigned a director - selected by the Competition Management within the Verona Accademia per l'Opera - who will be responsible for the "low-budget" staging of the operas. Also at this stage the Competition Management will identify the singers.

On this occasion, the tutors will schedule two workshops with the teams via Skype or, should logistics allow it, live. In the first session, the composition and the libretto will be discussed, while during the second session - in which the directors will also be present - the staging will be discussed. Composers must send the complete score - including libretto and instrumental parts - in PDF format no later than 31 July 2020 (**extended: 31 October 2020**).

Final Phase - By Autumn 2020 (**extended: 2021**).

In the final phase, the operas will be staged and performed. After the execution, the two Juries will choose the winning work amongst the three.

ARTICLE 8

The Jury for the composition of the 1st International Competition for XXI Century Musical Theatre "OPERA FACTOR" will be exclusively composed by Andrea Mannucci (President of the Jury), composer and Artistic Director NED Ensemble, Giampaolo Testoni, composer, Carlo Galante, composer, and Federico Zandonà, composer and Director of the Conservatorio "E. F. Dall'Abaco" of Verona.

The Jury for the librettist of the 1st International Competition for XXI Century Musical Theatre "OPERA FACTOR" will be exclusively composed by Fabrizio Funari (President of the Jury), librettist, playwright and Artistic Director of "The Librettist", Giuliano Corti, librettist and dramaturgy and screenplay teacher, Sergio Casesi, musician and playwright, Valentina Colonna, poetess and musician, Massimiliano Farau, director, playwright and acting teacher at the Accademia Nazionale d'Arte Drammatica Silvio D'Amico and Maestro Francesco Cilluffo, conductor and composer.

ARTICLE 9

For the selection of candidates, the Juries will observe the following procedure:

- In the first phase the Jury for the composition and the Jury for the librettist shall select three individual candidate composers (ART. 2, b)) and librettists (ART. 2, c)) - respectively - together with three candidate teams (ART. 2, a)). The applications of the candidate teams will be selected using the criteria listed below, in order of importance:

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- Originality of the musical and/or dramaturgical idea (including synopsis)
- Dramaturgical and/or musical fragment
- Cultural interest
- Previous work (portfolio)
- Curricula Vitae

The applications of the candidate composers will be selected using the criteria listed below, in order of importance:

- Previous work (portfolio)
- Curricula Vitae

The applications of the candidate librettists will be selected using the criteria listed below, in order of importance:

- Originality of the dramaturgical idea (including synopsis)
- Dramaturgical fragment
- Cultural interest
- Previous work (portfolio)
- Curricula Vitae

- In the second phase, the Juries will form three additional teams, associating to each of the three composers one of the three librettists, selected according to the above-mentioned criteria. The new teams will be formed using the criteria listed below, in order of importance:

- Affinity of the composer's portfolio and the dramaturgical idea of the librettist
- Affinity of the composer's portfolio and the dramaturgical fragment of the librettist
- Artistic affinity of artists (CV and previous works)

- In the third and final phase, the Juries vote for the six teams, selecting the three finalists. The vote of each juror has the same weight and in case of a tie, the Presidents of Juries will evaluate and decide.

ARTICLE 10

After the Final Show, the Juries will vote the winning team among the three finalists. The vote of each juror will have the same weight and in case of a tie, the Presidents of Juries will evaluate and decide. No ex-aequo prizes will be allowed.

The judgement of the Juries is undisputable and unquestionable.

The team nominated by the Juries as winner after the Final Show will receive a cash prize of € 1,000.00 (one thousand euros) and the publication of the work by Edizioni SEDAM of Rome.

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ARTICLE 11

The results will be published on the website of the Polo Nazionale Artistico - Verona Accademia per l'Opera - and the teams will be notified by the Competition Management.

ARTICLE 12

To participate in the Competition, each team will have to pay an entry fee of € 80.00 (eighty euros) while each individual candidate - whether composer or librettist - will have to pay an entry fee of € 50.00 (fifty euros) by bank transfer made in the name of the composer or librettist:

Bank: BANCO POPOLARE SOC. COOP. (Headquarters in Verona)

Account Holder: Verona Accademia per l'Opera Italiana

IBAN: IT81 K 05034 11750 000000 165871

SWIFT/BIC: BAPPIT21001

Purpose of payment: "Opera Factor"

In addition to the indicated purpose of payment, it is mandatory to indicate the surnames of the candidates, as far as teams are concerned, or the first and last name of the individual composer or librettist. All bank charges are to be borne by the person making the transfer. The entry fee is non-refundable, unless the Competition is cancelled due to force majeure.

ARTICLE 13

All candidates will be contacted by 15 March 2020 at the latest to be informed of any successful selection. Each of the selected candidates - who will form three teams - will have to confirm their presence by paying a fee of € 50.00 (fifty euros) by bank transfer:

Bank: BANCO POPOLARE SOC. COOP. (Headquarters in Verona)

Account Holder: Verona Accademia per l'Opera Italiana

IBAN: IT81 K 05034 11750 000000 165871

SWIFT/BIC: BAPPIT21001

Purpose of payment: "Opera Factor"

In addition to the indicated purpose of payment, it is obligatory to indicate first and last name. All bank charges are to be borne by the person making the transfer. The selection fee will not be refunded.

ARTICLE 14

Competitors accept these regulations in all its parts, unconditionally and in full; competitors will not have anything to claim about articles, press releases, broadcast on the web, and any other provision implemented by the Management for the diffusion of the Competition.

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ARTICLE 15

The Competition Management reserves the right to modify these regulations at any time. The text of the regulation in Italian is to be used as legal reference. The competent court in the event of disputes is Verona.

For any information and for further clarification please contact:

info@veronaaccademiaopera.it

Read and accepted,

Place and date: _____

For the candidate(s) (insert both signatures)

In faith

SIGNATURE

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