



# 59<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION VOCI VERDIANE CITTÀ DI BUSSETO CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF CARLO BERGONZI

## SELECTION

**Parma** (IT), Fondazione Arturo Toscanini and Teatro Regio di Parma  
**Milano** (IT), Conservatorio di musica Giuseppe Verdi  
**Palermo** (IT), Teatro Massimo | **Vienna** (AT), Volskoper Wien  
**Sofia** (BG), Sofia Opera and Ballet | **Valencia** (ES), Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia  
**Buenos Aires** (AG), Teatro Colón | **Batumi** (GE), Batumi State Music Centre

## COMPETITION

Busseto, 8 – 15 September 2023

## WINNERS' CONCERT

Roncole Verdi, Busseto (IT), 16 September 2023

## Honorary President

Stefano Nevicati – Major of Busseto

## Director of the Competition

Alberto Triola – General Manager and Artistic Director of the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini

## JURY

Teatro alla Scala, Milano (IT)  
Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia (ES)  
Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires (AR)  
Sofia Opera and Ballet, Sofia (BG)  
Fondazione Arturo Toscanini, Parma (IT)  
Fondazione Teatro Regio di Parma, Parma (IT)

Wang Chuanyue, representative of the Voci Verdiane Competition – China,  
and Stefano Nevicati, Mayor of Busseto, will also be part of the Jury

## SPECIAL COMMISSION

(present at the Final only)

Superintendents and Artistic Directors of Italian Opera Foundations, Opera Houses and Italian Festivals

# GUIDELINES

## 1. PLACE AND DATE

The 59th Voci Verdiane Competition will take place in Busseto (IT), at the Teatro Giuseppe Verdi, from the 8th to the 15th September 2023. On the 16th September the winners will perform in the Winners' Concert in Roncole Verdi, in Giuseppe Verdi childhood home.

**1.1** The Competition is divided into two phases:

Selection, which will follow the rules set by these guidelines.

Competition: This involves the elimination phase, semi-final, and final.

The final is divided into two rounds:

- Final-Stage: dramatic presentation/stage rehearsals on one of the chosen arias for the test. During this phase the jury will assess the candidate's inclinations and aptitude from an acting and scenic perspective.
- Final-Concert: with the orchestra.

## 2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Competition is open to all candidates whose age is between 18 and 35 years for the tenor and soprano ranges, 38 for mezzo, contralto, baritone, and bass, by the 31st December 2023.

### Accessibility

The competition is open to singers of all genres and nationalities, without any discriminatory constraint.

The competition undertakes to guarantee full accessibility also to candidates with physical, sensory and/or cognitive disabilities, who are invited to indicate their specific needs in the registration form, in the section dedicated to Accessibility.

Candidates with 100% disabilities with appropriate certification will be entitled to a 50% reduction on the enrolment fee.

## 3. ENROLLING FOR SELECTION

**3.1** Enrolment for the selection phase of the Competition must be submitted online by the deadline specified in point 4, via the QR code/link indicated in these guidelines. Candidates must also send:

- artist bio in Italian and English, no longer than 2000 characters spaces included;
- copy of valid ID (identity card or passport);
- copy of the receipt of the payment of the fee.

**3.2** Incomplete or late submissions will not be taken into consideration. The Competition Organisation Secretary Office is not responsible for technological glitches which may impede the reception of the registration form by the specified time and in the means hereby illustrated.

**3.3** Enrolments are open from 10 April 2023.

## 4. SELECTION AND ADMISSION TO THE COMPETITION

Each candidate may choose one of the two selection procedures to receive admission to the competition:

**4.1** Selection by means of video recording to move on to the elimination phase.

The candidate must provide links to video recordings of two operatic arias (complete with recitative and cabaletta, where available), one of which must be by Giuseppe Verdi.

Each video recording must comprise of one aria only.

The recordings must each have the following characteristics:

- the title of the file should be: surname and name of the candidate, and the titles of the arias;
- they should last no longer than 15 minutes;
- the candidate should be seen frontally, and they must be completely visible.

**The deadline for submissions for the selection via video recording is the 30 May 2023.**

The judging panel will be made up of two representatives of the Artistic Direction of the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini and the Teatro Regio di Parma.



## 6. ADMITTED CANDIDATES

**6.1.** At the elimination phase on 8 September 2023 at the place and date which will be communicated to the e-mail address indicated in the registration form. The Competition Organisation Secretary Office is not responsible for technical problems in reaching the sender at the indicated address, or for any issues which may impede reception of communications sent. Absence upon convocation will be interpreted as resignation.

At the semi-final on 11 September 2023 at the Teatro Giuseppe Verdi in Busseto (PR), at the time which will be communicated to the e-mail address indicated in the registration form. The Competition Organisation Secretary Office is not responsible for the impossibility to reach the sender at the indicated address, or for cases of technological issues which may impede reception of communication. Absence upon convocation will be interpreted as resignation.

**6.2** Candidates in need of a visa for their stay in Italy must indicate so in the registration form, specifying the details of the Consulate or Embassy to which the request will be forwarded. The Competition Organisation Secretary Office will send an invitation letter which the candidate can show to the institution. All candidates admitted to the competition must comply with the current Italian immigration laws for the entire duration of their sojourn in Italy.

## 7. SELECTION COMMITTEE, JUDGING PANEL, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE

### 7.1 Selection phase: Committee

Selections by means of video recordings: 2 members of the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini and/or of the Fondazione Teatro Regio di Parma, and 1 member of the artistic direction of the hosting theatre.

Selections by means of a live audition: 2 members of the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini and/or of the Fondazione Teatro Regio di Parma, and 1 member of the artistic direction of the hosting theatre.

### 7.2 Competition

Elimination phase: 3 members of the artistic direction of the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini/ Fondazione Teatro Regio di Parma.

#### Semi-finals and Final: Judging panel and Special committee

The Judging panel of the Competition at the semi-finals will be made up of 7 members: a selection of 6 General Managers and Artistic Directors of international theatres, 1 President selected amongst the top singers of Verdi's repertoire.

The **Judging panel** will assign the first **three cash prizes**. Each member of the Judging panel at the beginning of the Competition will issue a declaration stating they have no family or affinity relations with any of the participants. The members of the Jury who have or have had over the previous two years any educational relationships with any of the participants will abstain from voting. This abstention will be recorded in the minutes of the Competition.

The direction of the Competition, in agreement with the President of the Judging panel, may call new members to join the Judging panel, should the designated ones not be able to be present due to the above mentioned circumstances.

**Special committee:** composed of General Managers and Artistic Directors of Italian opera houses and festivals. The special committee will be present only for the final concert on the 15 September 2023, and may award any finalist with individual artistic contract, regardless of the final classification. The contracts will be announced to the audience during the award ceremony.

The decision of the Competition Judging panel is final.

## 8. PROGRAMME, CALENDAR AND STEPS

**8.1** The candidates must prepare the 5 arias indicated in their registration form, of which at least 3 must be by Giuseppe Verdi, chosen amongst those listed at point 10 of the present guidelines. They must be in the original language and key, and complete with recitative and cabaletta where available (repetition of the cabaletta is optional). The candidates must bring their own scores, and provide one for the collaborative pianist.

### 8.2 Calendar

After the selection phase, the Competition will follow the calendar below::

#### Competition

Elimination phase: 8, 9, 10 September 2023

Semi-final: 11, 12 September 2023

Final-Stage: 13 September 2023

Final-Concert: 15 September 2023

Musical and orchestral rehearsals, including with the orchestra for the Final Concert, will take place on the 14 September 2023.

On the 16 September the winners will perform in concert in Roncole Verdi, in the Giuseppe Verdi childhood home.

### **8.3 Development and programme for the Competition:**

#### **Elimination phase**

**8, 9, 10 September 2023 Teatro Giuseppe Verdi - Busseto**

During the elimination phase the candidates will perform two arias: one by Giuseppe Verdi of their own choice, and a second one chosen by the Judging panel.

#### **Semi-final**

**11, 12 September 2023 Teatro Giuseppe Verdi - Busseto**

During the semi-final test the candidate will perform one or more arias chosen by the Judging panel among the ones indicated in the chosen programme.

During the elimination and semi-final, the candidate will be accompanied by the collaborative pianist provided by the Competition Direction, or by their own pianist, indicated during the enrolment phase and undertaking the entirety of their expenses.

#### **Final**

**Finale-Stage**

**13 September 2023, Teatro Giuseppe Verdi - Busseto**

The finalists will have 30 minutes to stage, following the indications of a director designated by the Competition Direction, one of the three arias by Giuseppe Verdi chosen and communicated by the Judging panel, after the selection of the finalists (12 September), among the ones presented; the staging test will take place before the Judging panel who will assess the aptitude, the interaction with the director, and the talent for the acting.

During this Final-Stage the finalists will be accompanied at the piano, and they may decide not to sing in full voice during the direction phase. At the end of every rehearsal the aria under consideration will be performed in full voice. The Final-Stage may include extras, stage props and costumes.

The designated director will provide the Judging panel with their own assessment of the finalists' tests, which the Judging panel will take into account.

**Final-Concert**

**15 September 2023, Piazza Giuseppe Verdi - Busseto**

Each finalist will perform an aria by Giuseppe Verdi, chosen and communicated by the Judging panel, after selecting the finalists (12 September), amongst the ones presented. The finalists will be accompanied by the Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini. The Competition Direction will choose the conductor.

On 14 September 2023 the finalists will be summoned for the music rehearsal with the conductor, and the rehearsal with the orchestra. These two rehearsals are not part of the Competition examination tests.

The Final Concert will take place on the 15 September 2023 in a time T.B.C., in Piazza Verdi in Busseto. In case of bad weather it will take place inside the Teatro Verdi.

The Semi-Final and the Final will be open to the public.

#### **Winners' concert**

**16 September 2023, Roncole Verdi, in Giuseppe Verdi childhood home.**

The top three winners, and other possible finalists indicated by the Judging panel, accompanied at the piano, will alternate in a music programme which will be defined by the Competition Direction.

**8.4** The candidates admitted to the Competition will perform, divided by vocal register, in alphabetical order, starting from the lowest register and from the surname starting in A. This order will be maintained throughout the Competition. The candidates will receive via e-mail time and location details to the rounds they will take part in.

Candidates are expected to be punctual throughout the Competition. Any impediment or delay must be communicated immediately to the Competition Organising Secretary Office.

The Competition Direction, after consulting with the Judging panel, reserves all rights over the assessment of such cases, and their decision is final.

**8.5** At the end of each Competition session, the names of those admitted to the following phase will be published on the dedicated roster. The evaluation of the Final-Stage and Final-Concerto will be expressed with a mathematical calculation (points in hundreds) resulting from the average of the votes given by the individual members of the Judging panel.

## 9. PRIZES

9.1 The Judging panel of the Competition will appoint the following prizes:

1st Prize – 8000 euros

2nd Prize - 5000 euros

3rd Prize – 3.000 euros

gross of withholding taxes.

**Artistic engagements:** the Special Committee, who will be present only during the Final Concert, may award individual artistic engagements to any finalist regardless of the final classification. The assigned engagements will be announced to the audience during the award ceremony.

9.3 The winners, Semi-finalists, and Finalists may also be engaged in operatic performances, concerts, or other events in the programmes of the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini season, of the Teatro Regio di Parma, and in the artistic activities programmed by the Comune di Busseto.

9.4 The Judging panel may decide not to assign prizes at all. Special mentions and prizes may be made assigned.

## 10. VERDI REPERTOIRE

As indicated by the present guidelines, candidates admitted to the competition, must prepare five opera arias, of which at least three by Giuseppe Verdi exclusively chosen amongst those listed below. If one of the arias by Giuseppe Verdi chosen by the candidate should not be listed below, the Competition Secretary Office will request a substitution. The arias must be performed in the original language and key, complete with recitative and cabaletta where available (repetition of the cabaletta is optional).

Any variation in the programme must be communicated by the 31 July 2023

### SOPRANO

AIDA

Ritorna vincitor!

O cieli azzurri

AROLDO

Salvami tu, gran Dio!

Ah! dagli scanni eterei

ATTILA

Allor che i forti corrono

Oh! nel fuggente nuvolo

DON CARLOS\*

O ma chere compagne

Toi qui sus le neant des grandeurs...

ERNANI

Ernani!... Ernani, involami

FALSTAFF

Sul fil d'un soffio etesio

GIOVANNA D'ARCO

Sempre all'alba ed alla sera

O fatidica foresta

IL CORSARO

Non so le tetre immagini

Vola talor dal carcere

I DUE FOSCARI

Tu al cui sguardo

Più non vive!... l'innocente

I LOMBARDI ALLA PRIMA CROCIATA

Salve, Maria

Se vano è il pregare

Non fu sogno!

I MASNADIERI

Tu del mio Carlo al seno

Lo sguardo avea degli angeli

IL TROVATORE

Tacea la notte placida

D'amor sull'ali rosee

LES VEPRES SICILIENNE\*

Ami ! Le coeur d'Hélène

Merci, jeunes amies

LA FORZA DEL DESTINO

Madre, pietosa Vergine

Pace, pace, mio Dio!

Me pellegrina ed orfana

LA TRAVIATA

Ah, fors'è lui

Addio del passato

LUISA MILLER

Tu puniscimi, o Signore

Lo vidi, e 'l primo palpito

MACBETH

Vieni, t'affretta

La luce langue

Una macchia è qui tuttora

NABUCCO

Anch'io dischiuso un giorno

Su me morente esanime

OBERTO CONTE DI SAN BONIFACIO

Sotto il paterno tetto

Sciagurata! A questo lido

OTELLO

Mia madre aveva una povera ancella...

Ave Maria

RIGOLETTO

Caro nome

Tutte le feste al tempio

SIMON BOCCANEGRA

Come in quest'ora bruna

UN BALLO IN MASCHERA

Ecco l'orrido campo

Morrò, ma prima in grazia

Volta la terrea fronte

Saper vorreste

UN GIORNO DI REGNO

Grave a core innamorato

Si mostri a chi l'adora

### MEZZO/ALTO

AIDA

Ohimè, morir mi sento

DON CARLOS\*

Chanson du Voile: Au palais des fees

Ah! Je ne verrai plus la Reine... O don

fatal et deteste

IL TROVATORE

Stride la vampa!

Condotta ell'era in ceppi

LA FORZA DEL DESTINO

Al suon del tamburo

Rataplan, rataplan, rataplan

MESSA DA REQUIEM

Liber scriptus proferetur

NABUCCO  
Oh dischiuso è il firmamento!  
OBERTO CONTE DI SAN BONIFACIO  
Oh, chi torna l'ardente pensiero  
UN BALLO IN MASCHERA  
Re dell'abisso, affrettati  
UN GIORNO DI REGNO  
Non san quant'io nel petto

## TENOR

AIDA  
Celeste Aida  
AROLDO  
Sotto il sol di Siria ardente  
ATTILA  
Ella in poter del barbaro!  
UN BALLO IN MASCHERA  
La rivedrà nell'estasi  
Di' tu se fedele il flutto m'aspetta  
Ma se m'è forza perdeti  
LA BATTAGLIA DI LEGNANO  
La pia materna mano  
IL CORSARO  
Tutto pareva sorridere  
DON CARLOS\*  
Je l'ai vue  
I DUE FOSCARI  
Dal più remoto esilio  
ERNANI  
Come rugiada al cespite  
FALSTAFF  
Dal labbro il canto estasiato  
LA FORZA DEL DESTINO  
Oh tu che in seno agl'angeli  
UN GIORNO DI REGNO  
Pietoso al lungo pianto  
GIOVANNA D'ARCO  
Sotto una quercia parvemi  
I LOMBARDI ALLA PRIMA CROCIATA  
La mia letizia infondere  
In cielo benedetto  
LUISA MILLER  
Quando le sere, al placido  
MACBETH  
Ah, la paterna mano  
I MASNADIERI  
O mio castel paterno  
MESSA DA REQUIEM  
Ingemisco  
OBERTO CONTE DI SAN BONIFACIO  
Son fra voi! Già sorto è il giorno  
Ciel, che feci!

OTELLO  
Dio! mi potevi scagliar tutti i mali  
Ora e per sempre addio  
Niun mi tema  
RIGOLETTO  
Questa o quella  
Parmi veder le lagrime  
La donna è mobile  
SIMON BOCCANEGRA  
Sento avvampar nell'anima  
LA TRAVIATA  
De' miei bollenti spiriti  
IL TROVATORE  
Ah sì, ben mio

## BARITON

ATTILA  
Dagl'immortali vertici  
UN BALLO IN MASCHERA  
Alla vita che t'arride  
Eri tu che macchiavi  
LA BATTAGLIA DI LEGNANO  
Se al nuovo di pugnando  
IL CORSARO  
Cento leggiadre vergini  
DON CARLOS\*  
Carlos, ecoute... Ah! Je meurs l'ame  
joyeuse  
ERNANI  
Oh de' verd'anni miei  
FALSTAFF  
L'onore! Ladri!  
È sogno? O realtà...  
Ehi! Taverniere! Mondo ladro  
GIOVANNA D'ARCO  
Speme al vecchio era una figlia  
I LOMBARDI ALLA PRIMA CROCIATA  
Sciagurata! hai tu creduto  
Ma quando un suon terribile  
I DUE FOSCARI  
O vecchio cor, che batti  
Questa dunque è l'iniqua Mercede  
LA FORZA DEL DESTINO  
Urna fatale del mio destino  
Toh, poffare il mondo!  
LUISA MILLER  
Sacra la scelta è d'un consorte  
MACBETH  
Pietà, rispetto, amore  
I MASNADIERI  
La sua lampada vitale  
Pareami che sorto da lauto convito

NABUCCO  
Dio di Giuda  
OTELLO  
Credo in un Dio crudel  
SIMON BOCCANEGRA  
M'ardon le tempia  
STIFFELIO  
Ei fuggel... Lina, pensai che un angelo  
RIGOLETTO  
Pari siamo!  
Cortigiani, vil razza dannata  
LA TRAVIATA  
Di Provenza il mar, il suol  
IL TROVATORE  
Il balen del suo sorriso  
LES VEPRES SICILIENNE\*  
Oui, je fus bien coupable... Au sein de la  
puissance

## BASS

ATTILA  
Mentre gonfiarsi l'anima  
DON CARLOS\*  
Elle ne m'aime pas!  
ERNANI  
Infelice, e tuo credevi  
I LOMBARDI ALLA PRIMA CROCIATA  
Sciagurata! hai tu creduto  
Ma quando un suon terribile  
LUISA MILLER  
Il mio sangue, la vita darei  
MACBETH  
Come dal ciel precipita  
MESSA DA REQUIEM  
Confutatis maledictis  
NABUCCO  
Sperate, o figli!  
Tu sul labbro de' veggenti  
OBERTO CONTE DI SAN BONIFACIO  
L'orror del tradimento  
SIMON BOCCANEGRA  
Il lacerato spirito  
IL TROVATORE  
Di due figli vivea padre beato  
LES VEPRES SICILIENNE\*  
Palerme, o mon pays... Et toi, Palerme

\* alternatively, the Italian version is admitted

## 11. AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

The Comune di Busseto and the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini have/reserve the right to record all phases of the Competition and the winner's Concert. The participants, by signing the registration form, agree to hand over all rights to the Comune di Busseto and the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini, including economic utilisation of said recordings.

## 12. COMPETITION CANCELLATION

Should the competition be cancelled due to extenuating circumstance, all registrations will be cancelled and fees will be reimbursed in full. This decision is final.

## 13. VALIDITY OF THE GUIDELINES

The present guidelines are published in Italian and English. The Italian guidelines have official and legal validity. In case of any controversy the Court in Parma has competence

## INFORMATION

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