

LA SCALA ACADEMY OF LYRIC OPERA | A.Y. 2025/2027



AT SCHOOL WITH LA SCALA

The La Scala Academy provides thorough, in-depth training to the various 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 advanced courses, Level 1 and 2 AFAM (advanced training in art, music, and dance) university-level academic diploma programs, Level 1 master courses, workshops, and summer programs. The highest level of instruction is ensured by Teatro alla Scala professionals, acclaimed performers, and prominent experts in the performing arts. The teaching method derives from the philosophy of learning by doing and prepares students for their future career through intensive daily exposure to the performing arts in a real-world context.



Ph: Noemi Ardesi

FOUNDING PARTNERS



THE COURSE

Founded by Riccardo Muti in 1997 under the artistic direction of Leyla Gencer (later succeeded by Mirella Freni and then Renato Bruson), the **La Scala Academy of Lyric Opera** carries forward the legacy of the "Cadetti della Scala" school established in 1950 by Arturo Toscanini to preserve and transmit the Italian operatic tradition to new generations. The Academy prepares young opera singers with a solid background in voice and music for a professional career, honing their technical and interpretive skills in a two-year program. This is possible thanks to a teaching staff of the highest caliber who is able to transmit its own experience on stage to the emerging opera singers. First and foremost, we mention lead instructor Luciana D'Intino, who teaches vocal and interpretive technique. She is supported by the opera coaches Vincenzo Scalera, Umberto Finazzi, James Vaughan, Michele D'Elia for role study, and by the stage director Marina Bianchi, who teaches stage arts. The lessons, which include study of Italian for non-Italian speakers, are complemented with the participation of soloists in productions on the Teatro alla Scala season program in the company of performers, conductors, and directors of absolute renown. Master classes held over the years by such luminaries as Luis Alva, Marcelo Álvarez, Teresa Berganza, Enzo Dara, Juan Diego Flórez, Barbara Frittoli, Gregory Kunde, Christa Ludwig, Eva Mei, Giorgio Merighi, Leo Nucci, Michele Pertusi, Gianni Raimondi, Ruggero Raimondi, Renata Scotto, Luciana Serra, Pietro Spagnoli and Shirley Verrett further enrich the educational experience.

An important aspect of the course since the first year it was offered, soloists are given numerous opportunities to perform on stage before an audience in Italy and abroad in an intensive program of concerts and operas. Another major pillar in the Academy program is the yearly Academy Project, an opera produced by Teatro alla Scala but entirely entrusted to the Academy students, a regular feature on the season program since the year 2000. A very broad repertoire has accumulated over the years with works by Salieri, Mozart, Cimarosa, Cherubini, Rossini, Donizetti, Verdi, Humperdinck, Puccini and Rota: *Prima la musica e poi le parole*, *Ascanio in Alba*, *Così fan tutte*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Il matrimonio segreto*, *Ali Babà e i 40 ladroni*, *L'occasione fa il ladro*,

L'Italiana in Algeri, *La scala di seta*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Ugo, conte di Parigi*, *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali*, *Don Pasquale*, *Un giorno di regno*, *Oberto, conte di San Bonifacio*, *Rigoletto*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *La bohème*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Il cappello di paglia di Firenze*. Another important initiative was introduced in the 2014-2015 season, when Teatro alla Scala inaugurated its "Great Performances for Children" with Rossini's *La Cenerentola* in a version adapted to children. The program acquaints a younger audience with opera by presenting some of the most famous titles in the repertoire specially adapted to a school-age audience and performed by Academy musicians and soloists. Other titles performed over the years include *Il flauto magico*, *Il ratto dal serraglio*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *L'elisir d'amore*. In 2022/2023 Academy students began working on a new production, an opera for children specifically commissioned by Teatro alla Scala: *Il piccolo principe* by Pierangelo Valtinoni with libretto by Paolo Madron based on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *Le Petit Prince*. It then followed Benjamin Britten's *The Little Sweep*. In 2025 *Anna A.* will take place, a new title by Silvia Colasanti with libretto by Paolo Nori. The stages of prestigious theatres in Italy and the world are now graced by the talents of former Academy students, including the sopranos Serena Farnocchia, Carmen Giannattasio, Chiara Isotton, Anja Kampe, Irina Lungu, Nino Machaidze, Sae Kyung Rim, Pretty Yende, Federica Lombardi, Fatma Said and Francesca Pia Vitale; the mezzo-sopranos Anna-Doris Capitelli, Caterina Piva, Anita Rachvelishvili, Nino Surguladze, Chiara Tirota and Aya Wakizono; the contralto Sonia Prina; the tenors Francesco Castoro, Giuseppe Filianoti, Leonardo Cortellazzi, Azer Zada, Giovanni Sala, and Chuan Wang; the baritones Fabio Capitanucci, Massimo Cavalletti, Guido Loconsolo, Christian Senn, Vincenzo Taormina and Mikheil Kiria; and the basses Simon Lim and Jong Min Park. The young artists have performed in numerous countries: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, the Emirates, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Japan, Korea, Norway, Oman, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sri Lanka and the United States. The biennium 2025-2027 will feature master classes with Gregory Kunde and Barbara Frittoli, and other artists still to be chosen.

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.

ARTISTIC LIFE

The Artistic Direction of Teatro alla Scala will assess the option of assigning artistic contracts for roles or stand-ins for the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 seasons. For some candidates admitted to the course it will also be possible to be called upon to participate in artistic productions as early as August 2025.

Also planned during the course are concerts with the orchestra or piano accompaniment, concert series in the Ridotto dei Palchi of Teatro alla Scala, tours in Italy and abroad, as well as the "Academy Project" in 2026 and 2027, an opera included in the Teatro alla Scala program.

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.



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.

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.

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.



Ph: Lorenzo Gorini

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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



COURSE LENGTH

24 months

October 1, 2025 to
September 30, 2027



LOCATION

Accademia Teatro alla Scala
Via S. Marta, 18
20123 Milan

Teatro alla Scala
Via Filodrammatici, 2
20121 Milan

Visconti Rehearsal Room
Via Stendhal, 28
20144 Milan



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.



HOURS PER YEAR

1300 hours
of study each year

APPLICANT PROFILE



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Born as of January 1, 1995

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.



COSTS

A person with red hair, wearing a large red ruff collar and a black coat with white pom-poms, holds a red and purple umbrella. They are standing on a blue, textured surface against a black background. A small red object is on the ground to the right.

The fee for participation in the selection process is **€ 90 including VAT**, which will be paid online when you apply. Payment may be made with principal credit/debit cards. The course is free of charge.

Ph: Annachiara Di Stefano

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for the selection process from **November 4, 2024 to April 9, 2025**.

Please follow the steps described below:

①

ENROLLMENT PLATFORM LOGIN OR REGISTRATION

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

Complete and submit the application using the system provided on www.yaptracker.com

②

ATTACHMENTS

The application must be submitted with the following documents:

◆ A detailed, signed CV ending with the following statements:

1. I, the undersigned, aware of criminal penalties provided in Article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28, 2000 (D.P.R. 445/2000) in the case of false statements and acts, declare, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of said Presidential Decree, that all information contained in this CV is truthful

2. I authorize processing of the personal data I have provided for the purposes inherent to using my CV per Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 (D.Lgs. 196/2003) and the European General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679)

◆ Scanned copy of identity document (national ID or passport)

◆ Scanned copy of music and voice study certificates (see "Admission Requirements" above)

◆ 2 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 live auditions (selection process) in Milan

◆ 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.

Candidates residing abroad must submit the requested documents with an Italian or English translation.

The Academy reserves the exclusive right to accept applications submitted after the above deadlines but before the beginning of the selection process.

③

APPLICATION FEE

You will be asked to pay a fee of € 90 (including VAT) to apply to the selection process. Payment may be made by credit or debit card. The payment must be made online during the application process (do not close the page and attempt to pay elsewhere).

NOTIFICATIONS

Candidates who pass the pre-selection process will promptly receive via email an invitation to the selection process, currently scheduled for **June 16–22, 2025** at Accademia Teatro alla Scala, Via Santa Marta 18, and Teatro alla Scala's rooms in Via Filodrammatici, 2 and Via Stendhal, 28.

The selection process in Milan consists of three steps: **elimination round, semifinal round and final round**.

Candidates must prepare 6 pieces taken from operas (pieces from operettas, zarzuelas, or oratorios will NOT be accepted) – 4 in Italian and 2 in another language – and 2 pieces from the songs and/or sacred music repertoires. Candidates must include the two pieces performed in the video recordings.

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 songs 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 cannot bring his/her 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.

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, 2025 students admitted to the course will receive instructions for completing their enrollment, which must be formalized on or before October 10, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Applicants who pass the selection process and are not residents of an EU member state must submit the legally required documentation for extra-communitarians by the Italian Public Security Authorities on or before the day the lessons begin (application for residence permit for reasons of study [permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio]).

FINAL CERTIFICATION

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

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



Ph: Annachiara Di Stefano

MEET THE STAFF

◆
Paola Cavani
Teaching coordinator

◆
Teodora Costanza Alberti
Course Tutor

infocorsi@accademiascala.it

◆
OPEN DAY

Register at
bit.ly/OpenDayATS

For information on the application process: Giovanna Coletta - Teaching Office.

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