

**12<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL OPERA SINGING COMPETITION OF PORTOFINO**  
**Competition Announcement**  
**Portofino 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026**



Concorso Lirico  
Internazionale  
di Portofino

The Associazione Musicale Giovanni Bottesini is pleased to announce the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the **International Opera Singing Competition of Portofino**, under the artistic direction of Francesco Daniel Donati and the chairmanship of the jury by M<sup>o</sup> Dominique Meyer.

The Competition will take place in Portofino and Camogli (Genoa – Italy) from July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 26<sup>th</sup> 2026.

## Jury

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- Dominique Meyer: President of the Teatro Sociale in Como, Executive Director of the Orchestre de Chambre in Lausanne (**President of the Jury**)
- Gianni Tangucci: (**Head of CLIP pre-selections**)
- Markus Hollop: Casting & Artistic Production Officer, Grand Théâtre de Genève
- Federico Pupo: Artistic Director, Teatro Carlo Felice, Genoa
- Andrés Rodríguez: Opera Director of Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires
- Cristiano Sandri: Artistic Director, Teatro Regio, Turin
- Carolin Wielpütz: Director of Artistic Administration, Theater an der Wien

In case of a tie in voting, the Jury President may exercise the right of double voting.

The vote of the Jury is final and unappealable.

## Prizes

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CLIP wishes to ensure that the financial commitment required of admitted singers does not prevent them from participating in the Competition. For this reason, **all admitted candidates** (those who pass the pre-selections) who attend the live auditions in Portofino, will receive a **scholarship of €500 (five hundred)**.

Please note: if you fail to attend the auditions, the scholarship will not be awarded.

- \*First Prize: **€ 10.000** (ten thousand)
- \*Second Prize: **€ 5.000** (five thousand)
- \*Third Prize: **€ 2.500** (two thousand five hundred)
- \*Under 25 Award dedicated to Luca Targetti\*\*: **€ 3.000** (three thousand)
- \*Italian Singer Award: **€ 1.500** (fifteen hundred)
- \*Female Voice Award: **€ 1.500** (fifteen hundred)
- \*Emerging Tenor Award: **€ 1.500** (fifteen hundred)
- \*Emerging Bass Award: **€ 1.500** (fifteen hundred)
- \*Emotion Prize - Audience Award: **€ 1.500** (fifteen hundred)

- \*Eva Kleinitz Scholarships: amount to be determined
- \*Beckwith Foundation Scholarships: amount to be determined
- \*Additional cash prizes and scholarships may be offered by sponsors.

In case of ex-aequo, the prize money will be divided according to the number of winners

\* Prizes will be paid by bank transfer by the organisation. Any taxes required by the Italian State will be charged to the competitor. Any transaction costs required by the competitor's bank will be borne by the competitor. The 80% of the prize will be paid by the organisation within 60 days of the final of the competition. The remaining 20% will be settled within 15 days from the performance of a concert that may be requested by the Associazione Bottesini in the 12 months following the conclusion of the Competition. The concert will be without cachet, but all travel and accommodation expenses for the rehearsals and the concert will be reimbursed. If the winner does not attend the requested concert for any reason, he/she will lose the right to receive the missing 20% of the prize. If the Associazione Bottesini does not request the winner to perform the concert, the remaining portion of the prize will still be paid within 12 months of the conclusion of the competition.

\*\* Prize reserved for candidates born after 26 July 2001, which will be awarded to the best under 25 who manages to reach at least the semi-finals. Should the prize winner not have access to the finals, he or she may be invited to perform at the final concert on July 26 in the square of Portofino at the discretion of the Jury.

### Special Prizes

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- Contracts and auditions with the theatres that are represented by the judges to be decided
- Possible scholarships and contracts with academies and music institutions.

### Admission requirements

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The competition is open to opera singers of all vocal registers and all nationalities. Contestants must be between 18 and 30 years of age and more precisely be born between **July 27, 1995** and **July 21, 2008**. Only basses will be allowed to enter with an age between 18 and 32 years and more precisely to be born between **July 27, 1993** and **July 21, 2008**.

## Registration

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### a. Registration for pre-selections

By 4:00 p.m. (CET) on April 17, 2026, each candidate must complete the application form (found under “Application” at [www.portofinoclip.it](http://www.portofinoclip.it)). **After this deadline, the application form will no longer be available.** Registration must include:

- The entry form completed in its entirety;
- a photocopy of identity Card or passport;
- a recent photography;
- a brief curriculum vitae (in Italian or English of up to 2 pages);
- 2 video of performances displaying opera arias. The videos must be uploaded on YouTube (no WeTransfer). Videos must be about live performances in which the singer is clearly seen (no still image);
- a scanned copy of the receipt showing the payment of **30,00 euros** (thirty/00) by bank transfer as a pre-selection fee. The entrant must pay any transmission costs. Payment can be made by bank transfer to the current account of the Associazione Musicale Giovanni Bottesini:

**BANCA PASSADORE - PORTOFINO**  
**IBAN: IT47Q033323210000002811821 SWIFT/BIC: PASBITGG**

indicating “pre - selection fee CLIP 2026”, followed by the name and surname of the candidate. Any transaction costs shall be borne by the competitor. If you prefer to pay via PayPal the fee is **€ 31,50** (thirtyone/50) and you can do it from the link DONAZIONE in the homepage of the website [www.portofinoclip.it](http://www.portofinoclip.it) or [www.associazionebottesini.com](http://www.associazionebottesini.com)

All of the above documentation must be received digitized, completed in its entirety and complete with all attachments, via online form, **no later than 4:00 p.m. (CET) on April 17, 2026.**

Please note: **under no circumstances will pre-selection fees be refunded.**

The registration submitted cannot be modified.

The pre-selections will be conducted by Maestro Gianni Tangucci, together with the competition management.

The secretariat will publish on social media (facebook and instagram) the names of the candidates who have passed the pre-selection, and **will only contact the admitted candidates by e-mail.**

-----**ONLY IF YOU PASS THE PRE-SELECTIONS**-----

**b. Registration for the competition is reserved for admitted singers.**

Admitted candidates will have 10 days after notification to fill out an online form that will be provided by the Secretariat together with the admission notification email. The form must include a list of the **six arias** taken from the opera repertoire that the candidate intends to perform in the Competition. The six arias must be in their original language and complete with recitative and/or cabaletta, where provided for, and must be in at least **two different languages, with a minimum of three arias in Italian.**

Please note: The music program, once submitted, **cannot be changed.**

A copy of the bank transfer payment (using the same bank details used to send the pre-selection fee. See above.) of €120.00 (one hundred and twenty/00) as the registration fee must be submitted via the form. The reason for payment must include the words “CLIP 2026 registration fee” followed by the candidate's first and last name. If you wish to pay by PayPal, the payment must be €126.00 (one hundred and twenty-six/00) and can be made by clicking on the DONATION button on the homepage of the websites [www.portofinoclip.it](http://www.portofinoclip.it) or [www.associazionebottesini.com](http://www.associazionebottesini.com).

Please note: **under no circumstances will registration fees be refunded.**

**Failure to pay and complete the form within the aforementioned deadlines will result in the candidate's exclusion from the competition.**

## **Program**

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All candidates admitted must present **six arias, taken from the opera repertoire**, in their original language and complete with recitative and/or cabaletta, where provided for. The six arias must be in at least two different languages, and at least three must be in Italian. Candidates admitted must bring with them all the vocal/piano arrangements of the pieces indicated in the programme presented. **All arias in each phase of the competition must be performed from memory.**

The Bottesini Association provides three accompanying pianists for all singers, and **it will not be possible to be accompanied by one's own pianist.**

Each candidate will have the opportunity to prepare for the competition auditions by rehearsing with the pianists made available by the organisation at the times communicated by the Secretariat on the occasion of the official convocations. The pairing with the pianist will be determined by the Secretariat and no changes can be requested.

The competition will be organised as follows:

- Rehearsals with pianist: Tuesday, July 21 (morning and afternoon) at the Teatrino di Portofino;

- Elimination Round: Wednesday, July 22 (morning and afternoon) at the Teatrino di Portofino. Each candidate is required to present two arias of their choice, accompanied by piano. The jury will decide during the audition whether to request one aria or both. At the end of the day, the semi-finalists and the arias chosen by the jury for the semi-final will be announced by email. For each candidate, two arias will be chosen from those indicated in their musical program at the time of registration.
- Semi-final: Thursday, July 23 at the Teatrino di Portofino. At the end of the day, the Jury will announce the finalists, who will receive by email the musical program requested during the final on Friday, July 24 and during the award concert on Sunday, July 26. For each candidate, the Jury will choose arias from those indicated in their Musical Program during registration.
- Finals: Friday 24 July (time to be confirmed) at the Teatro Sociale in Camogli (GE). Each candidate will perform two arias, chosen by the Jury, from the six arias indicated in the submitted programme. At the end of the final, the judges will proceed to the voting but the winners will be announced on the evening of Sunday 26 July at the end of the finalists' concert with orchestra.
- Rehearsals with the Orchestra of the Fondazione Carlo Felice di Genova conducted by Maestro Marco Alibrando: rehearsals for the winners' concert will take place on Saturday 25 July at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa. Further information on the organisation of the rehearsals will be provided by the Competition Secretariat.
- Concert of finalists: Sunday 26 July at 21.00. The concert will take place at the Piazza di Portofino (Piazza Martiri dell'Olivetta) with the Orchestra del Teatro Carlo Felice di Genova conducted by Maestro Marco Alibrando.

**All finalists must be present at 7 p.m. on 26 July at the Piazza di Portofino (Piazza Martiri dell'Olivetta) for the rehearsal and sound-check.**

In the event of **failure to attend** the rehearsals with the Orchestra on Saturday 25 and/or the final rehearsal and soundcheck on Sunday 26, the Jury and Direction reserve the right **not to award any prize** and/or to **exclude the candidate from participating in the finalists' concert**.

**All finalists and the winner of the Under 25 Award (if invited by the Jury) are required to attend the concert on 26 July, otherwise the award will be revoked.**

### **Final points**

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Candidates waive all remuneration and grant authorisation free of charge for any recordings or broadcasts by public or private radio or television organisations. In addition, candidates must make themselves available for any concerts planned as a result of the competition.

It is up to the jury to make decisions for anything not stipulated in the regulations.