

The Association "Il Villaggio della Musica"
under the patronage
of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome
announces the

25th INTERNATIONAL LYRIC COMPETITION "OTTAVIO ZIINO"

25TH INTERNATIONAL LYRIC COMPETITION



ROME - 18 TO 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

Con il patrocinio di



ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE
DI SANTA CECILIA

AUDITORIUM PARCO DELLA MUSICA

—> SALA SINOPOLI <—

JURY PRESIDENT M° MASSIMO BISCARDI

Art. 1 – Eligibility Requirements

Countertenors, sopranos, tenors, mezzo-sopranos, contraltos, baritones, and basses of any nationality may participate, provided that by the application deadline they are at least 18 years old and were born on or after January 1, 1993.

Candidates who have won one of the first three prizes in the last three editions of the competition are not eligible.

Each candidate must indicate in the application form six (6) opera arias, to be performed in their original key and language. Arias must include recitative and cabaletta where applicable. At least two of the selected arias must be in Italian.

The following genres are not permitted: lieder, zarzuelas, operettas, chamber music, sacred music, and symphonic repertoire.

Art. 2 – Application Procedure and Required Documents

Applications must be completed and submitted exclusively via the online platform on the website www.clioz.net by:

June 30, 2026 (video submission mode)

Arias may be modified on the platform until the application deadline.

Applicants must upload the following documents:

- Copy of a valid ID showing date of birth and residence
- Artistic CV in Word format (max 1 page), including a passport-style photo
- A recent head-and-shoulders photograph
- Proof of payment of the application fee, payable to:
Associazione “Il Villaggio della Musica ETS” (include candidate’s name in the reason for payment)

Bank details:

Bank: BPER – Banca Popolare dell’Emilia Romagna

IBAN: IT96I0538703247000049402046

Account name: Associazione Il Villaggio della Musica ETS

BIC/SWIFT (for international transfers): BPMOIT22XXX

Application fee:

- €100 via bank transfer (bank charges at applicant’s expense),
OR
- €110 via PayPal or Stripe using the “Donation” button

Applications will NOT be considered if, by the deadline, the online form and required documents have not been properly submitted.

Candidates are responsible for verifying the correctness of their application, video links, recording compliance (years 2025–2026), and audio/video quality.

Candidates requiring a visa for Italy must contact the Competition Secretariat by email to obtain an invitation letter.

Except as stated in Art. 4, no expense reimbursement is provided. Application fees are non-refundable unless the competition is cancelled due to the organizers.

Art. 3 – Competition Structure

The competition consists of three rounds: **Preselection, Semifinal, and Final**

Preselection

Conducted online through submission of:

- Two (2) opera aria videos (no WeTransfer), recorded in 2025–2026
- At least one aria in Italian
- Piano or orchestra accompaniment only (no recorded backing tracks)

Videos must be high quality, with proper acoustics, clear framing, and suitable settings. Non-compliant videos will NOT be considered.

The jury may request resubmission if necessary.

The list of semifinalists will be published by **July 19, 2026**.

Semifinalists may modify their program by **August 31, 2026**, except for the two arias submitted in preselection.

The running order will be alphabetical, starting from the letter “B.”

Semifinal – September 18–19, 2026

Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome – Italy

Candidates must perform two (2) arias of their choice (not previously performed), lasting 10–13 minutes total.

Selected arias must be communicated by August 31, 2026 via email.

Absent candidates are disqualified unless justified.

Advancement is decided by majority vote of the jury.

Final – September 20, 2026

Sala Sinopoli, Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome – Italy

Each finalist performs one or two arias with piano accompaniment, selected by the jury.

Each juror submits a ranking; the final ranking is determined by the sum of positions assigned.

Prizes are awarded according to final ranking.

The jury's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

In case of a tie, prizes will be equally divided.

Art. 4 – Expense Reimbursement

All semifinalists will receive a reimbursement of the application fee (€100), paid in cash after their semifinal performance.

Those who do not attend the semifinal in Rome are not eligible.

Finalists who do not win one of the top three prizes may receive reimbursement of documented travel and accommodation expenses up to €400.

Art. 5 – Jury and Prizes

The jury will consist of internationally renowned professionals (intendents, artistic directors, casting managers, etc.).

The full list will be published on www.cloz.net.

Prizes include monetary, artistic, and special awards.

Cash prizes are subject to applicable taxes and will be paid by December 31, 2026.

Art. 6 – Pianists

Official accompanists will be provided free of charge.

Art. 7 – Release

The Association reserves the right to record and broadcast all phases of the competition (video, audio, internet, TV, radio, streaming) without compensation to participants.

Participation implies consent for the use of image and voice for promotional and broadcast purposes.

Art. 8 – Insurance

The Association holds liability insurance for the semifinal and final phases but is not responsible for additional risks or damages.

Art. 9 – Amendments

The organizers reserve the right to modify the regulations if necessary.

Art. 10 – Jurisdiction

Any disputes fall under the jurisdiction of the Court of Rome. The Italian version of the regulations is legally binding.

Art. 11 – Acceptance

Submitting an application implies full acceptance of all rules.

All finalists receive an “Honor Diploma”; other participants may request a certificate of participation.

Art. 12 – Personal Data

In accordance with EU Regulation 679/2016, personal data will be used exclusively for communication related to the Association. Applicants may access, update, or request deletion of their data.