



INTERNATIONAL OPERA COMPETITION “BERNARDO DE MURO”

The Bernardo De Muro Foundation, with the aim of promoting and supporting young talents in the field of international opera singing and of honoring the legacy of the great Sardinian tenor Bernardo De Muro, hereby announces the International Opera Competition “Bernardo De Muro”, which will take place from May 26 to May 29, 2026.

Art. 1 – Purpose of the Competition

The Competition aims to:

- Identify and support young opera singers of outstanding talent;
- Encourage the launch and development of international artistic careers;
- Create opportunities for meetings between young performers and artistic directors, general managers, agents, and professionals in the opera and symphonic sector;
- Promote Italian musical heritage and the historical figure of Bernardo De Muro in an international context.

Art. 2 – Eligibility

The Competition is open to opera singers of all nationalities and genders who, as of May 26, 2026, have not reached 35 years of age.

(The age limit may be modified at the discretion of the Competition’s Artistic Direction.)

Art. 3 – Structure of the Competition

The Competition consists of the following stages:

a) Preliminary Selection

Candidates may choose to participate by:

Video submission

Submitting two video recordings of opera arias performed in 2024, 2025, or 2026, at least one of which must be in Italian.

- Arias must be performed with piano or orchestral accompaniment only. Pre-recorded backing tracks are not permitted.
- Videos must be of high quality and high resolution, with stable framing, appropriate camera angle, clear acoustics, and recorded in venues suitable from both an aesthetic and acoustic perspective.

- Recordings that do not meet these requirements will not be considered. The Organisation reserves the right to request compliant material.

OR – Live audition

Preliminary auditions will take place between March and April 2026 in selected major European cities with a strong operatic and musical tradition, chosen according to artistic and logistical criteria.

Dates and venues will be published on:

www.fondazionebernardodemuro.it

Candidates must present two arias of their choice, one of which must be in Italian.

The Jury reserves the right to interrupt the performance at any time or to hear only one of the arias presented.

Candidates must bring a valid identification document and copies of the scores.

The Organisation reserves the right to modify dates and venues of the preliminary rounds, with timely notice through official Competition channels.

At the conclusion of the preliminary stage, an Artistic Committee appointed by the Organisation will select the candidates admitted to the Final Rounds.

FINAL ROUNDS

The Final Rounds will take place from 26 to 29 May 2026 and will include:

- **Elimination Round:** 26–27 May 2026 – Conference Centre, Porto Cervo
- **Semi-final:** 28 May 2026 – Teatro del Carmine, Tempio Pausania
- **Final:** 29 May 2026 – Teatro del Carmine, Tempio Pausania

The detailed schedule will be communicated in advance to admitted candidates.

The list of candidates admitted to the Final Rounds will be published by 10 May 2026.

Art. 4 – Repertoire (Final Rounds)

Each candidate must submit a repertoire of at least six opera arias, in their original language, from different styles and historical periods, at least three of which must be in Italian.

All arias must be performed from memory.

The repertoire list must be submitted with the application and may not be modified thereafter unless authorised by the Artistic Direction.

Elimination Round

Candidates shall perform two arias of their choice (selected from the six submitted), one of which must be in Italian.

The Jury reserves the right to interrupt the performance or to hear only one aria.

Candidates must bring valid identification and copies of the scores.

Semi-final

Candidates admitted to the Semi-final shall perform two additional arias selected from the submitted repertoire and not performed in the Elimination Round, for a maximum total duration of 10 minutes.

Final

Candidates shall perform one and/or two arias with piano accompaniment, selected by the Jury from the submitted repertoire.

Art. 5 – Jury

The Jury will consist of internationally renowned opera professionals.

1. Peter Katona- Director of Casting at The Royal Opera House Covent Garden, London.
2. Jonathan Friend - Artistic Advisor to the Irish National Opera in Dublin, Casting Consultant to the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm, Casting Consultant to the Houston Grand Opera
3. Sebastian Schwarz – casting manager del Teatro alla Scala Milano
4. Robert Körner- Director of Casting - Staatsoper Wien
5. Tobias Hasan- Artistic Director of the Staatsoper unter der Linden Berlin
6. Roberto Mauro- Artistic Director of the Canadian Opera Company - Toronto
7. Isla Mundell-Perkins - casting consultant to the Australia Opera e artistic admistration Opera North (UK)
8. Gianluca Macheda – Director and General Manager della GM Art & Music

The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Art. 6 – Prizes

The Competition awards cash prizes, the exact amounts of which may be further detailed in the implementing regulations, including:

- **First Prize “Bernardo De Muro”:** €8,000
- **Second Prize:** €5,000
- **Third Prize:** €3,000

The Organisation reserves the right to award additional prizes totalling €4,000.

The Jury may also grant:

- Special Prizes;
- Scholarships;
- Artistic engagements (opera roles and/or concert appearances), at the sole discretion of the Jury members within their respective programming.

Art. 7 – Musical Accompaniment

Piano accompaniment will be provided by the Organization.

Candidates may bring their own accompanist upon prior notice, at no additional cost to the Organization.

Art. 8 – Application

Applications must be submitted between 9 March and 30 April 2026 to:

segreteriaconcorso@fondazionebernardodemuro.it

Applicants must submit the completed application form together with:

1. Copy of passport or valid ID
2. One passport-size photograph and one full-length photograph
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Proof of payment of the €100 non-refundable application fee payable to Fondazione “Bernardo De Muro”, including:
 - Payment reference: FULL NAME – INTERNATIONAL OPERA SINGING COMPETITION “BERNARDO DE MURO”
 - IBAN (Italy and abroad): IT33J0306909606100000075473
 - BIC: BCITITMM
5. Programme (Aria – Opera – Composer)
6. Audio/video material (mp3 file or YouTube link)

Incomplete applications may not be accepted.

The Competition Secretariat will provide logistical information (hotel agreements, reference airports, local transfers, etc.).

Art. 9 – Audio and Video Recording Rights

The Organization reserves the right to make audio and video recordings of auditions and concerts for documentation, promotional, and cultural purposes, without compensation to participants.

Art. 10 – Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in the Competition implies full and unconditional acceptance of these Rules and any subsequent implementing provisions.

Art. 11 – Jurisdiction

Any dispute shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Court of Tempio Pausania.

Art. 12 – Processing of Personal Data

Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of personal data (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), the Bernardo De Muro Foundation hereby informs that the data provided in the application form will be stored and processed exclusively by the Foundation.

In accordance with the aforementioned Regulation, the data subject has the right to access, update, rectify, erase their personal data, or to object to its processing, as provided by law.