



Edizione 2026

ASSOCIAZIONE XXI SECOLO
presents

XIV CONCORSO
INTERNAZIONALE DI CANTO
LIRICO
“FAUSTO RICCI”
OCTOBER 8-II 2026

COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Art. 1 - General Requirements

1. The Competition is open to all Italian and international singers of both sexes who, at the date of the competition:
 - a) have reached the age of 18 and were born after January 1, 1994 (soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor) or after January 1, 1992 (contralto, baritone, bass) for the EMERGING VOICES category;
 - b) have reached the age of 18 and were born after January 1, 1976 for the OPERA ROLES category.
2. In the first phase, candidates must submit, together with the application form, a link to one recent high-quality video of an operatic aria of their choice, performed within the last two years (2025–2026), accompanied exclusively by piano or orchestra (no recorded backing tracks). The link must provide access to videos hosted on public storage services (such as Vimeo, YouTube, etc.) or private storage services (such as Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.). Audio or video files attached directly to the application will not be considered.
3. Candidates admitted to the in-person rounds are required to submit, together with a second application form:
 - a) a copy of a valid identity document;
 - b) a certificate of studies completed at a music institution, or a declaration from a private teacher.
4. The documentation under point 3 may be submitted as a self-declaration.

Art. 2 - Categories

1. The Competition offers two categories of prizes:
 - a) EMERGING VOICES – with the award of 3 prizes in the form of scholarships.
 - b) OPERA ROLES – with the assignment of the following roles from Giacomo Puccini's *Suor Angelica*: Suor Angelica (soprano), Suor Genovieffa (soprano), La Zia Principessa (contralto), La Badessa (mezzo-soprano). The opera will be produced for the 6th edition of the Operætruria Festival under the musical direction of Fabrizio Bastianini. Candidates applying for opera roles must have the complete opera memorized, without cuts.

Art. 3 - Application and Registration Fee

1. Applications must be submitted online by September 20, 2026, via the registration form titled “Iscrizione Premio Fausto Ricci 2026”, available on the Competition website at www.xxisecolo.org/faustoricci.
2. The application must be accompanied by a registration fee of €20.00 (twenty euros) per candidate, payable via PayPal through the institutional website.
3. Candidates selected for the in-person audition rounds at the Teatro dell’Unione in Viterbo must pay an additional fee by September 30, 2026, using the same payment method as the first phase:
 - a) €80.00 (eighty euros) for a single category entry;
 - b) €100.00 (one hundred euros) for entry in both categories.
4. For further information:
 - a) Phone: (+39) 347.5607720 – English: (+39) 324.8638041 – Fax: (+39) 0761.365281
 - b) Email: premiericci@gmail.com
 - c) Website: www.xxisecolo.org/faustoricci
5. The Competition Direction will disregard applications that are:
 - a) missing any of the required documentation referred to in Article 1;
 - b) received after the submission deadline;
 - c) not accompanied by the required registration fee(s).
6. In the event of non-participation, the secretariat is under no obligation to refund the registration fee(s), except in the case of Competition cancellation or documented inability to travel to Italy due to health-related restrictions.

Art. 4 - Required Repertoire (In-Person Rounds)

1. Candidates admitted to the in-person rounds in both categories must prepare five operatic arias of their own choice — which may include arias from the competition opera — to be performed in the original language, including recitatives and cabalettas where applicable.
2. Preliminary Round (October 8–9, 2026): the candidate will perform one aria of their own choice from the five submitted. Candidates entered in both categories will nonetheless perform only one aria. The jury reserves the right to request a second aria from the submitted list.
3. Semi-Final Round (October 10, 2026), at the jury’s discretion:
 - a) Emerging Voices: one or more arias from the submitted list;

- b) Opera Roles: excerpts from the competition opera — arias, duets, trios or other ensembles, including with other candidates. The opera must be performed without cuts.
4. Following the Semi-Final, the jury may elect to announce the winners of the Opera Roles category. Should they do so, the winning candidates are required — under penalty of disqualification and forfeiture of prize — to be available for a possible performance the following day during the Final, either as soloists or in ensemble numbers, unless the candidate has also been admitted to the Final in the Emerging Voices category.
5. Final Round (October 11, 2026, 5:00 PM): repertoire selection will be at the jury's discretion, within the limits of the candidate's submitted program.
6. Throughout all rounds, candidates may be asked to perform more than once at the jury's request.
7. The jury reserves the right to interrupt a performance at any time.

Art. 5 - Accompanists

1. Candidates may use the official competition accompanists provided by the organization. They are also free to bring their own accompanist at their own expense. This choice must be communicated at the time of registration.
2. Should health-related restrictions prevent candidates from using their own accompanists, the Artistic Direction of the Competition will make the official accompanists available at no additional cost.

Art. 6 - Rounds Schedule

1. Candidates must present themselves in Viterbo on the assigned day and at the designated venue, to be communicated by phone or email, for the standard procedural formalities.
2. For the Semi-Final round, candidates must present themselves in Viterbo on the assigned day and at the designated venue, to be communicated by phone or email. The performance order for the Final round will be determined by the jury
3. The in-person Preliminary Rounds will begin on Thursday, October 8, 2026, from the communicated start time, and will continue throughout the day.
4. Candidates advance to subsequent rounds upon receiving a pass verdict.

5. Pass/fail decisions in the Preliminary and Semi-Final rounds are made by majority vote of the adjudicating panel.
6. The Final Concert is scheduled for Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 5:00 PM, during a public concert.
7. At the conclusion of the Final, the winners of both the Emerging Voices and Opera Roles categories will be announced. The presence of all prize-winners from both categories is mandatory.

Art. 7 - Adjudicating Panel

1. The adjudicating panel will be composed of distinguished figures from the operatic and musical world, including representatives of the participating theatres and institutions.
2. The President of the jury will be Ernesto Palacio.
3. In the pre-screening and preliminary rounds, the panel may consist of a reduced number of members, who may differ from those presiding over subsequent rounds.
4. The total number of jurors is subject to change before or during the competition.

Art. 8 - Judging Criteria

1. In the pre-screening and first selection round, the jury's assessment will consist solely of a pass or fail verdict for admission to the next round.
2. In the Semi-Final and Final rounds, scores will be expressed as arithmetic averages of individual jury members' marks, excluding the highest and lowest scores assigned.
3. Marks are given on a scale of 1 to 10.
4. Jury deliberations are held in closed session. In the event of a tie, the President's vote is decisive.
5. All jury decisions are final and non-appealable. Feedback requests may be addressed directly to jury members present at the conclusion of the Final.
6. The jury reserves the right to withhold one or more prizes.

Art. 9 - Prizes

1. The winners will receive the following prizes:
 - a) Emerging Voices:
 - 1st place: €2,000.00 (two thousand euros);
 - 2nd place: €1,000.00 (one thousand euros);

- 3rd place: €500.00 (five hundred euros);
 - possible auditions with theatres and institutions represented by jury members, as well as additional prizes and performance contracts offered by the same.
- b) Opera Roles:
- Artistic contract for the competition opera as specified in Article 2. Associazione XXI Secolo reserves the right to confirm, replace in whole or in part the cast and artistic personnel for any additional performances scheduled outside the Opera/Etruria circuit.
2. All prizes are subject to the disbursement of relevant funding contributions from the sponsoring bodies, the availability of all participating institutions, and the concrete feasibility of the related productions.

Art. 10 - Artistic Prizes

1. All prize-winners may be invited to perform in additional concerts organized by the Premio Fausto Ricci during the 2026/2027 season.

Art. 11 - Audio-Visual Recording and Broadcasting

1. Associazione XXI Secolo reserves the right to have all phases of the Competition recorded, filmed, and broadcast on radio or television, in whole or in part, without payment of fees to any performer.
2. By entering the Competition, candidates waive any rights to the use or exploitation of radio and/or television recordings of their performances, and of the transmission or reproduction of any pieces performed. They further authorize the organization to make audio, video and photographic recordings at any stage of the Competition and to use such recordings at its sole discretion, including for promotional purposes.

Art. 12 - Special Admissions

1. The jury may modify the dates and times described above if this is beneficial to candidates or otherwise necessary. In particular, should the number of entries require additional audition days, the jury may decide to reschedule the various rounds accordingly.
2. The Premio Fausto Ricci is affiliated, through a formal partnership agreement, with the Concorso Mattia Battistini of Rieti: finalists of that competition may gain direct access to the Semi-Final of the present

competition, subject to approval by the Artistic Director of the Premio Ricci.

3. The Competition organizers, with the advisory input of one or more jury members, reserve the right — at their sole and unappealable discretion — to:
 - a) admit late applications, provided the delay has been adequately justified;
 - b) exceptionally admit candidates whose age does not conform, whether above or below, to the competition age limits, where artistic merits warrant such a decision.

Art. 13 - Disclaimer

1. Associazione XXI Secolo accepts no responsibility for events of force majeure or failures attributable to third parties.

Art. 14 - Accommodation

1. Upon request, candidates will be provided with a list of partner establishments offering discounted rates for accommodation and dining, subject to availability.

Art. 15 - Artistic Commitment

1. Upon admission, all candidates undertake to sign a document of engagement which, in the event of winning, shall bind them for the entire rehearsal period and all subsequent performances.
2. With regard to artistic services, both during the rehearsal period and in the course of performances, the provisions of the applicable national collective agreement shall apply, together with the specific contractual and artistic requirements of the theatres or equivalent institutions for which the performances will take place. Candidates who fail to fulfil their contractual obligations will be required to pay a penalty equal to twice the agreed fee.

Art. 16 - Official Language

1. The Italian-language text of these Regulations constitutes the sole legally binding version.

Art. 17 - Jurisdiction

1. Any disputes shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Viterbo.

Art. 18 - Privacy

1. Pursuant to EU Regulation 679/2016 on the protection of personal data, Associazione XXI Secolo di Viterbo informs candidates that the personal data provided in the registration form will be stored and used exclusively for the purpose of sending information relating to the Association. In accordance with the aforementioned Regulation, data subjects retain the right to access, update, delete and rectify their personal data, or to object to its use.

The President of Associazione XXI Secolo di Viterbo Avv. Giuliano Nisi