XI INTERNATIONAL VOCAL COMPETITION
Maria Malibran
OPERA – BAROQUE – CLASSICAL NEAPOLITAN SONG – YOUNG VOICES

Naples, November 10–11–12–13–14–15, 2026

COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT AND REGULATIONS
The Maria Malibran Association hereby announces the 11th Edition of the Maria Malibran International Vocal Competition, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of different vocal categories and repertoires.

Article 1 – General Information
The Competition is open to all opera singers, Italian and foreign, without age limits, who wish to participate in one of the following categories:

- Opera
- Baroque (mandatory performance of one aria by a composer of the Neapolitan Musical School)
- Classical Neapolitan Song
- Young Voices (Junior)

Article 2 – Venues and Dates

- The preliminary rounds will take place from November 10 to 13, 2026, at the Accademia Internazionale Enrico Caruso, Corso Umberto I, 293 80138 Naples.
- The semifinal and final rounds, scheduled respectively for November 14 and 15, 2026, will be held in the prestigious Monumental Complex of Santa Maria La Nova, Piazza Santa Maria La Nova 44, 80134 Naples.

Article 3 – Post-Competition Activities
New Year's Concert of the Maria Malibran Competition Winners

- As part of the artistic activities of the Maria Malibran Association, a **New Year's Concert of the Competition Winners** will be organized.
  The Jury will select participants for the concert, including both prize winners and finalists deemed particularly deserving for their artistic and interpretative qualities.
  Selected candidates will be involved in concert performances and promotional activities connected with the event.

Malibran Opera Lab – *La Sonnambula*

- All participants in the Opera Category who are selected by the Jury may be admitted to the **Malibran Opera Lab – La Sonnambula**, an artistic and educational project aimed at the staging of Vincenzo Bellini's opera *La Sonnambula* within the activities of the Maria Malibran Association.

Maria Malibran Competition Participants/ Production of "Turandot" G. Puccini

- Contestants who do not advance beyond the preliminary or semifinal rounds, and therefore

  all the participants as well, will be included in a database for possible participation in future concert activities organized by the Maria Malibran Association and other Entities of high artistic relevance During the Competition rounds, the Commission will evaluate the candidates' suitability of the Opera Category to participate in the Maria Malibran's Production of G. Puccini's Turandot in the roles of *Calaf, Liù and Timur* that will take place in December 2026.

Article 4 – Categories and Repertoire

A. Opera

Presentation of four opera arias by different composers from the operatic repertoire.

B. Baroque

Presentation of four arias selected from Operas, Cantatas, Oratorios, and Sacred Music, including one aria by a composer of the Neapolitan School.

C. Classical Neapolitan Song

Presentation of two songs from the Classical Neapolitan repertoire dating from the 18th to the 20th century.

D. Young Voices (Junior)

Category reserved for candidates aged 8 to 17 years.

Presentation of three arias from the opera and baroque repertoire.

Bellini Voice Scholarship

A special **Bellini Voice Scholarship** will be awarded to the singer who gives the best performance of an aria by Vincenzo Bellini.

Article 5 – Registration and Participation Fee

1. Applications must be submitted no later than **November 4, 2026 12:00 P.M.** , by completing the registration form https://forms.gle/SWw3ZwPYvD3eKoQw6available also on the official website or by writing to associazione.malibran@gmail.com
2. Registration fee Associazione Maria Malibran Competition:

- €90 for participation in one or more categories.

3. The completed and signed application form must be accompanied by:

- Artistic résumé (Curriculum Vitae)
- Copy of a valid identity document
- Proof of payment of the registration fee

4. Bank details for payment:

Account Holder: Associazione Maria Malibran
IBAN: IT70 D031 0403 4040 0000 0821 881
Purpose: Registration Fee Associazione Maria Malibran Competition 2026 – Name and Surname **Deutsche Bank – SWIFT CODE:** DEUTITM1495

Article 6 – Competition Procedure

1. The preliminary rounds will take place in Naples, at the Accademia Internazionale Enrico Caruso, from November 10 to 13, 2026.
2. The semifinal and final rounds will be held on November 14 and 15, 2026.
3. All performances will be accompanied by a pianist or harpsichordist provided by the organization.

Article 7 – Jury

The Jury of the 11th Edition of the Maria Malibran International Vocal Competition will be chaired by:

- **Raffaella Ambrosino** – *Jury President, internationally acclaimed dramatic coloratura soprano, President of the Maria Malibran Association and of the Competition*.
- **Enrico Stinchelli** – *Opera Director, Author, and Host of "La Barcaccia" (Voci in Barcaccia) on Rai Radio 3.*
- **Giovanni Cultrera -** *Superintendent of the Massimo Bellini Theatre in Catania*
- **Melos Opera**, *represented by* ***Markus Laska*** *– Vice-President of Melos Opera and International Artist Manager.*
- **Stefano Valanzuolo -** *Journalist and Music Critic for "Il Mattino" and Host of the Radio3 Suite and WikiMusic programs on Rai Radio 3*
- **Alessandro Mormile** – *Music Critic, Journalist, Professor of Musical Dramaturgy and Poetry, Member of the National Association of Music Critics.*
- **Maurizio Carnelli –** *International Pianist and Co-Founder of the Maria Malibran Vocal Competition.*
- **Nuccio Anselmo** – *Artistic Director of the Seoul World Sound Festival*.
- **Salvadei Opera&Concert Artist management**, *represented by* ***Marco Gasparrini*** *- President of Salvadei Opera&Concert Artist Management, International Artist Manager*
- **Nicola Ziccardi** – *International Baritone, Founder and Artistic Director of OperaStudio Molise, Molise Vocal Academy, and WatzMann Operastudio*.
- **Doriano Vincenzo De Luca** – *Musicologist, Director of the diocesan weekly newspaper Nuova Stagione, Director of Ianuarius, spokesperson for Cardinal Domenico Battaglia, Vice-President of the Italian Federation of Catholic Weeklies, Prelate of the Chapel of the Treasury of San Gennaro, and Parish Priest.*
- **Giuseppe Schirone –** *Director of Accademia Internazionale Enrico Caruso*

2. The Jury members will also be announced through social media channels and dedicated websites (https://www.cantarelopera.com/) (https://www.operamundus.com/).
3. The Jury will evaluate performances according to vocal technique, interpretation, stage presence, and faithfulness to the score.
4. The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
5. Scores will be expressed on a scale of 100 points.
6. Decisions will be made in closed session by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the President's vote shall prevail.

Article 8 – Prizes

1. First Prize: €1,500
   Second Prize: €1,000
   Third Prize "Maria Malibran": €500
2. Baroque Prize for a Composer of the Neapolitan Musical School:
   €250 and an artistic engagement within the 2026–2027 Maria Malibran and/or Entities of High artistic Relevance Concert Season.
3. Caruso Prize for Best Classical Neapolitan Song:
   €150 and Artistic engagement within the 2026–2027 Maria Malibran and/ or Entities of High artistic Relevance Concert Season.
4. Young Voices Prize and Scholarship:
   €150 Artistic engagement within the 2026–2027 Maria Malibran and/or Entities of High artistic Relevance Concert Season.
5. Bellini Voice Scholarship:
   €200 awarded to the best performer of a work by Vincenzo Bellini.

7. The Jury reserves the right to award Special Prizes.
8. The Jury reserves the right not to award prizes if the required artistic standards are not achieved.

Article 9 – Malibran Opera Lab – *La Sonnambula*

Candidates selected by the Jury from among the participants in the Opera Category will take part in the **Malibran Opera Lab – La Sonnambula**, an artistic and educational project promoted by the Maria Malibran Association.

1. The project will be dedicated to the preparation and staging of Vincenzo Bellini's opera *La Sonnambula*, organized by the Maria Malibran Association and the City of Naples.
2. Selected participants will take part in all musical, theatrical, and educational activities connected with the project.

Article 10 – Recordings and Rights

1. The Maria Malibran Association may make audio, video, and photographic recordings of all rounds of the competition. Participation implies authorization for such recordings.
2. Participants waive any economic rights related to these recordings, provided that they are used exclusively for promotional and non-commercial purposes.

Article 11 – Final Provisions

1. The Association reserves the right to modify dates, schedules, and venues due to organizational needs or force majeure.
2. Participation in the competition implies full acceptance of these rules and regulations.

Contact Information
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Raffaella Ambrosino