

INTERNATIONAL OPERA SINGING COMPETITION

“BONAVENTURA SOMMA”

1st EDITION 2026

Art.1 – The SINFONIC INSTITUTION ITALIA CLASSICA, under the patronage of the Municipality of Chianciano Terme and within the Festival “I SUONI DI SILLENE – Itinerant Festival in the Lands of Water”, announces the 1st edition of the International Competition “Bonaventura Somma” for young opera singers. The competition will take place in Chianciano Terme (Siena) on 30 and 31 May 2026.

Art.2 – The competition is open to sopranos, sopranistas, mezzo-sopranos, contraltos, contraltistas, tenors, countertenors, baritones and basses of any nationality who have not exceeded 38 years of age by the competition date.

Art.3 – The competition aims to select, award, and highlight young opera singers for artistic managements of Italian and foreign institutions and theatres.

Art.4 – The competition consists of three rounds:

1. Online preliminary round
2. Semifinal round, for candidates admitted from the preliminary phase (Note: candidates who have won prizes in similar international competitions may be directly admitted; see Art. 6)
3. Final round, for candidates admitted from the semifinal.

Art.5 – Applications must be submitted exclusively through the online form available at www.istituzioniinfonicaitaliaclassica.com, or directly via the link <https://forms.gle/RyHwRa8eSWbeTpj6>. Deadline: 21 March 2026 at 23:59. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants must upload:

- Valid identity document (pdf or jpeg)
- Short résumé
- High quality solo photo (see Annex A)
- Link to video recording of an opera aria of choice (see Annex A)
- Proof of payment of the registration fee
- Scores of the arias in original key and language

Registration fee: €60.00, to be paid by 21 MARCH 2026 using one of the following methods:

a) BANK TRANSFER

Account holder: ISTITUZIONE SINFONICA ITALIA CLASSICA (ISIC)

Account number: 000000910991

IBAN: IT32H0867302802000000910991

BIC/SWIFT: ICRAITRRPO

b) PAYPAL

Email: isbes.bn@hotmail.it

Payment reference: Name Surname – “Bonaventura Somma Competition 2026 Registration”

Address: Via Camillo Cavour 52r, 50129 Florence

Art.6 – Candidates who won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize in a similar international competition held from 2022 onwards may be directly admitted to the semifinal. They must upload the relevant certificate and wait for confirmation from the competition office.

Art.7 – All participation expenses are the responsibility of the candidates.

Art.8 – For the semifinal round, candidates must present:

- One opera aria of their choice, different from the one submitted in the preliminary round.

For the final round:

- One opera aria of their choice, different from those indicated previously.

Art.9 – Each piece must be performed by memory, in the original language and key. Arias must include recitative and cabaletta where required. No changes to the submitted program will be allowed.

Art.10 – A staff pianist will be provided by the organization. Candidates may bring their own pianist at their own expense. Candidates must bring printed copies of their scores.

Art.11 – The jury will award the following prizes (gross amounts):

1st Prize: €2,000

2nd Prize: €1,250

3rd Prize: €500

Special Prize “SILLENE”: Contract for a concert in the 2026 edition of “I Suoni di Sillene – Festival Itinerante nelle Terre delle Acque” (performance fee to be defined).

The jury may assign ex aequo awards or withhold awards. In the case of ex aequo, prizes will be divided equally. The jury’s decision is final.

Art.12 – The list of winners will be announced on the website and on the official social channels of “I Suoni di Sillene”.

Art.13 – All winners will receive a certificate of merit.

Art.14 – All phases of the competition will take place in Chianciano Terme (Siena). Public access is permitted only for the final concert of the winners on 31 May.

Art.15 – The judging panel will consist of internationally renowned artists and theatre professionals. Evaluation criteria will be decided during the first meeting.

Art.16 – Candidates will receive the outcome of the preliminary round by 15 April 2026. Semifinalists will receive an email invitation for the semifinal scheduled on 30 May 2026 in Chianciano Terme.

Art.17 – Candidates must appear at the Parco Termale Acqua Santa, Chianciano Terme, with a valid identity document. Failure to do so will result in exclusion. Performance order will be determined by internal draw and published online.

Art.18 – By registering, candidates agree to sign—in person—a release form allowing photographic, audio and video recordings for promotional and informational purposes. This applies only to semifinal and final recordings; preliminary videos will be used for evaluation only.

Art.19 – The organization reserves the right to make any modifications that may improve the event. In case of force majeure preventing the proper execution of the competition, the full registration fee will be refunded.

Art.20 – Registration implies acceptance of this announcement in all its parts. Personal data will be processed according to privacy regulations (Art. 22, D.L. 675/1996).

Art.21 – The competent court for any disputes is the Tribunal of Florence.

ANNEX A – REQUIREMENTS FOR PHOTO, VIDEO AND AUDIO MATERIAL

Photo requirements:

1. The photo must portray the candidate alone.
2. High quality image.
3. Suitable for official publications.

Not accepted:

- Group photos
- Selfies
- Low-quality photos

Video requirements for the preliminary round:

1. Live performance recordings (ensemble, orchestra, piano or harpsichord).
2. High-quality audio and video.
3. Candidate must be clearly recognizable.
4. Fixed camera, single frame, no editing.
5. Audio must not be enhanced or modified (normalization only).