



ARCORE CITY – G. PUCCINI INTERNATIONAL OPERA SINGING COMPETITION

2026 COMPETITION REGULATIONS

6, 7 and 8 November 2026 | Villa Borromeo D'Adda

1. INTRODUCTION

The “Arcore City – G. Puccini International Opera Singing Competition” will be held from 6 to 8 November 2026 at Villa Borromeo D'Adda in Arcore.

The International Competition for Young Opera Singers is named after the renowned composer Giacomo Puccini and is organized by the Department of Culture of the Municipality of Arcore.

The competition forms part of the Municipality of Arcore's five-year music promotion programme, “Arcore città della Musica” (Arcore, City of Music), which aims to promote music education and appreciation.

The 2026 edition will be dedicated to Puccini's opera *Turandot*, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of its premiere.

Arcore is also the birthplace of the renowned baritone Felice Schiavi. As Mr Schiavi passed away in 2019, this event will also commemorate and honour his memory.

Eligibility: the competition is open to young opera singers of all nationalities who were born on or after 1 January 1989.

2. APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to young opera singers from all countries who were born on or after 1 January 1989.

Application fee: EUR 80.00, plus any bank charges. The application fee is non-refundable.

The application form may be obtained from the NEWS/NOTIZIE section of the official website of the Municipality of Arcore.

Required application documents:

- (1) completed and signed application form;
- (2) copy of an identity card or other equivalent valid identity document;

- (3) copy of the Italian tax identification number, if available, or the corresponding international Tax Identification Number (TIN);
- (4) proof of payment by bank transfer of the EUR 80.00 application fee;
- (5) one full-length photograph (A5: 14.8 × 21 cm, or A6: 10.5 × 14.85 cm).

The documents must be submitted together with the signed application form to:
concorsolirico@comune.arcore.mb.it.

Participants from non-EU countries must provide the Artistic Secretariat with valid documentation/authorisation permitting entry into Italy in accordance with applicable Italian law; otherwise, they will be excluded from the competition.

All application documents must reach the Artistic Secretariat by 24:00 on 30 October 2026.

Late applications, incomplete documentation, inaccurate or non-compliant information or attachments, or failure to pay the application fee in full will result in exclusion from the competition. Failure to attend as required, or conduct that is insulting, uncivil or otherwise inappropriate to the competition setting, may also result in disqualification.

3. DATES AND VENUE

Competition dates: 6–8 November 2026. The Final Award Concert will take place on 8 November 2026.

Venue: Villa Borromeo D'Adda, Largo Vincenzo Vela, 1, Arcore (MB), Italy.

Participants must attend on the date and at the time communicated by the Secretariat. All stages of the competition are open to the public.

The organisers will provide a piano accompanist. Participants wishing to use another accompanist may do so at their own expense, subject to prior request and express approval by the organisers.

If a participant has been trained by a particular teacher, this must be declared. If that teacher is a member of the Jury, the Jury member concerned shall not participate in the assessment of that participant.

As a general rule, the application fee will not be refunded in the event of absence, except where the competition is cancelled due to circumstances attributable to the organisers. In the event of a justified and demonstrable delay, including transport delays, an exception may be made provided the participant arrives before the end of the elimination round.

Participants must bring a valid identity document and paper copies of the scores of the pieces they will perform.

4. JURY

President of the Jury: M° Shi Zong

Jury Members: Ma Mei Lin; M° Jochen Schönleber; M° Carlo Balzaretto; Dott. Luigi Viani

Official Pianists: Damiano Cerutti; Shi Zhuo Ting

The Jury may award one or more ex aequo prizes. In the event of a tie, the prize money will be divided equally. The winners will be announced during the Award Ceremony. The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

5. PRIZES

First Prize: "Premio Città di Arcore" – EUR 3,000, awarded by the Municipality of Arcore.

Second Prize: "Premio Turandot" – EUR 1,500, awarded by the G. Puccini Foundation.

Third Prize: “Premio Città di Lucca” – EUR 1,300, awarded by the Municipality of Lucca.

Special Prize “Felice Schiavi”: Best Male Singer – EUR 1,000, awarded by the Municipality of Arcore.

Special Prize “Young Singer Award”: awarded to the best participant under the age of 22 who reaches the Final or Semi-Final – EUR 600, awarded by Shanghai Art Gozo Communication Co., Ltd.

Taxation: prize money will not be subject to withholding tax at the time of payment. Winners are responsible for declaring the value of the prize in their annual income tax return and determining the resulting taxable income.

ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS

Supporting organizations, Jury members and music-industry professionals attending the Final on 8 November 2026 may evaluate participants in accordance with their future artistic projects and may offer performance contracts, opera roles, opera performance opportunities or concert engagements.

Supporting organizations: Conservatory of Music G. Puccini (Gallarate); Municipality of Concorezzo (MB); Associazione Early Music Italia ETS.

6. COMPETITION FORMAT AND ROUNDS

The competition is restricted to opera repertoire (opera arias). Each participant must prepare four works, performed in their original keys and original languages, of which at least one must be selected from the works of Puccini.

During the elimination and semi-final rounds, the Jury may, at its discretion, request the complete or partial performance of any of the submitted works.

ROUND 1 – ELIMINATION: Friday 6 November and Saturday 7 November 2026 at 10:00, Villa Borromeo D’Adda. Participants shall select two of their four works, at least one of which must be by Puccini. The participant chooses one work to perform; the Jury may request the second.

ROUND 2 – SEMI-FINAL: Saturday 7 November 2026 at 15:00, Villa Borromeo D’Adda. Participants who pass the elimination round, as well as singers who won first prize in another international singing competition in 2024 or 2025 and can provide documentary proof, may enter the semi-final. Participants shall select one of the two works not performed in the elimination round; the Jury may also request the other.

ROUND 3 – FINAL: Sunday 8 November 2026 at 14:00, Villa Borromeo D’Adda. The Jury may select one or more works from among all four works submitted by each participant.

Award Ceremony and Winners’ Concert: Sunday 8 November 2026 at 18:00.

7. AWARDS

The awards will be presented during the concert on 8 November 2026. Winners must participate in the concert; otherwise, the prize awarded to them will be forfeited.

Prize money will be paid in full to the winners by bank transfer or cheque, no later than 31 December 2026, by the respective funding partner for each award.

8. AUDIOVISUAL AND PERFORMANCE RIGHTS

By participating in the competition, participants waive any claims concerning the use of recordings, television broadcasts, dissemination and reproduction of their performances made during the competition.

Participants authorise the organisers to make video, audio and photographic recordings of activities during the competition and to use such recordings at the organisers' discretion. Participants shall not be entitled to any additional fee or compensation as a result.

9. ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGULATIONS

Submission of an application constitutes acceptance by the participant of all provisions of these Competition Regulations.

Any dispute shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Court of Monza (Foro di Monza). The Italian-language version of the Competition Regulations shall prevail.

10. INSURANCE

All participants in the "Arcore City – 2026" competition are covered by accident insurance taken out by the organising institution.

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS

The Artistic Director and the Organising Director reserve the right, where necessary, to amend these Regulations and to adjust the competition dates.

12. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR), the Municipality of Arcore, acting as Data Controller, will process the personal data contained in the application documents solely for the administration and conduct of the competition and for related legal and administrative procedures.

The provision of personal data is a necessary condition for participation in the competition. Data will be retained for the period necessary to complete the competition procedures and in compliance with statutory administrative retention obligations.

Participants may exercise the rights provided for under Article 15 et seq. of the GDPR, including the rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing and objection, by contacting the Municipality of Arcore through its official channels or the Data Protection Officer (RPD).

Email: urp@comune.arcore.mb.it. The complete privacy notice is available on the official website of the Municipality of Arcore.

CONTACT DETAILS

Competition email: concorsolirico@comune.arcore.mb.it

Contact person: Dott.ssa Margherita Senes

Municipality of Arcore: Largo Vela, n. 1 – 20862 Arcore (MB), Italy

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