# INTERNATIONAL SINGING COMPETITION FOR BAROQUE OPERA

# 'CAFFARELLI'

# 5th EDITION

# 2026

**Art.1** The Traetta Opera Festival announces the 5th edition of the 'Caffarelli' International Competition for young Baroque opera singers. The competition will take place at the 'Tommaso Traetta' Theatre in Bitonto, on the 28th and 29th of September, 2026.

**Art.2** Sopranos, sopranists, mezzosopranos, contraltos, altos, tenors, countertenors, baritones, and bassos of any nationality, who are not over 38 years old at the end of the application deadline, are eligible to participate.

**Art.3** The competition aims to select, reward and recommend young baroque opera singers to the artistic directions of Italian and foreign institutions and theatres.

**Art.4** The competition is divided into three rounds:

1. **Online qualifying round.**
2. **Semi-final**, for competitors who are found suitable in the qualifying round. *The winners of similar international competitions are directly admitted to the semi-final (see art.6)*
3. **Final,** for competitors who are found suitable in the semi-final round.

**Art.5** The application for participation in the Competition can only and exclusively be sent through the dedicated online form, available on the 'TOF→Concorsi' section of the website www.traettafestival.it, under penalty of exclusion. The deadline for this competition announcement is set for the **10th of July 2026**, 23:59h. Applications delivered or received after this deadline will not be considered.

The application will be accompanied, under penalty of exclusion, by the following documents:

- valid ID card or Passport.
- short CV.
- a photo (see Attachment A).

- a link of a video recording of the performance of an opera/sacred/oratorio aria of their choice (see Attachment A).
- payment invoice of the registration fee.

The registration fee of € 50.00 must be paid via bank transfer, made as follows:

Account holder's name: **Koine' Associazione Musicale-Artistico-Culturale**

IBAN: **IT 45 E 02008 41382 000400790076**

Reason: **iscrizione concorso Caffarelli V edizione 2026 *Name and Surname***

Address: **via Marsala, 32 - 70032 Bitonto (BA)**

BIC SWIFT code: **UNCRITM1E72**

**Art.6** Participants who are in possession of at least one winning certificate for first, second or third place in an analogous international baroque competition held from 2021 onwards can be directly admitted to the semi-final. The candidate must upload in the specific section of the registration form the digital copy of the certificate and proceed with the registration as indicated by Art.5 of this announcement. Naturally, they will not have to attach any video link, since it is only necessary for the qualifying round. The candidate will receive an email with the outcome of the direct admission to the semi-final.

**Art.7** All costs of participation in the competition are at the expense of the competitors.

**Art.8** For the **semi-final**, the competitors must indicate:

- one *opera/sacred/oratorio aria* of their choice, different from the one previously recorded for the qualifying round.

For the **final** round, the competitors must indicate:

- one *opera/sacred/oratorio aria* of their choice, different from those previously indicated.

**Art.9** The competitors may also, optionally, perform an *aria* by Tommaso Traetta, if s/he intends to participate in the assignment of the 'Tommaso Traetta' Special Prize. The aria will be presented in the semi-final round. The best performances will enter the final stage of the competition for the award of the relative prize. The Competition secretariat may provide Traetta's scores upon request.

**Art.10** Each aria must be performed by heart, in original language and tone. The arias must be completed with recitative, if present.

**Art.11** The organization of the competition will provide an accompanying harpsichordist. The candidate who wants to use another harpsichordist can do so at his/her own expense. Competitors must present themselves to each round with the printed sheet music of the chosen arias.

**Art.12** At the end of the final round, the judging committee will announce the winners and award the prizes indicated below gross of any tax withholdings:

**1st Prize**: € 1,500.00

**2nd Prize**: € 1,000.00

**3rd Prize**: € 500.00

Special Awards

**'Tommaso Traetta' Special Prize:** € 1,000.00 and a possible engagement for an opera role or a concert in the 2027 edition of the Traetta Opera Festival, remuneration to be determined.

The committee reserves the right to award ex-aequo prizes or to award no prizes. In the event of the announcement of ex-aequo winners, the prizes will be divided equally between them. The judgment of the committee is unquestionable.

**Art.13** The judgment will be made public by notice on the website www.traettafestival.it and on the social media pages of Traetta Opera Festival.

**Art.14** All competitors will be assigned a certificate of merit.

**Art.15** The semi-final and final stage of the competition will take place at the "Tommaso Traetta" Municipal Theatre located in Largo Teatro in Bitonto (Bari). Entrance for the audience will be allowed only for the final concert on the 29th of September.

**Art.16** The judging panel will be composed of internationally renowned artists and will be made known on the website www.traettafestival.it . In the first meeting, the panel will establish the evaluation criteria for its deliberations.

**Art. 17** Competitors admitted to the semi-final round will receive an email by the organisation for participating to the following round scheduled for the 28th of September 2026 in Bitonto (Bari). The summoned candidates must present themselves at the 'Tommaso Traetta' Town Theatre with a valid ID card or Passport, or they will be excluded from the competition. A letter drawn by lot will be used to establish the starting point of the order of performance, which will then be communicated on the website www.traettafestival.it and on the Traetta Opera Festival official social media pages.

**Art. 18** The organization reserves the right to make any changes to this regulation to improve the event. In case of force majeure events that might prevent the proper conduct of the competition, the organization will refund the entire registration fee.

**Art. 19** With their registration, the competitor commits to signing on site a consent form for the use of photographic, audio and video material for advertising, promotional and informative purposes. This will only be valid for the recordings and the photos taken during the semi-final and final rounds, and not for the video sent for the qualifying round, which will only be used for evaluative purposes.

**Art.20** Registration for the competition implies the acceptance of this regulation in all its parts. The organization ensures that the data spontaneously provided will be treated in full compliance with the provisions of the law governing the protection of privacy, as specified in Article n.22 of n. 675 of 31/12/1996 D.L.

**Art.21** The court of Bari will be competent for any controversy.

INFO
concorsi@traettafestival.it

**ATTACHMENT A – REQUIREMENTS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC, AUDIO AND VIDEO MATERIAL.**

The photo sent by the competitor must comply with the following requirements:

1. It must show the competitor alone.
2. It must be a high-quality photo.
3. It must be conceived for the publication of official notices about the competitor and the competition in question.

The following photos will be excluded:

1. Group photos.
2. Self-portrait photographs.
3. Low-quality photos.

The video recording for the qualifying round must comply with the following requirements, under penalty of exclusion:

1. They must be recordings of live performances, in ensemble, with orchestra, with piano or harpsichord.
2. Video and audio must be in high quality.
3. The competitor must be well recognizable in the video.
4. Only videos with a fixed camera and a single frame with no cuts will be accepted.
5. The audio must not be in any way improved, cut or modified. Only audio normalization is admitted.
6. Video files must be uploaded to a streaming platform (Youtube, Vimeo) or sent with a non-expiring link.