3rd Edition of the Agorà Lyric World International Singing Competition

In honour of soprano Maria José Siri

TOTAL PRIZE FUND €22,500

The Agorà Lyric World Association announces the 3rd Edition of the Agorà Lyric World Competition, in honour of soprano Maria José Siri, awarding prizes to talented and deserving young singers.

Art. 1 - Age limits

The competition is open to Italian and international opera singers who have not reached their 40th birthday by 31 January 2027. Applicants must not be children of, or related within the fourth degree to, members of the Agorà Lyric World Association.

Art. 2 - Prizes

Winners in the category specified in Article 1 will receive the following prizes:

• Two scholarships of €5,000 each;

• Trentino Opera Festival Special Prize: participation in the Trentino Opera Festival - Summer 2027, at the sole discretion of Artistic Director Robin Piper, in one or more productions in the 2027 programme: Dialogues des Carmélites by Francis Poulenc; Le nozze di Figaro by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Hänsel und Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck.

First Prize

Maria José Siri Prize - €4,500.

Second Prize

Agorà Lyric World - Simone Zampieri Prize - €2,500.

Third Prize

Francesco Meli Prize - €1,000.

“Carlos Ventre” Special Young Artist Prize

Reserved for applicants aged 24 or under - €1,000.

Maurizio Ferrari Special Prize

€1,000.

Special Agency Prize

At the sole discretion of the agents present, applicants may be offered a place on their rosters for representation and promotion.

Theatre Directors’ Special Prize

At the sole discretion of the artistic directors and/or general directors, professional engagements may be awarded to semi-finalists, finalists or winners.

Special Role Engagements - Teatro dell’Opera Giocosa di Savona

At the sole discretion of Artistic Director Maestro Giovanni Di Stefano, professional engagements may be awarded for the following roles in Giacomo Puccini’s La Bohème:

• Rodolfo - Tenor

• Mimì - Soprano

• Marcello - Baritone

• Musetta - Soprano

• Schaunard - Baritone

• Colline - Bass

• Benoît/Alcindoro - Bass-baritone

Winners must be available for a free six-day workshop with Maestri Simone Zampieri, Giovanni Di Stefano and Renato Bonajuto.

The workshop will be supported by a €2,500 scholarship to cover preparation expenses in September 2027 (exact dates to be confirmed).

The selected artists will be engaged for at least one performance of La Bohème at the same theatre in autumn 2027, with fees to be agreed with the theatre.

Art. 3 - Application deadline

Applications must be submitted to the Agorà Lyric World Association using the form available at https://www.agoralyricworld.com/, no later than midnight (24:00) on 31 January 2027.

Applications received after this deadline may be accepted only at the sole discretion of the Organising Committee.

Art. 4 - Entry fees

The entry fees for participation in the preliminary rounds are as follows:

Period	Entry fee	Optional choice of available audition date	Total with option
15 October - 31 December 2026	€100	€50	€150
1 January - 31 January 2027	€150	€50	€200

This option is voluntary and carries a €50 supplement, payable on registration. It allows applicants to choose their audition date and approximate time between 1 and 4 March 2027, up to 14:00, subject to availability.

The entry fee must be paid on registration using one of the following methods:

By credit card through the Agorà Lyric World website

By PayPal through the Agorà Lyric World website

The Competition Management reserves the right to close registration before the stated deadlines if the number of applicants exceeds the number who can reasonably be given a full and attentive hearing. Any such closure will be announced through the Competition's social media channels.

Art. 5 - Jury

The Judging Panel (Jury), chaired by soprano Maria José Siri, comprises the following theatre directors:

- Renato Bonajuto, Vice-President of Agorà Lyric World, stage director and Director of Teatro Alfieri in Asti;

- Giovanni Di Stefano, President and Artistic Director of Teatro dell'Opera Giocosa di Savona;

- Simone Macrì, Casting Manager, Fondazione Teatro Carlo Felice, Genoa;

- Plamen Kartaloff, General Director and Artistic Director of the National Opera in Sofia, Bulgaria;

- Giovanni Vitali, Director of Artistic Organisation, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino;

- Auolon Naci, Artistic Director of the State Opera Theatre in Tirana, Albania;

- Lorenzo Del Pecchia, Artistic Secretary, Teatro Lirico di Cagliari;

- Ernesto Palacio, General Director of the Rossini Opera Festival, Pesaro, and Casting Consultant for Teatro Municipal in Lima, Peru;

- Angelo Taddeo, Artistic Director, Fondazione Festival Pucciniano, Torre del Lago;

- Paolo Vittorio Montanari, Artistic Secretary, Teatro San Carlo, Naples;

- Robin Blauers, Artistic Director, Trentino Opera Festival;

- Alessandro Trebeschi, Casting Manager for Teatro Grande, Brescia, and the Festival della Valle d'Itria, Martina Franca;

- Further members are being confirmed and will be announced on Facebook, Instagram and the Agorà Lyric World website.

The Jury also includes the following Italian and international agents and representatives:

- Marco Impallomeni, Impallomeni Artist Management, Milan

- Serena Marchi, Melos Opera, Bologna

- Mitchell Piper, Piper Artists, New York

- Fabrizio Mescoli, Lombardo Associates, New York/Brescia

- Franco Silvestri, Lirica International Opera Management

Jury members must abstain from voting on any contestant to whom they are related or whom they have taught or represented in the two years preceding the Competition. The decisions of the Judging Panel are final and may not be challenged or appealed.

The Jury for the preliminary rounds will comprise:

Franco Silvestri, Operations Director, Agorà Lyric World Competition

Renato Bonajuto, Vice-President, Agorà Lyric World Competition

Simone Zampieri, Artistic Director, Agorà Lyric World Competition

Giovanni Di Stefano, General Director, Opera Giocosa di Savona

The composition of the Jury may change for reasons beyond Agorà Lyric World's control.

Art. 6 - Application requirements

The application form must be completed in full, dated and signed, and must list five operatic arias, at least three of which must be from the Italian repertoire. The application must also include the following documents:

- A dated and signed copy of these Competition Rules;

- A photocopy of an identity card or passport;

- Two photographs, including one full-length photograph;

- A copy of the receipt confirming payment of the entry fee. Personal data will be used solely for the purposes of the Competition.

- All works must be performed in their original key and language and, where applicable, must include the recitative and cabaletta, which the Jury may request at its sole discretion.

Art. 7 - Preliminary rounds / semi-finals / final

The selection rounds will be organised as follows:

From 1 March until 14:00 on 4 March 2027, all artists registered for the preliminary rounds will be heard by a smaller jury panel. Concert attire is not required.

On the afternoon of 4 March and on 5 March 2027, all artists who have passed the preliminary rounds will be heard. Concert attire is not required.

6 March 2027: Final in the Sala Maffeiana of the Teatro Filarmonico in Verona. A rehearsal with an accompanist will be arranged for the selected finalists. The time will be announced by the Artistic Management of Agorà Lyric World.

All preliminary rounds, semi-finals and the final concert will be accompanied by piano.

The preliminary rounds and semi-finals will take place in the hall of the Circolo Unificato dell'Esercito at Castelvecchio in Verona, or in another venue to be announced in good time if the designated hall becomes unavailable due to force majeure. Selected finalists must confirm and ensure their attendance at the rehearsals and the Final on 6 March 2027, failing which they will be disqualified.

The order of performances in the preliminary rounds will be announced exclusively on the Agorà Lyric World Competition website and will take account of applicants who have selected the option provided for in Article 4 of these Rules.

In the first preliminary round, each contestant will perform an aria of their choice. In the semi-final and final, they will perform an aria selected by the panel from those listed in their application. The panel reserves the right to request additional arias or to interrupt a performance before it has ended.

Agorà Lyric World provides an accompanist, but contestants may bring their own pianist at their own expense. Before each selection round, contestants will have an opportunity to rehearse with their assigned pianist.

Finalists must be available for a possible concert to be performed without remuneration on Sunday 14 March, at a venue to be determined.

Applicants from Russia, China and other countries whose citizens require a visa will be sent an invitation letter in sufficient time to apply for their visa.

Art. 8 - Video and social media

Audio and video recordings may be freely used and broadcast in Italy and abroad, without participants (singers) being entitled to make any claim, including in respect of live streaming of some or all of the semi-final rounds and the final, in whole or in part.

Art. 9 - Amendments to the Competition Rules

The Board of Directors of the Agorà Lyric World Association reserves the right to amend these Competition Rules. The organisers will promptly notify all interested parties of any such amendments.

Art. 10 - Authority to decide

The Agorà Lyric World Association has sole authority to decide on any matter not covered by these Competition Rules.

Art. 11 - Cancellations and changes

The Board of Directors of the Agorà Lyric World Association may cancel the Competition if circumstances beyond its control prevent it from taking place. In that event, registered applicants will receive a refund of the entry fee only.

Art. 12 - Acceptance of the Rules

The application form is an integral part of these Competition Rules. By submitting an application and signing this document, applicants fully and unconditionally accept all provisions of these Rules, together with any amendments made under Articles 9, 10 and 11.

Art. 13 - Masterclasses

The masterclasses referred to in Article 2 of these Competition Rules will take place as follows:

Trentino Opera Festival: from 20 June to 18 July 2027 in Mezzano and Primiero (Trento).

Agorà Lyric World: from 13 to 18 September 2027 in Verona.

Read, accepted and signed

Date ___/___/_____

Signature _____

For further information: agoralyricworld@aol.com