

Course for

OPERA COACHES

A. Y. 2026-28





If you want a full understanding of how a stage performance develops out of the synergetic work of a diverse team of specialists, the La Scala Academy is the place for you. This is where history meets

the new generations and your passion transforms into a professional career in the arts. Our journey began in **1813** with the **Ballet School**, an expression of Teatro alla Scala's vocation to perpetuate an inestimable cultural heritage. Today, the La Scala Academy is a **unique** educational institution: thanks to its indissoluble bond with one of the world's most prestigious opera houses, it is able to offer courses in **every profession in the performing arts**, from music to dance, from stagecraft to management. With access to an extensive curriculum—ranging from training courses and workshops to university-level bachelor's and master's degree programs—distributed among four departments, you will find ample and unparalleled opportunities to develop your potential.

A distinctive feature of our programs is our **teaching staff**, composed of **internationally renowned experts and talents**. Some of them have built their careers at Teatro alla Scala, on stage or behind the scenes. They now bring their unique and invaluable experience into the learning environment, ensuring solid, cutting-edge guidance for budding talents. Our teaching method combines theory with **intensive practical application**. You will have unique opportunities **to become acquainted with the operations of a performing arts institution, gain familiarity with its various arts, trades, and professions and how they are applied in a real-world context**. At the Academy we **support the professional growth of each individual** with a solid system of values. We invest in your talent so that you can play an active role in shaping tomorrow's performing arts. Our alumni are leading figures in the field. We invite you to take part in this heritage and help us carry it forward. If you are ready to dedicate mind and body to a constantly evolving world, this is your home.

Luisa Vinci
Direttrice Generale
Accademia Teatro alla Scala

FOUNDING MEMBERS



OPERA COACHES

ONE PROFESSIONAL, A THOUSAND ROLES

Have you ever thought of how many roles are hidden behind a pair of hands on the keyboard? Do you aspire to be one of those maestri who do not limit themselves to playing the piano but also guide and accompany other performers and help to stage the final work? The two-year Répétiteur (opera coach, accompanist) course is where you want to be.

This unique course was developed in 1994 and is closely linked to Teatro alla Scala. Its distinctive feature is the strong connection between teaching and practice, allowing you to constantly practice what you have learned in the classroom and apply it in a professional context in Academy productions on the La Scala season program.

RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH THE BEST

You will have many opportunities during the course to meet and work with eminent musicians, conductors, singers, and directors. In past years these have included Daniele Abbado, Ildar Abradzakov, Marc Albrecht, Woody Allen, Marcelo Alvarez, Sven-Eric Bechtolf, Irina Brook, Gianluca Capuano, Liliana Cavani, Riccardo Chailly, Ottavio Dantone, Gilbert Deflo, Luciana D'Intino, Diego Fasolis, Adám Fischer, Barbara Frittoli, Gregory Kunde, Fabio Luisi, Leo Nucci, Ambrogio Maestri, Leo Muscato, Daniel Oren, Evelino Pidò, Donato Renzetti, and Peter Stein.





COURSE CONTENT

This specialized two-year course allows you to:

- ◆ **perfect your musical knowledge across the board: technique, styles, and interpretation;**
- ◆ **develop your vocal repertoire until you know it inside and out;**
- ◆ **learn how to perform confidently with a conductor, sight-read music scores, and accompany recitatives with ease and naturalness.**

But that's not all: you will also acquire the tools to expand your musical horizons and gain competency in exploiting bibliographical materials relevant to the profession.

AND AT THE END OF THE COURSE?

With your Academy diploma you will be ready to embark on a professional career at Teatro alla Scala, at the Academy, or in other preeminent musical institutions anywhere in the world. There are countless opportunities awaiting Academy graduates as attested by the placement rate both in Italy and abroad.

CURRICULUM

CORE SUBJECTS

REHEARSAL PIANIST TECHNIQUE

Rehearsal pianists at Teatro alla Scala

- ◆ From the orchestra score to music for voice and piano to piano performance
- ◆ The work of the rehearsal pianist in the theatre: preparing singers for their roles, voice rehearsals, assistance to the orchestra conductor, audition accompaniment
- ◆ Piano accompaniment in voice recitals

RÉPÉTITEUR TECHNIQUE AND PRACTICE

Umberto Finazzi

répétiteur, instructor of performance and theatre repertoire at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory of Milan, creative director and conductor at Opera Studio Ticino Musica

- ◆ From orchestra scores to music for voice and piano and the performance of arias and pieces from the opera repertoire
- ◆ Stylistic, philological, interpretive, and traditional aspects
- ◆ Preparation of singers for opera roles or recitals; piano accompaniment in voice recitals

PROMPTER TECHNIQUES

Dante Mazzola,

conductor, former prompter at La Scala

- ◆ Conducting technique and practice
- ◆ Role and technique of the prompter, from choir rehearsals to stage rehearsals and recitals, the role of the assistant conductor
- ◆ Fundamental operas and opera pieces, from Mozart to Puccini and the veristi

GERMAN OPERA REPERTOIRE

James Vaughan

first rehearsal pianist, Teatro alla Scala

- ◆ From the orchestra score to music for voice and piano to piano performance of arias and pieces from the German opera repertoire, from Mozart to Richard Strauss
- ◆ The work of the rehearsal pianist in the theatre: preparing singers for their roles, voice rehearsals, assistance to the orchestra conductor, audition accompaniment

Piano accompaniment in voice recitals

ELEMENTS OF CONDUCTING

Pietro Mianiti

Teatro alla Scala orchestra and stage band conductor

◆ Technique and practice of conducting

◆ Operas and pieces from the essential opera repertoire, from Mozart to Puccini

ROSSINI REPERTOIRE

Michele D'Elia

rehearsal pianist and assistant conductor at Rossini Opera Festival and opera coach

◆ Fundamental arias and pieces from the Rossini repertoire; stylistic, philological, interpretive, and traditional aspects

◆ Recitativo secco

◆ Piano accompaniment in voice recitals

CHOIR MASTER TECHNIQUE

Alberto Malazzi

Teatro alla Scala choir director

◆ Choral, operatic, and sacred repertoire

◆ Preparation and directing the choir, from the section rehearsals to the stage or concert hall

◆ Piano accompanist for the choir

GERMAN

Cristina Maruzzi

German and English teacher at language schools and universities

◆ Grammar

◆ Pronunciation

◆ Reading, conversation

BASIC SUBJECTS

SIGHT-READING

Teatro alla Scala opera coaches

◆ Impromptu execution – after brief review of formal structure and fundamental musical elements – of an operatic work read from the voice and piano parts of the orchestral score

◆ Operas or selected pieces from the essential Mozart and Puccini opera repertoire

THEORY

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RESOURCES FOR MUSICIANS

Andrea Massimo Grassi
musicologist

- ◆ Research into music historical, styles, and interpretation with a focus on opera
- ◆ Printed materials: scores, manuscripts, encyclopedias, books, periodicals, catalogues, letters, essays, etc.
- ◆ Web resources

POETICHE E STILI DEL LINGUAGGIO MUSICALE

Emanuele Ferrari
*concert pianist, musicologist, writer, docent
at the University of Milano-Bicocca*

- ◆ Interactive lesson-concerts of famous compositions from the classical and modern piano repertoire, with formal analysis and study of the connections between the composer's formal choices and their ethical, aesthetic, cultural, and spiritual messages.

ITALIAN FOR FOREIGNERS

Alessia Benenti
*teacher of Italian at language schools
and universities*

- ◆ Grammar
- ◆ Pronunciation
- ◆ Reading, conversation

PRACTICAL EXERCISES

PERFORMANCES

KEY POINTS

TEATRO ALLA SCALA

The close relationship with Teatro alla Scala allows students to participate actively in Academy performances included on La Scala calendar and to attend the rehearsals and performances of works performed during the opera and symphony season.

BROAD-RANGING IN-DEPTH PREPARATION

The curriculum includes careful study of the opera score and libretto, development of piano technique, piano reproduction of orchestra timbre, development of singer's listening capacity as an aid in studying the musical score, attention to gesture, posture, and communicational capacity in coaching technique, development of critical capacity for musical study via bibliographic resources.

ARTISTIC ACTIVITY AND CONSTANT PRACTICE

Students are engaged in an intensive practical activity, not only in the classroom, but also in real professional contexts, becoming active parts of the Academy's Music Department productions. As opera coaches and piano accompanists, they participate in productions with the Academy soloists, choir, and orchestra.

PLACEMENT

The experience and competencies developed provide an unquestionable advantage in auditions and competitions. Numerous professional opportunities are available to those completing the course: La Scala Academy, Teatro all Scala, or other musical institutions may offer course graduates further professional contracts.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Lenght

◇
Two years

First year:

December 1, 2026 to
November 30, 2027

Second year:

December 1, 2027 to
November 30, 2028



Language

◇
The course is conducted in Italian. The Academy offers a basic Italian course for those who would benefit from it.

To access the course, it is necessary to pass a multi-stage admission test.



Attendance

◇
Monday through Friday, 10 am to 6:30 pm. Practical exercises and artistic performances may also occasionally take place in the evening or on weekends.

◇
Attendance is mandatory. Absences must be justified and may not exceed 25% of total hours or the student will be expelled from the course. The Academy and Teaching Committee reserve the sole right to make exceptions to this rule.



Location

◇
Accademia
Teatro alla Scala
Via S. Marta, 18
20123 Milan

◇
Teatro alla Scala
rehearsal rooms
Laboratori Ansaldo
Via Stendhal 28, Milan

◇
Teatro alla Scala
Via dei Filodrammatici, 2
20121 Milan



Total hours

◇
1.500 hours
of classroom work,
practical exercises, and
performances

COURSE MATERIALS

The Teatro alla Scala music archive provides sheet music for Academy productions on the Teatro alla Scala season program. The Academy also has a music and theatre library and an archive of sheet music and scores.



ADMISSION REQUISITES

- ◆ 18–30 years old at start of course (December 1, 2026);
- ◆ Three-year degree in piano or assistant conductor from an Italian state-authorized music conservatory or equivalent institution in Italy or abroad.



SELECTION PROCESS

In order to be admitted to the course, applicants must pass a selection process which may consist of four parts.

- ◆ **Performance on the piano**, with cues for singers, of one or more of the three pieces chosen by the candidate from among those listed opposite (see HOW);
- ◆ **Assessment of basic conducting skills;**
- ◆ **Assessment of sight-reading skills;**
- ◆ **Personal interview.**

WHEN

The selection process is scheduled to begin on **October 16, 2026**.

WHERE

The selection process will take place in Milan at the La Scala Academy (Via Santa Marta 18), which is relatively close to Piazza Duomo and Teatro alla Scala. It is within walking distance of the following metro lines: M1 (red) Cordusio, Duomo; M2 (green) Sant'Ambrogio; M3 (yellow) Duomo, Missori; M4 (blue) Vetra, De Amicis. You will find signs directing you to the waiting room for the auditions when you arrive at the Academy. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes early so you will not be late to the audition in the event of unforeseen delays.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with physical or learning disabilities must attach a valid certificate of disability during the online application process to ensure recognition of special conditions.

HOW

You must be ready to perform three pieces on the piano, one from each of the groups shown opposite, with cues for singers. The Committee will choose which pieces you shall perform and reserves the right to listen to all or any part thereof.

Group 1

WOLFGANG A. MOZART

- ◆ *Le nozze di Figaro*, Act 2 finale, from Antonio's entrance (scena X, Allegro molto);
- ◆ *Don Giovanni*, Act 1 finale, from "Riposate, vezzose ragazze".

Group 2

GIUSEPPE VERDI

- ◆ *Otello*, Act 1, from the beginning to "Roderigo, beviam!" (excluded);
- ◆ *Falstaff*, Act 2, Falstaff/Ford duet, from eight bars before "Signore, v'assista il cielo!" fino a "Vado a farmi bello".

Group 3

GIACOMO PUCCINI

- ◆ *La bohème*, Act 1, from the beginning to "Chi è là? Benoit" (excluded);
- ◆ *Madama Butterfly*, Act 1, from "Bimba, bimba, non piangere" to the end.

The Selection Committee will determine which candidates are eligible to attend the course. Candidates who are judged eligible but not admitted to the course because the maximum number of students has been reached may be admitted subsequently if a higher-ranked candidate declines to enroll. The decisions of the Selection Committee are final and may not be challenged or queried.

WHAT TO BRING

You must bring a valid identity document with you to the selection process.

COST

APPLICATION FEE

The fee for participation in the selection process is 100 euros including VAT, which will be paid online when you apply. Payment may be made with principal credit/debit cards or by bank transfer via the MyBank circuit (list of participating banks at <https://mybank.eu/banche-e-psp-aderenti/>).

COURSE TUITION

Annual tuition for the course is 5,635 euros including VAT.

Tuition for the first year will be paid in three installments via SEPA Direct Debit (SDD)* as follows.

If the Italian Ministry of Finance and the Economy raises VAT, the above amounts will be adjusted accordingly.

1st INSTALLMENT

◆ € 2,365

debited on November 20, 2026

2nd INSTALLMENT

◆ €1,180

debited on January 29, 2027

3rd INSTALLMENT

◆ €1,180

debited on April 30, 2027



FINANCIAL AID

Your **talent and artistic growth are priorities** for the La Scala Academy. We thus offer a **number of forms of financial aid** to ensure you are able to take part in the course and focus entirely on your development.

If you have any questions, please contact the teaching office: segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it.

We will be happy to provide you with any information you need and to help you prepare your financial aid application.

Here is a brief list of options to give you an idea of available opportunities:

ARTISTIC CONTRACT/ SCHOLARSHIP

Contracts or scholarships will be offered for performance in certain artistic productions scheduled during the course.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

The Academy may issue merit scholarships at the end of the course to reward students who have achieved excellence.

STUDENT LOAN

The La Scala Academy has established conventions with credit institutes to provide special-rate loans to cover tuition and/or lodging for students in good academic standing.

Instructions for applying for scholarships or student loans will be communicated in a specific announcement.



ADMISSION PROCESS

Application to the selection process must be completed by **October 2, 2026**.

Please follow the steps below to apply::

ENROLLMENT PLATFORM REGISTRATION OR LOGIN

Log in to the Academy enrollment platform at <https://iscrizioni.accademiascala.it> (if you do not already have login credentials from a previous application to another Academy course, you will need to register first). You will apply for the selection process in a subsequent step.

Please enter all information accurately. Make a note of your email address and password because they will be your login credentials [username and password] for your personal page.

You will be asked to accept the Academy privacy policy.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Academy enrollment platform will guide you through the application process.

ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS

The next step is to download and sign (either digitally or by printing and scanning) the "Condizioni di contratto per la partecipazione" [Contract conditions for participation (in the selection process)]. Upload the signed document where indicated. You must complete this step to continue the application process.

ATTACHMENTS

You will be asked to upload the following documents:

◆ **A detailed, signed CV ending with the following statements:**

1. I, the undersigned, aware of the criminal penalties provided in Article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28 December 2000 (D.P.R. 445/2000) for false statements and acts, declare, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of said Decree that all information contained in this CV is truthful;

2. I authorize processing of the personal data I have provided for the purposes inherent to using my CV pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 (D.Lgs. 196/2003) and the European General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679);

◆ **A digital passport photo;**

◆ **Educational certificates or self-certification of the same;**

◆ **Certificates of disability (if applicable).**

APPLICATION FEE

You will be asked to pay the application fee of **100 euros (including VAT)**, by credit or debit card or credit transfer. The payment must be made online during the application process (do not close the page and attempt to pay elsewhere).

COMPLETION OF PROCEDURE

Once the above steps have been completed, a summary will be generated of all information provided. You must print and sign this summary, scan it, and attach it where indicated. **This completes the**

application for the selection process and all forms will be sent to the Academy Teaching Office [Segreteria Didattica]. Please follow all instructions on your screen or received via email from the enrollment platform. Make sure all the information you provide is correct. Any inaccuracies will result in automatic rejection of your application. The Academy reserves the right to accept applications submitted after the application deadline but before the auditions. The Academy also reserves the right to postpone the application deadline, the auditions, and the beginning of the course.

NOTIFICATIONS

Candidates will be invited to the auditions by email after the application deadline. Once the selection process has been completed, those admitted to the course will receive an email with instructions for enrolling in the course. You must enroll **no later than October 30, 2026** via your personal page on [iscrizioni. accademiascala.it](https://www.accademiascala.it/iscrizioni)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ITALIANS RESIDING ABROAD

You must provide a copy or translation of all required documents in Italian or English (CV, academic certificates).

Non-EU residents who are admitted to the course must also submit documentation required by applicable law and by the Italian Public Security Authorities for persons residing outside of the European Union or before the day that lessons begin (application for a residence permit for reasons of study [permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio]).



LIFE AT THE ACADEMY

Joining the La Scala Academy means becoming a singular point of excellence among a plurality of talents.

When you step into the Academy you are not just entering a building, you are joining a community. We believe in certain values that guide us every day and we hope they will also illuminate your path. If you want to know more, read our Statement of Values and our Guidelines for Inclusive Language. You will find them [here](#)

You are unique

*That is a central value at the Academy.
We recognize and encourage your originality.*

We care about you

We work to make the Academy inclusive, fair, and respectful of diversity. We want everyone to feel welcome and valued in a place where words and actions create a positive space that is accessible to all. No discrimination, only respect.

Creativity is the driving force

We encourage free artistic expression in all its forms. At the Academy you can explore and give form to your art.

You are part of a history and part of a future

The Academy is the steward of the grand tradition of Teatro alla Scala with its eyes to the future. As witness to this heritage, you will be a protagonist of change, preparing the stages of tomorrow. We work to give you training of the highest quality, always with a mind to future challenges.

You will find everything you need to begin in your Welcome Pack!

We know that beginning a new journey can trigger a lot of questions and doubts. This is perfectly normal! We thus welcome you into our community with a very user-friendly Welcome Pack. It will give you all the practical information you will need to find yourself at home and get the most out of your time at the Academy and in the city of Milan:



How to find your way around the Academy



Services offered by our Library



Financial benefits: housing discounts, special rates for theatres, movies, stores, sports facilities, and language course



How to sign up for exams



How to take advantage of the Erasmus+ Programme for an invaluable experience abroad



Bureaucracy: what to do and who to turn to



Where to find vending machines, cafés, and restaurants for a quick break between lessons

And a host of additional tips for getting the most out of the La Scala Academy!

In short, it will be like a compass to keep you from getting lost in our classrooms and corridors and to help you find the answers to all your questions.





YOUR DIPLOMA

After completing the course with at least 75% attendance, you will receive a **diploma from the La Scala Academy, a recognized institution of excellence, your passport to a splendid future career.**

AND AFTER YOUR DEGREE? JOIN THE ACADEMY ALUMNI!

Your degree at the Academy does not mean farewell but rather welcome to the La Scala Academy Alumni community! Think of it as an exclusive club, a highly useful platform designed specifically for those, like you, who have studied with us.

What does the Alumni community offer? A host of exclusive opportunities:

- ◆ **Targeted job offers**
- ◆ **Networking:** add former students and performing arts professionals to your network of contacts
- ◆ **Formazione continua:** you never stop learning and developing
- ◆ **Mentorship:** contacts with consummate professionals
- ◆ **Special events** and occasions
- ◆ A space to **develop your projects** and bring your ideas to life
- ◆ And there are also **special conventions** and discounts just for you!

The Alumni community allows you to remain in constant contact with the Academy and get the most of a world of post-diploma opportunities in the performing arts.

MEET THE STAFF

Course
coordinator

Francesco Lo Sciuto

infocorsi@accademiascala.it

OPEN DAY

Come visit us!

Register at: bit.ly/OpendayATS

For questions regarding
the application process:

Giovanna Coletta

Federica Rotondi

☎ (+39) 02-85451160/22

✉ segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it

