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## RULES OF THE OPERA COMPETITION 2026

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1 - The “**Città di Alcamo**” **International Singing Contest**, organised by the ‘Amici della Musica’ Association, is taking place in Alcamo (in the Province of Trapani, Italy) **from 7th May to 10th May 2026**. The event will be held in two different locations: the Cielo d’Alcamo Theatre and the Marconi Congress Centre.

2 - Singers from all Nations can participate in the Contest, provided that they were born between **1st January 1991 and 1st May 2008**.

**Note: Singers who had already ranked in one of the first three positions in each of the previous editions of the ‘Città di Alcamo’ International Contest will not be accepted.**

3 - To participate in the Contest, candidates have to fill out and **submit the Application Form no later than 24th April 2026**. Candidates can apply in one by: on-line form through the Contest Website [www.amicimusicaalcamo.it](http://www.amicimusicaalcamo.it), e-mail [infoamicimusicaalcamo@gmail.com](mailto:infoamicimusicaalcamo@gmail.com)

Candidates requiring a Visa to stay in Italy should contact the Competition Secretariat by email, to obtain an invitation letter.

After the above specified deadline, all communications have to be sent by e-mail only.

**The first 100 entrants to the Contest** (the Organising Secretariat will inform the participants about the application order by e-mail, which will be considered as proof of registration), will be hosted, free of charge, in 4-stars Central Hotel in Alcamo, in triple bedrooms with B&B hospitality until the day they will still be taking part in the Contest, after elimination. Also, participants can decide to stay in the same hotel at their own expense. In order to receive free accommodation as specified above, participants have to confirm his/her presence no later than **24th April 2026**.

*The conditions for hospitality are specified below:*

- participants, in the preliminary round, will be entitled to stay only the night of 7th May 2026;
- participants, in the semi-final round, will be entitled to overnight stay on the 8th of May 2026;
- participants, who overcome the final examinations, will be hosted until the day of the Gala Concert and/or Awards Ceremony, which is up to 10th May 2026 including.

The application form is to be completed in all parts. However, failure to do so will imply the impossibility of accepting the application. The applicant has to specify his/her: first and last name, place and date of birth, nationality, address, voice register, and e-mail address.

The following documents must be attached to the application form:

- a) **copy of a valid identification document (also passport);**
- b) **One recent passport-size white-background picture, and one full-body picture;**
- c) **A CV, specifying candidate's artistic activities**, including musical studies, awards obtained, professional activities;
- d) The programme to be submitted in the application form must consist of **six (6) arias**, to be performed **from memory, tonality and language**, complete with **recitative and cabaletta**, **at least three of which must be by different Italian composers**.  
The application form must clearly indicate the **distribution of the selected arias** for each stage of the competition (**preliminary round, semifinal and final**).

Of the six selected pieces, **only one may optionally be taken from the 'operetta repertoire'**. **Lieder, zarzuelas, chamber music, sacred music and symphonic music will not be allowed.**

In the event of **parity between two candidates**, the preference will be given to the candidate who **fully complies with the above mentioned requirements**.

The **application form must be completed with the utmost care**. For each aria, the following information must be clearly and fully indicated:

- the composer's full name; the complete title of the opera; the incipit of the aria.

**Incomplete or approximate information will not be accepted.**

The organising committee is not required to contact candidates to report any omissions or errors in the application form; thus, **it is the sole responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the vocal programme has been correctly registered.**

After the **application deadline**, no changes to the submitted arias will be permitted.

- e) **Automatic qualifiers to the semi-finals:** candidates, having already ranked in one of the first three positions in any other International Singing Contest, can be admitted directly to the semi-final phase. In this case, the list of pieces to be submitted must indicate four pieces (**at least by two Italian composers**), for a total duration of 10-13 minutes.  
All singers having the aforementioned requirements, who decide to directly access the semi-final phase, must attach a copy of the **certificate showing that the position achieved in the other international contest is one of the first three (the term "International" is to be clearly specified in the certificate)**. The copy of the certificate submitted is to be signed by the participant himself/herself as proof of authenticity.
- f) The finalists of the selections held abroad and in Italy of the 2026 edition of the 'Città di Alcamo' Contest will directly be admitted to the semi-final phase. The list of pieces to be submitted must indicate **four pieces by no less than two different Italian composers**. For a total duration of 10-13 minutes.

Performances will be open to the public. Pianists will be available to accompany singers. However, participants may choose to perform with their own pianist, provided that all expenses for the personal pianist are paid by the participant. In the event that a singer will not have the time to rehearse with a pianist, or if organisational reasons prevent rehearsals between singer and pianist, the singer will be allowed to have a brief meeting with pianist immediately before his/her impromptu performance.

- 4 - Participants who fail to be present at the roll-call, they will be excluded from the Contest, unless they provide a justified reason for their absence before the start of the tests.

On the occasion of their first performance, all singers must show a valid Identity Document to the Secretary Office and pay € **100.00** as administrative fee.

- 5 - Participants will be judged in conformity with the rules approved for the Jury by the Board of Directors of the organising team (i.e. the Amici della Musica Association of Alcamo). In all the phases of the Contest, the Jury will be entitled to: i) request a singer to perform only a part of a piece or his/her program, or ii) ask questions to the singers in order to better understand their artistic profiles; iii) ask the singer to perform again.
- 6 - **The first prize is indivisible.** The Artistic Jury may decide not to award a prize whether any candidate is considered to be of a proper artistic level. In addition to this, the Jury can decide to assign ex aequo prizes, provided that the total sum awarded remains the same. The Jury has the right to request from a singer to perform only a part of an aria or his/her program, or that he/she performs again, and can ask questions to better understand his/her artistic profile.

The **cash prizes** provided for in the present regulations refer to, where required by law, **before current tax withholdings**, inclusive of all applicable tax withholdings, and may be paid **only upon presentation of an Italian tax code**, issued by the Italian Revenue Agency (Agenzia delle Entrate).

After the conclusion of the final phase, the Jury will take the minutes regarding its decisions. Then, the Jury will post the names of the winners, prize awardees and grant awardees, without disclosing the order in which the winners have ranked. The place list will be announced during the Gala Concert.

All Jury's decisions are to be considered undisputable and irrevocable. By participating in the contest, all Jury's decisions are recognised valid to accept by candidates.

- 7 - The winners of the Contest shall participate in the **Gala Concert** that will be held at the Cielo d'Alcamo Theatre on **Sunday, 10th May 2026**. Failure to participate in the Gala Concert will imply loss of prize. Grant Awardees and those who receive a Special Prize will not be considered winners; therefore, they may be allowed to sing for the Gala Concert only if the Artistic Jury will decide this.

The program of the Concert will be established as the Artistic Jury's unquestionable choice, specifying the pieces to be sung by the winners (or by prize and grant awardees, which should any of them perform). Each singer will be accompanied by a pianist.

- 8 - Participants are not entitled by any means to request compensation for performing on the final evening, or in the event that their performance is broadcasted on radio or television. The Gala Concert will be filmed, and the video can be purchased by the winners, prize and grant awardees for personal use. Winners will receive a Diploma of Honour. All the other participants will receive a Participation Certificate.
- 9 - The Organising Committee will be headed by the Association's Interim President. The Committee has the right to cancel the contest in case of events beyond its control. All parties concerned will be timely informed of all changes, if any.

- 10 - 'The Amici della Musica' Association has taken out liability insurance with a leading insurance Company for all stages of the competition (semifinal and final). It assumes no responsibility for any further risks or damages of any kind that may arise to competitors during the competition, beyond those covered above.

- 11 - Participation in the contest involves unconditional acceptance of these rules. Should any complaint arise, only the Italian text will be considered valid. Place of jurisdiction: Court of Trapani. For all matters not included in these regulations, the decision will be made by the Organising Committee.
- 12 - In compliance with Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30th 2003, all the data obtained will be processed only for the purposes related to this contest and according to the applicable laws. Should a participant desire to update, cancel, modify or integrate his/her personal information, please write to: infoamicimusi-caalcamo@gmail.com

## CONTEST PHASES

### 1. ELIMINATORY ROUND: Thursday, 7th May

At 9:00 a.m., all participants are to be present at the Cielo d'Alcamo Theatre for the roll-call. **A drawing will immediately follow of a letter for establishing the order of performances based on the initial letter of singers' last name and next the beginning of the phase itself. This order will remain the same for the three phases of the Contest.**

In the event that a singer will not have the time to rehearse with a pianist or if organisational reasons prevent rehearsals between singer and pianist, that singer will be allowed to have a short meeting with pianist immediately prior to his/her impromptu performance.

Note: The time of the roll call for this phase will be notified to the participants by mail and on the Contest's Facebook page.

Each singer will perform the **two pieces** that he/she has chosen for the Elimination Round as indicated in his/her Application Form. The pianist will verify that the arias comply with the two ones specified in the Application Form. At the end of this phase, the Jury will inform singers of who has been admitted to the semi-finals.

### 2. SEMI-FINALS:

#### Thursday, 7th May

At 4:00 pm, at the Cielo d'Alcamo Theatre there will be the semi-final, exclusively for the participants who have overcome the preliminary round.

The result of current semi-final will be announced at the end of the semi-final competition on 9th May.

#### Friday, 8th May

At 9:00 a.m., at the Cielo d'Alcamo Theatre, roll-call for all the semi-finalist, and after going on the beginning of the phase itself. Whether for time reason and organisation it will not be doable to do the test with the accompanists, the candidates will play their songs in extemporaneous after a brief interview with the accompanist.

Each singer will perform **the two pieces** specified in the list submitted with the application, for a total duration of 10-13 minutes. The pianist will verify that the arias comply with those ones specified in the Application Form.

At the end of the semi-final phase, the Jury will inform those who will be admitted to the Final phase.

The number of those admitted to the Finals will be established by the Jury.

### **3. FINALS: Saturday, 9th May**

Starting at 9:00 a.m., singers will meet with pianists at the Cielo d'Alcamo Theatre. Performances before the Jury will start afterwards.

Each singer will perform the other two arias specified in his/her application form. No participant is allowed to sing an aria that he/she had already sung in the elimination or semi-final phases.

**At the end of the performances, the Jury will rank the winners. The Jury's decision is to be considered indisputable.**

All finalists, who will not be declared winners, will be considered as 'ex aequo'.

**The programme and the timetable may vary because of possible organisational reasons, in relation to the actual number of the registered participants.**

***Note:* The program with the ultimate schedule will be posted on the Contest's official locations, (i.e. on the bulletin board) at the Cielo d'Alcamo Theatre.**