

“CENTRE DE PERFECCIONAMENT PLÁCIDO DOMINGO” PALAU DE LES ARTS REINA SOFÍA, VALENCIA



Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía in Valencia offers, for the tenth year, a course for young Opera Singers organized by *Centre de Perfeccionament Plácido Domingo*. The *Centre de Perfeccionament* develops its activity at the Teatre Martín i Soler, one of the four venues of the *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía*.

The course is offered to singers who possess **high artistic and vocal qualities**, a predisposition toward the music world, as well as **adequate technical preparation** to allow for the perfection of their skills and provide them with practical training in a world-class opera house.

The course aims to improve the artistic and professional training of the singers, by paying attention to the vocal-technique, interpretative and scenic aspects, and through the study of the lyrical repertoire, in order to facilitate the entry of the singers into the world of professional opera.

Profile: Opera singer

1. Requirements

The advanced training course is aimed at individuals who are of legal age and who have completed their secondary school education.

Participants from the Autonomous Region of Valencia, as well as citizens from throughout the European Union and other countries are welcome to apply to this advanced training course.

To apply for this selection process, the candidates must:

- Have an age between 18 and 30 years old, for sopranos and mezzo-sopranos, and between 18 and 33 years old for tenors, countertenors, baritones and basses.
- Provide proof that they have received adequate musical and vocal education and training in either a public or a private conservatory, institute, or academy of music.
- Provide proof of experience in the area of operatic theatre and/or qualified concert activity.
- Candidates who come from countries outside the European Union and who have been selected to participate in the advanced training course must apply for a Student Visa valid for Spain that includes all the course period.

Preference will be given to those candidates who possess knowledge of a European foreign language among the main ones inside the opera repertoire.

2. Structure and duration of the advanced training course

The course will take place from 7th September 2018 to 26th July 2019.

The course will include the following activities:

- Vocal technique
- Interpretation
- Body language
- Alexander Technique
- Psychology

There will also be masterclasses given by world-known artists.

The students will receive instruction from qualified teachers; they will attend meetings with conductors, stage directors, singers, and other artists and professionals participating in the productions and events programmed for the current season of the *Palau de les Arts*. Besides Plácido Domingo, we will have artists such as Fabio Biondi, Mariella Devia, Jaume Aragall, Enedina Lloris and Roger Vignoles, among others. Moreover, the singers will attend scheduled rehearsals of the operas and concerts taking place in the various venues of the *Palau*.

Participation in the educational and artistic activities of the *Centre Plácido Domingo* is mandatory for all the singers. They could also be part of the productions staged during the season in Teatre Martín i Soler, Auditori and Sala Principal, in the various roles assigned to them by the Artistic Direction of *Palau de les Arts*.

3. Course location

The course will be offered at the *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía* in Valencia (Spain).

4. Application process

The application for admission to the selection audition must be duly filled out with all the requested personal information, including a contact address and telephone number, and accompanied by the following documents:

- Application Form, duly filled out.
- A detailed Curriculum Vitae (studies, musical training, work experience and prizes).
- A copy of the Passport or Identity Card.
- A certificate of musical and vocal studies as well as for all other academic titles.
- Two recent photographs, a portrait ("head-shot") and a full-body photograph.
- Compulsory programme duly filled out (see section 5).
- A scanned copy of the scores of the pieces chosen for the audition (that must be sent by e-mail together with the Application Form **by the application deadline**).
- A detailed situation of the commitments already signed that will take place during the course period, so that the Direction can evaluate the possibility of the candidate's participation in the course, once the candidate has been chosen.

All the documents required must be sent in .zip or .rar format.

Due to the size of the documents, we kindly request that the documents are sent via a system for document transfer (such as Dropbox, Google Drive OneDrive, WeTransfer or similar).

Should any of the information on the application prove to be false or incorrect, the applicant will be excluded from the audition.

The application documents will not be returned.

All application materials for the selection audition must be sent by e-mail to the *Centre de Perfeccionament Plácido Domingo - Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía* before **23rd April 2018**.

NOTE: The scores must be sent by the deadline, together with the rest of documents.

The e-mail address to which applications should be sent is: centredeperfeccionament@lesarts.com

5. Selection auditions

The candidates will be selected by means of an audition.

Once accepted to participate in the qualifying round, the candidate must present **5 pieces** of music according to the following requirements:

- 1 Mozart's aria of opera
- 1 aria of opera in Italian
- 1 aria of opera in a language different from Italian
- 1 *zarzuela* aria, a traditional Spanish lyric genre, (except for countertenors who should present 1 aria of opera of Baroque repertoire)
- 1 piece of sacred or chamber music (*lied, chanson, aria*)

The arias must be known by heart and must be sung, without cuts, rigorously in the original language and tonality, including the recitative and, if applicable, the *cabaletta*.

Pieces from *operetta* or *musical* genre will not be accepted

At the qualifying round, the candidate would be able to choose as first aria a piece among those presented for the competition.

The Jury may request the candidate to perform another aria or zarzuela aria from among the pieces presented to the competition.

The Jury may choose to listen to the arias in their entirety or to limit the audition to a fragment thereof.

The candidate will be accompanied on the piano by a maestro répétiteur from the *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía*.

The auditions will take place at the *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía*, Avenida del Professor López Piñero (Historiador de la Medicina), 1 – Valencia (Spain), on the following days:

11th, 12th, 13th May 2018 (qualifying round)

14th, 15th May 2018 (semifinal round)

17th May 2018 (final round)

The results of the first round will be announced on 13th May.

The candidates who pass to the semifinal round will sing one or two arias chosen by the jury among those presented for the competition. They will also take a sight-reading test and a personal interview. The results of the semifinal round will be announced on 15th May.

The 16th May will be dedicated to the preparation for the final audition.

The final round will take place on 17th May and it will be open to the public (dark dress for men and long dress for women is requested).

On the final round, M^o Plácido Domingo will chair the selection committee.

6. Candidates to be admitted

The selection committee will announce the names of the candidates admitted to the course before 25th May 2018. The result will be communicated to each candidate by e-mail. Only the candidates admitted to the course will be contacted by telephone.

If, at the end of the final round, the number of candidates selected is not enough to start the course, the selection Committee can open new auditions and/or select singers that have been finalists in national or international singing contests.

The first three months will be considered as a probationary period for all the admitted singers. During the whole training period, *Palau de les Arts* reserves the right to expel any person who, for disciplinary or artistic reasons, does not comply with the necessary requirements to be part of the *Centre de Perfeccionament*.

7. Contents of the advanced training course

The primary content of the advanced training course concerns the preparation of concerts and operatic productions that will be part of the season's programme of *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía*.

The educational and production activities in which the *Centre* singers take part will be promoted through the web site of *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía* and its social networks.

8. Leaves of absence for artistic purposes

Course attendance is mandatory and cannot exceed the 25% of absences in the total hour's amount.

All possible leaves of absence to attend already signed commitments must be sent by the candidates with the application form. Any other leave of absence which had not been notified during the legal inscription period, should be requested in writing to the Direction of *Centre de Perfeccionament*. The Direction of the *Centre* will study the request and the convenience of granting or not the leave of absence; which will likewise be notified in writing.

9. Scholarship

The advanced training course will be free of charge for all singers admitted.

In addition, scholarship of 1,200€ per month will be provided to each singer who is admitted to and enrolls in the course.

The scholarship will be paid at the end of each month, according to each day that the singer indeed is present. The daily amount received by each candidate will be of 56€.

10. Relationship of singers with the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía

At the end of the advanced training course, the *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía* will plan to establish other forms of collaboration with those who are considered to be outstanding singers.

11. Information

For any other information, send a query by e-mail to:
centreperfeccionament@lesarts.com