

CENTRE DE PERFECCIONAMENT

PALAU DE LES ARTS REINA SOFÍA, VALÈNCIA

OPERA SINGER AUDITIONS



The *Centre de Perfeccionament del Palau de les Arts*, the Young Artists Programme of *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía* in Valencia offers, for the sixteenth year, a project of professional insertion and training for young opera singers and répétiteur pianists which allows them to achieve experience at a high artistic level, with the aim of launching their careers and facilitating their professional introduction into the world of music.

This artistic project, the only program of its kind in a Spanish theatre, is offered to candidates who possess high vocal and artistic qualities, as well as adequate technical preparation to allow for the perfection of their skills and their integration into the daily activity of an opera house.

This integration is possible thanks to the performance of their first roles in the titles of Les Arts' opera season, alongside prestigious directors and conductors, with the purpose of giving them the necessary experience to face the professional reality of working with opera companies in the future.



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Thanks to the openness and diversification of genres, styles and repertoires in the programming of Les Arts, with operas ranging from Baroque to contemporary music, participants will be able to acquire the artistic versatility needed to stand out in the wide range demanded by the most international theatres. In this sense, singers of the last editions of the *Centre's* Young Artist Programme have sung roles in the seasons of Les Arts in titles of the Central European repertoire as ambitious as *Wozzeck*, *Trouble in Tahiti*, *Les mamelles de Tirésias*, *Jenůfa*, *The Queen of Spades* or *Rusalka*, together with more traditional titles, including *Ernani*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, *La bohème*, *El retablo de maese Pedro* or *Die Zauberflöte*. The artists will also participate in recitals at Sala Principal and in several towns around the Valencian Region.

To be able to fulfil this activity, the artist will receive some training -including lessons and workshops- paying special attention to the vocal-technique, interpretative and scenic aspects.

In addition to what has been mentioned above, the *Centre de Perfeccionament* creates a link with former students by inviting them to participate each season in some of the scheduled operas. This provides them with an interesting professional showcase through which they can make themselves known to professionals in the sector, since Les Arts has an international projection that attracts the attention of theatre directors, agents and casting directors who are looking for emerging artists and who follow closely our programme.

The training will take place from September to July, both months included.

It is foreseen that the admitted candidates would be part of the *Centre de Perfeccionament* for the two forthcoming seasons (2024-2025 and 2025-2026), as long as the Direction considers, after the first season evaluation, whether the evolution of the singer has been positive.

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, candidates must:

- Have an age between 18 and 30 years old for women, and between 18 and 33 for men.
- Provide proof that they have received adequate musical and vocal education and training in either a public or a private institution.
- 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 the whole course period.

- The selected candidates must have basic health insurance valid for Spain during the course period.

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

2. Course location

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

3. Application process

The application for admission, together with the necessary documents, must be submitted through the webpage web <https://www.yaptracker.com/applications/palau-2024> before 4 February 2024 at 11:59 pm (Central European Time). In order to submit the application, candidates should register for free on the website <https://www.yaptracker.com/register-applicant>.

The application process will consist on an online form, which must be duly filled out with all the requested personal and contact information, studies and the compulsory programme (see section 4).

In the form, the candidate must include a detailed explanation 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.

In addition to that, the following documents must be sent as attached files:

- Two Video recording of two arias in a different language and of different style. The recordings might be (or not) of the same arias presented to the audition programme. In the case of a concert recording or a production recording, they must not be older than 6 months. A clean sound quality and a good visibility of the candidate are required.
- A detailed *Curriculum Vitae* (studies, musical training, working experience, repertoire 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.
- Those candidates selected to take part in the "semifinal round" must send a scanned copy of the scores of the pieces chosen for the audition (that must be sent by e-mail within 4 days after receiving the confirmation email). If the candidate does not send the documents on time, he or she will be automatically excluded from the audition process.

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

4. Selection auditions

Once accepted to participate in the qualifying round, the candidate must present 6 pieces of music according to the following requirements:

- 1 Baroque aria.
- 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.
- 1 piece of sacred or chamber music (*Lied, chanson, aria da camera*).

The selection process will consist on three rounds:

4.1. Qualifying round (not in-person)

This round will not require the candidate's attendance. The selection will be carried out by listening to the two video recordings.

All candidates registered in the auditions will be informed by e-mail about the results of this round between 19 and 21 February 2024.

4.2. Semi-final round (5 and 6 March 2024)

This round will be in-person and it will take place at *Teatre Martín i Soler*, at *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía*, Avenida del Professor López Piñero (Historiador de la Medicina), 1 – Valencia (Spain).

The candidates who go up to the Semifinal round will sing two arias. The first aria will be chosen by the candidate and the second one will be chosen by the jury, among those presented for the competition. The results of the semifinal round will be announced on 6 March, at the end of the round.

The arias must be known by heart and must be sung rigorously in the original language and tonality, including the recitative.

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

In this round, candidates can be accompanied on the piano by a maestro répétiteur from the *Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía* or by their own pianist.

4.3. Final round (8 March) – *Sala Principal* of *Palau de les Arts*

On this round, candidates will be accompanied on the piano by a maestro répétiteur from the *Palau de les Arts*.

The day prior to the final (7 March) candidates will be informed about the aria that they must sing on the final round. That day, 7 March will be dedicated to the preparation for the final audition.

The jury may ask for a second aria or any fragment to be sung, if needed.

The selection committee will announce the names of the candidates admitted to the course within 5 working days after the final round. 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, a new selection process and/or select singers that have been finalists in national or international singing contests.

The selection Committee will consider the chance to offer partial scholarships to those candidates that have reached the final round, and who due to their vocal characteristics might fit in a specific project of the season.

5. Probationary period

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*.

6. Desisting clause

Once admitted to the course, in the event that the artist wishes to finish the course previously, they will need to send a written notice to the Artistic Direction at least three months in advance, in order to facilitate that his place is covered by another candidate. If this previous notice period is not fulfilled, the artist will have to return the scholarship equivalent to one month.

7. Leaves of absence for artistic purposes

All possible leaves of absence to attend already signed commitments must be sent by the candidates with the application form.

During the course, attendance is mandatory, and exclusivity is required. Nevertheless, the Artistic Direction will consider the projects that could be interesting for the professional development of the singer. Those leaves 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 will study the request and the convenience of granting or not the leave of absence; which will likewise be notified in writing. Absences cannot exceed the 25% of the course.

8. Scholarship

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

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

The scholarship will be paid from first to fifth day of the following month, according to actual attendance of the candidate.



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9. Information

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

For technical problems with the application, send a query by e-mail to: help@yaptracker.com