

OPERA PIENZA

**For the 8th year, the City of Pienza welcomes the
“Benvenuto Franci” International Opera Competition:
12-13-14 October 2017**

Applications are now open!

Opera Pienza is pleased to announce that the 8th edition of the ‘Benvenuto Franci’ International Opera Competition will take place from 12-14 October 2017. For three exceptional days, the piazzas and streets of Pienza, a jewel in the crown of the Renaissance and UNESCO heritage site, will ring with the voices of 100 young singers, all vying for prizes that will help launch their careers.

Opera Pienza, created by the City of Pienza, supports and promotes young opera singers through the Competition and an annual summer concert. This innovative organization appreciates the support of its many partners including the Ministry for Arts and Heritage, the Opéra national du Rhin in Strasbourg, the Foundation of the Staatstheater Nürnberg, the ‘Luigi Cherubini’ Conservatory in Florence, the ‘Atelier Musicale’ management agency, Moira Johnson Consulting, the Region of Tuscany, the Province of Siena, Rotary District 2070 of Montepulciano-Chiusi-Chianciano, USI Agency of Casena, the Association ‘Amici per la Pelle’ in Milan, the cities of Radicofani, Trequanda, and Lucignano, the ‘Francesco Petrarca’ High School of Music in Arezzo and the Accademia degli Oscuri. The Competition is also twinned with the Maria Caniglia Competition in Sulmona and the Anselmo Colzani Competition in Budrio.

In order to increase the awareness of the surrounding region and the music professionals who live and work here, the City of Pienza has created a network with the neighbouring towns of Trequanda, Radicofani and Lucignano to highlight our artistic and cultural activities.

In 1996, the City of Pienza was added to UNESCO’s World Heritage List, meeting the essential criteria for such recognition: to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius; to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape



design; and, to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared.

As part of its commitment to promote young musical talent, the City of Pienza, presented a concert by the Orchestra and the Choir of the Musical Lyceum Francesco Petrarca of Arezzo, directed by the Professor Mariella Ristori, on June 1.

On 29 July 2017, Pienza, with the collaboration of Trequanda, Radicofani, and Lucignano, presented a concert of famous arias and duets by former winners of the Benvenuto Franci Opera Competition. The concert, the culmination of three days of masterclasses offered by celebrated baritone Rolando Panerai, took place in the courtyard of the Palazzo Piccolomini. The singers were accompanied by the Eox Ensemble. The selection of singers for the 2018 summer concert will be made during the opera competition in October.

The Opera Competition takes place on October, 12, 13, 14 at the Sala Convegni 'E. Balducci' of the San Carlo Borromeo Conservatory before an internationally celebrated jury chaired by Adua Veroni Pavarotti, who has been an integral part of the organization since the beginning. Since its inception, the competition has attracted over 800 participants from more than 30 countries.

The Competition:

Who can participate: The competition is directed toward the international promotion of new voices with particular focus on young singers. It is open to singers of all nationalities and in all vocal registers who are between 18 and 35 years of age (18 years of age on the date of application or born after December 31, 1982).

How to apply: Applications should be received before October 9, 2017. They can be emailed to iscrizioni.concorsofranci@comune.pienza.si.it, or completed directly on line on the website www.operapienza.it. Applications can also be sent by registered mail directly to the following address: VIII Concorso Internazionale per Cantanti Lirici "Benvenuto Franci" Comune di Pienza, Corso Il Rossellino, 61 - 53026 Pienza (Si). Candidates will find the regulations governing the competition (in Italian and English) on the website: www.operapienza.it.



The Prizes:

In addition to cash prizes totalling 6000 euros, the singers can be awarded the opportunity to audition for opera companies and participate in concerts.

First prize (2500 euros) is offered by the City of Pienza, Second Prize (2000 euros) by the San Carlo Borromeo Conservatory and Third Prize (1000 euros) by the Rotary Club of Chianciano-Chiusi-Montepulciano. In addition, the City of Pienza awards 500 euros to the best Baritone voice and the Banca CRAS offers the prize for the Best Young Singer.

Among the opportunities awarded to the young singers:

- The 'Opera National du Rhin Strasbourg Prize' awards an audition to two singers
- The 'Staatstheater Nürnberg Prize' awards an audition to two singers for the 2017-2018 season
- The 'Atelier Musicale Prize'. At the discretion of jury member Markus Laska, a singer may be considered for representation by the management agency which works in collaboration with Opera Pienza to help young singers to advance their careers.
- Comune di Lucignano Prize
- Comune di Radicofani Prize
- Comune di Trequanda Prize

The Jury members for the 8th Edition of the 'Benvenuto Franci' International Opera Competition are:

Adua Veroni Pavarotti, President

Rolando Panerai, Baritone

Francesca Franci, Mezzosoprano

Francesca Barbieri, Music Consultant

Umberto Finazzi, Faculty Member of the Accademia del Teatro alla Scala

Marc Clémour, Director General of the Opera national du Rhin Strasbourg

Thomas Hermann, Casting-Manager of the Staatstheater Nürnberg Foundation

Markus Laska, Opera Manager, Atelier Musicale Agency



Organization: The events organized and promoted by Opera Pienza are presented with the collaboration of Fabrizio Fè, Mayor of Pienza, Giampietro Colombini, Cultural Counsellor of Pienza, Artistic Director Monica Farelli, Coordinator Caterina Pellegrini, Associate to the Artistic Director Guglielmo Pianigiani, Artistic Consultant Markus Laska, Moira Johnson Consulting, and piano collaborators Paolo Andreoli and Guglielmo Pianigiani. Sergio Campagnolo's Studio ESSECI (Padua) looks after press and the presenter of the final gala concert is well-known radio and television personality and musicologist, Valentina Lo Surdo.

Partner: Opera Pienza has also partnered with the Association "Amici x la pelle" (Friends of Skin), which is part of the National Cancer Institute in Milan, the Hospital in Cesena and with Dr. Stefano Manchetti in Montepulciano to raise the profile of the dangers of skin cancer.

Collaborators: Among the collaborators of the Competition are: City of Pienza, the Region of Tuscany, the Province of Siena, the Conservatory San Carlo Borromeo and the Rotary Club of Chianciano-Chiusi-Montepulciano in cooperation with the Pro Loco in Pienza, the Choir of Pienza, the Filarmonica "A. Marrangoni", the Centro Commerciale Naturale "Città di Pienza", MPS e Banca CRAS.

