



Fourth International Choral Conducting Competition ROMANO GANDOLFI

Competition Rules

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The 4° ROMANO GANDOLFI International Choral Conducting Competition (the *Competition*) is launched with the aim of spreading choral culture, helping talented conductors of the next generation to embark on an international career, bridging the gap between training and professional
2. The Competition is organized by *AERCO, Associazione Emiliano-Romagnola Cori*, in collaboration with the *Fondazione Arturo Toscanini of Parma*, the *Parma Municipal Administration*, the *Favorita Association of the Re-Centro Studi Romano Gandolfi*, with the patronage of *FENIARCO, ANDCI, the MIC, and the Emilia-Romagna Region*.
3. The Competition will be held November 28-30, 2025 at the 'Centro Produzione Musicale' of the Toscanini Foundation and the 'Paganini' Auditorium in Parma.
4. The official language of the Competition is English.

II. PARTICIPANTS

The Competition is open to choral conductors, students or graduates in Italy and abroad, born **between January 1, 1985 and November 27, 2007**.

III. REGISTRATION

1. To register, an online form, available at <https://shorturl.at/LjppQU>, must be completed.
2. The following must be attached to the Competition entry form:
 - A. A current photo, in digital format (high resolution)
 - B. A scan of an ID card or passport with the contestant's date of birth.
 - C. Curriculum Vitae of the candidate indicating the artistic activity undertaken and studies attained.
 - D. Receipt of the payment of the registration fee of 30 Euros (non-refundable)
3. If still a student, a letter of introduction of the candidate from the Director of the music institution attended is appreciated.
4. Transmission of the completed Contest entry form is considered acceptance of these Contest rules.
5. The deadline for submission of entry forms for the Competition is **August 10, 2025**.

IV. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants will be selected by a committee composed of members of AERCO's Artistic Committee, based on the applications received for the Competition, including all documents required by the Competition Rules. The submitted resume will be the determining factor for selection.
2. **A maximum of 16** candidates will be admitted to the first stage of the Competition.
3. The committee may establish a 'waiting list' of candidates.
4. The list of candidates admitted to the first stage of the Competition will be posted on the websites www.choralconductorcompetition.eu by **September 1, 2025**. Admitted candidates will receive written notification from the Organization by **September 10, 2025**.



V. CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO THE COMPETITION

1. Applicants admitted to the Competition will be required to pay a registration fee of **70 euros** (non-refundable) by **September 30, 2025**.
Payment to be made through:
 - a) **Bank Transfer**
 Intesa Sanpaolo Bank
 IBAN: IT61G0306902520100000005066
 SWIFT / BIC: BCITITMM
 Reason for payment: *Registration for the Romano Gandolfi International Conducting Competition - 'Your Name*.
 - b) **PayPal**
 AERCO's PayPal account: ufficio@aerco.emr.it
 Reason for payment: *Registration for the Romano Gandolfi International Conducting Competition - 'Your Name*.
2. Failure to pay the registration fee **by September 30, 2025** will be considered as the candidate's decision not to participate in the Competition.
3. The Organization will not reimburse participants' travel and lodging expenses but will provide the name of an affiliated hotel.

VI. STAGES OF THE COMPETITION

1. The Competition will consist of three stages, during which participants will be evaluated on the basis of their work.

PHASE I. - November 28, 2025 - ELIMINATORY - 16 competitors

- A. concertation, for a maximum duration of 7 minutes of a piece drawn at random on the evening of Thursday, November 27, from eight available. A final performance of the piece itself is not mandatory.
- B. Performance, without the possibility of concertation, of one piece among six available drawn by lot at the time.
 The order in which the directors will perform will be drawn on the evening of Thursday, November 27.
 The 8 participants with the highest score in Phase I will be admitted to Phase II.

PHASE II. - November 29, 2025 - SEMIFINALS - 8 competitors.

- A. concertation and performance of a piece drawn at random on the evening of Friday, November 28, from eight available. The candidate will have a maximum time limit of 15 minutes.
- B. concertation and performance of one piece drawn at random, on the evening of Friday, November 28, from eight available. The candidate will have a maximum time limit of 10 minutes.
 The order in which the directors will perform will be drawn on the evening of Friday, November 28.
 The 5 participants with the highest score in Phase II (sum of points from Phases I and II) will be admitted to Phase III.

PHASE III. - November 30, 2025 - FINALS - 5 competitors (A and B); 3 competitors (C)

- A. concertation and performance of two pieces of Gregorian Chant drawn by lot, on the spot, from 5 proposed. The candidate will be given a maximum time of 15 minutes.
- B. concertation and performance of a piece drawn at random, on the evening of Nov. 29, from 5 proposed and non-repeatable pieces. The candidate will be given a maximum time of 20 minutes.



- C. Public concert performance of a piece drawn by lot from 3 proposed and non-repeatable pieces.

The directors' performance order for rehearsal A and B will be drawn on the evening of Saturday, November 29. The performance order of the directors and the song for rehearsal C will be drawn on Sunday, November 30, immediately after the end of rehearsal B.

The 3 participants with the highest score at the end of Phase III B (sum of points from Phases I, II, III A and III B) will be admitted to Phase III C.

VII. AWARDS

1. The international jury of the Competition may award the following prizes:

1ST PRIZE.

- A scholarship of **2,000 euros**.
- A place as a jury member at the fifth Romano Gandolfi International Choral Conducting Competition, November 2027.
- Direct admission, without pre-selection, to the next edition of the 'Fosco Corti' International Competition for Choral Conductors, organized by FENIARCO.
- One concert in Italy. Travel expenses to be borne by the contestant.
- Diploma.

2ND PRIZE.

- A scholarship of **1,500 euros**.
- One concert in Italy. Travel expenses to be borne by the contestant.
- Diploma.

3RD PRIZE.

- A scholarship of **1,000 euros**.
- Diploma.

SPECIAL AWARDS.

- **500 euros** scholarship and a plaque for the Director with the most similar artistic characteristics to M^o Romano Gandolfi (prize awarded by a special jury).
- FENIARCO Award: a scholarship of **500 euros** and a diploma for the Italian Conductor who achieves the highest score, provided that he or she reaches at least the semi-finals.
- 'Centro Studi Romano Gandolfi' Award: A scholarship of **200 euros** and a diploma for the conductor who obtains the highest score in the final stage, as voted by the Enjoy workshop choir.

2. The scholarships awarded will be subject to taxation according to current Italian regulations.
3. According to the Contest rules, other special prizes may also be awarded.
4. All participants in the Competition will receive a certificate of participation.
5. The decisions of the jury are final.

VIII. COMPETITION PROGRAM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025

4:30 pm: Meeting of jurors and participants with city authorities.

Council Chamber of the City of Parma, Strada della Repubblica, 1, Parma

5:30 p.m.: Aperitif with jurors and participants, draw to determine the order of performance for Phases I-A and I-B and the musical pieces for Phase I-A.

800° Cafè, Strada del Conservatorio, 10, Parma



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2025

Centro Produzione Musicale' of the Toscanini Foundation, Parma:

9:00 Official opening of the Competition. Presentation of jurors and participants.

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Auditions Phase I-A (8 participants)

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Auditions Phase I-A (8 participants)

15:00 - 16:30 Stage I-B Auditions (8 participants)

17:00 - 18:30 Stage I-B Auditions (8 participants)

Around 7:15 p.m. Announcement of Phase I results.

Drawing to determine the order of performance and songs for Phases II-A and II-B.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025

Centro Produzione Musicale' of the Toscanini Foundation, Parma:

9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Stage II-A Auditions (4 participants)

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Auditions Phase II-A (4 participants)

15:00 - 16:15 Stage II-B Auditions (4 participants)

16:30 - 17:45 Stage II-B Auditions (4 participants)

Around 6:45 p.m. Announcement of the results of Phase II.

Drawing to determine the order of performance for Phases III-A and III-B and the songs in Phase III-B

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

'Paganini' Auditorium, Parma:

Stage III-A Auditions

Hours:

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. (1 candidate)

10:20 - 10:35 (1 candidate)

10:40 - 10:55 a.m. (1 candidate)

11:00 - 11:15 a.m. (1 candidate)

11:20 - 11:35 (1 candidate)

Stage III-B Auditions

Hours:

15:00 - 15:20 (1 candidate)

15:25 - 15:45 (1 candidate)

15:50 - 16:10 (1 candidate)

16:15 - 16:35 (1 candidate)

16:40 - 17:00 (1 candidate)

6:15 p.m. - Announcement of the results of the first two stages and drawing of the performance order of the 3 finalists and their assigned song.

Stage III-C Auditions

Hours:

21:00 - Concert of the finalists

21:10 (1 candidate)

21:20 (1 candidate)

21:30 (1 candidate)

9:40 p.m. (Concert by the *Enjoy* Choir, Italy, winner of the Grand Prix at the Giuseppe Savani National Competition in Carpi, 2025 edition)

22:15 - Awards Ceremony

22:45 - Official closing of the Competition.



IX. COMPETITION JURY

The competition jury will consist of 7 distinguished masters.

X. COMPETITION MUSIC PROGRAM

PHASE I-A - Odhecaton Ensemble (dir. Paolo Da Col)

1. Coenantibus illis (G. Pierluigi da Palestrina)
2. Dominus Jesus in qua nocte (G. Pierluigi da Palestrina)
3. Exsultate Deo (G. Pierluigi da Palestrina)
4. Laudate Dominum (G. Pierluigi da Palestrina)
5. O Sacrum Convivium (G. Pierluigi da Palestrina)
6. Pater Noster (G. Pierluigi da Palestrina)
7. Surge Illuminate (G. Pierluigi da Palestrina)
8. Tu es Pastor Ovium (G. Pierluigi da Palestrina)

PHASE I-B - Emilia-Romagna Regional Choir + Orchestra

1. Chorale, from the Cantata *Wohl dem, der sich auf seinen Gott, BWV139* (J.S. Bach)
2. Chorale (no. 2), from the Cantata *Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten* (F. Mendelssohn)
3. Misericordias Domini (W.A. Mozart)
4. Laudate Pueri, from *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore, KV 399* (W.A. Mozart)
5. Quare fremuerunt gentes, from *Oratorio de Noël Op.12* (C. Saint Saëns)
6. Gloria Patri II, Sicut Erat, Miserere III, from *Miserere ZWV57* (J.D. Zelenka)

PHASE II-A - Musicanova Choir Rome

1. Padre Nostro (G. Verdi)
2. It was already time (A. Zecchi)
3. Yver vous n'estes qu'un villain (C. Debussy)
4. Morning Star (A. Pärt)
5. Sagastipean (J. Busto)
6. Ave Maris Stella (T. Kverno)
7. Seisab Valurikas Ema (Hail Mary) (U. Sisask)
8. The Star of the County Down (Trad. Ireland (arr. Howard Goodall))

PHASE II-B - White Voice Choir: Young Voices of Bassano (Bassano del Grappa, Italy)

1. Ave Maris Stella (V. Miškinis)
2. Tota Pulchra (O. di Piazza)
3. Kala, Kallá (E. Whitacre)
4. Gloria, from 'A Little Jazz Mass' (B. Chilcott)
5. The Star Dance of Elysium (D. Lim)
6. Fecit Potentiam, from *Magnificat* (K.A. Arnesen)
7. Gloria Patri (sino b. 82), from *Magnificat* (K.A. Arnesen)
8. Song of Hope (S. Lindmark)

PHASE III-A - Gregorian Ensemble: Schola Gregoriana Ecce (Bologna, Italy)

1. CO. Qui manducat
2. AN. Salve Regina (tonus solemnis)
3. IN. Nos autem gloriari
4. HY. Ad cenam agni providi
5. IN. Suscepimus Deus

PHASE III-B - Women's Choir: Enjoy (Cesano Maderno, Italy)

1. Ave Maris Stella (E. Ugalde)
2. Tollite Portas (V. Nees)
3. Laudate Dominum (J.A. Pamintuan)
4. Ubi Caritas (O. Gjeilo)



5. Dies Irae (M.J. Trotta)

PHASE III-C - Women's Choir: Enjoy (Cesano Maderno, Italy)

1. Sub tuum praesidium (M. Kocsár)
2. Jubilate Deo (F. Alberti)
3. Ave Maria (Z. Kodály)

XI. STUDY TOUR – With Prof. Michele Napolitano

1. On the occasion of the fourth edition of the 'Romano Gandolfi' International Competition for Choral Conductors, we would like to offer the opportunity to participate in the event from a special angle, with the valuable guidance of an experienced teacher-director. The initiative, already in use in important national and international contexts, aims to involve choral conductors and students of choral conducting in a training and in-depth course that allows them to analyze a plurality of situations, experiences, repertoires, in a high-profile international context.
2. It will be possible to follow all the competition rounds (preliminaries, semifinals and finals) with reserved access and guaranteed seating within the various competition venues (Centro Produzione Musicale' of the Toscanini Foundation - Auditorium Paganini).
3. There will also be specific moments of debate and analysis, outside the competition hours, led by Study Tour lecturer Prof. Michele Napolitano. An opportunity, therefore, not only for listening but also for in-depth analysis and sharing aimed at personal and professional growth.
4. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 28, and will conclude on Sunday, Nov. 30, with the awards ceremony scheduled for 10:15 p.m.
5. The cost of participation is Euro 60 for AERCO / FENIARCO / ANDCI members and Euro 80 for non-members and includes complete PDF scores, "sample" mode.
6. There is a maximum number of 20 participants, according to the order of registration.
7. To register, use the link: <https://form.jotform.com/aercobologna/gandolfistudytour>.

Payment to be made through:

a) **Bank Transfer**

Intesa Sanpaolo Bank

IBAN: IT61G0306902520100000005066

SWIFT / BIC: BCITITMM

Reason for payment: *Study Tour - Romano Gandolfi International Competition for Directors - 'your name.*

b) **PayPal**

AERCO's PayPal account: ufficio@aerco.emr.it

Reason for payment: *Study Tour-International Competition for Directors Romano Gandolfi - 'your name.*

8. The Organization will not provide members with food or lodging and will not cover travel expenses.
9. The fee includes:
 - a. An identification card and promotional materials.
 - b. The right to participate in the auditions of the different stages and meetings with the jurors.
 - c. Musical materials with the Competition repertoire (PDF sheet music in 'sample' mode).
 - d. A reserved seat for the gala concert.
 - e. A certificate of participation in the Competition.



XII. COPYRIGHT AND PERSONAL DATA

After submission of the completed Competition Application Form, the candidate:

1. Agree that photos, with their own image, may be taken during the Contest, and that such photos may be used, processed and reproduced, by any means for promotional and AERCO archival purposes, without each time, the need for specific permission.
2. Grants free of charge to the Competition Organization the right to use audiovisual artistic recordings made during the Competition or the Finalists' Concert exclusively for non-commercial purposes, including promotional and archival purposes, in the following areas of use:
 - a. regarding reproduction-recording by digital sound and image technology, production of CDs and/or DVDs or other media;
 - b. with regard to the dissemination of copies on which an artistic performance has been recorded - the placing on the market, lending or renting;
 - c. with regard to the dissemination of performances in ways other than those specified in b above: broadcasting, rebroadcasting, and performing and making them available to the public on selected web pages.
3. Agree to the processing of their personal data for purposes related to the Competition, in accordance with the declaration submitted in the entry form. Personal data are provided by applicants on a voluntary basis, but their submission is required for participation in the Competition.

FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The Organization reserves the right to amend these regulations.
2. The Organization may cancel the Contest for important and force majeure reasons.

The Artistic Direction of the Competition:

Andrea Angelini - Artistic Director

Daniele Sconosciuto - Artistic Director

Silvia Biasini - Preliminary Evaluation Committee.

Luca Buzzavi - Preliminary Evaluation Committee

Roberto Penta - Preliminary Evaluation Committee

Ilaria Cavalca - Preliminary Evaluation Committee.

Silvia Perucchetti - Preliminary Evaluation Committee.

Giovanna Facilla - Preliminary Evaluation Committee.

AERCO

Emilia Romagna Choirs Association

Via Barberia 9 - 40123 Bologna - Italy

www.aerco.it

www.choralconductorcompetition.eu

aercobologna@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/romanogandolficompetition

Tel. +39 051 0067024