

BOTTEGA DONIZETTI
An Advanced Masterclass for Opera Singers
directed by **Giulio Zappa**
Project 2026

Fondazione Teatro Donizetti di Bergamo carries on its professional training course called **BOTTEGA DONIZETTI. An advanced masterclass for opera singers**. Enrolling and attending the Bottega is totally free of charge; the admission of candidates will be subject to a selection procedure according to the following articles.

Art. 1 – Aims and Subject Matter

The Bottega addresses the vocal and dramaturgical issues related to Donizetti's operatic production. Only admitted candidates can attend the course. Attendance is free of charge and limited in number. Selected singers will be offered the opportunity to consolidate and further improve, under the guidance of international artists, the various vocal, musical and dramaturgical aspects of the bel canto repertoire and of Donizetti in particular.

The Bottega Donizetti admitted students will take part in some of the DONIZETTI OPERA 2026 Festival productions, which are: ***Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali* di G. Donizetti (critical edition by Roger Parker e Anders Wiklund)** and ***L'esule di Roma* di G. Donizetti (critical edition by Roger Parker and Ian Schofield)**.

Six participants will be selected as follows: **1 sopranos, 1 mezzosoprano/contralto, 1 tenor, 3 bass/bass-baritone/baritones**, who will be assigned the following roles:

- **Luigia**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali* **soprano**
- **Pippetto**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali* **mezzosoprano/contralto**
- **Publio**, in *L'esule di Roma* **tenor**
- **Cesare Salsapariglia**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali* **bass/bass-baritone/baritone**
- **Biscroma Strappaviscere**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali* **bass/bass-baritone/baritone**
- **Procolo**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali* **bass/bass-baritone/baritone**

Participants may also be involved in further activities of the festival and be designated as covers for the main roles in the DONIZETTI OPERA 2026 productions.

Art. 2 – Calendar

The Bottega Donizetti 2026 will be divided into the following phases:

- Sunday, February 15th, 2026: deadline for applications;
- Wednesday, February 18th, 2026: deadline for publishing pre-selection results;
- Monday, March 23rd and Tuesday, March 24th, 2026: in-person auditions;
- Tuesday, March 31st, 2026: deadline for publishing the results of in-person auditions;
- From Monday, May 4th to Saturday, May 17th, 2026: masterclass;
- From Monday, October 12th to Sunday, November 29th, 2026: DONIZETTI OPERA 2026 Festival productions (dates to be confirmed).

Final information on calendar, programme and lectures, as well as any future change, will be communicated directly to the admitted candidates by e-mail.

The artistic director and board of the Festival may decide to offer further opportunities to each participant within the production activities of the DONIZETTI OPERA, whether they are as covers for specific roles or for promotional, educational or other activities.

Art. 3 - Organisation

Attendance at the masterclass courses is full-time and compulsory: any artistic leave must be authorised in advance by the DONIZETTI OPERA Festival artistic director and board.

Applicants admitted to the Bottega will be given the musical materials and study instructions, as well as updates on the production schedule and on teachers. Before attending the masterclass, they must have perfectly memorized the parts they have been assigned.

Participation in the Bottega and related activities authorises Fondazione Teatro Donizetti to make free of charge any audio/video recordings and recordings for broadcasting by Fondazione itself or by public or private radio and television organisations.

Art. 4 – Courses

Classes will be held on 14 days, with a maximum daily commitment of 8 hours.

The teaching syllabus includes the following modules:

- Vocal technique;
- Score study;
- Interpretation of Donizetti's operatic repertoire;
- Body expression techniques and in-depth study of characters;
- Philology and musical dramaturgy of Donizetti;

The course will be held in Fondazione Teatro Donizetti's premises, in Bergamo.

Art. 5 – Teachers

For the 2026 edition of BOTTEGA DONIZETTI the following teachers will be involved:

- **Riccardo Frizza** (artistic and musical director of the DONIZETTI OPERA)
- **Paolo Fabbri** (scientific director of the DONIZETTI OPERA)
- **Giulio Zappa** (vocal coach and head of the BOTTEGA DONIZETTI)
- **Paolo Bordogna** (baritone, vocal technique and interpretation)
- **Cristiano Sandri** (artistic director of the Teatro Regio of Turin)
- **Alberto Zanardi** (conductor and stage musical director DONIZETTI OPERA)

Art. 6 – Scholarships and Fees for the Bottega Students

For the masterclass period, admitted candidates will receive a scholarship of €2,000 each to cover travel, board and lodging expenses.

For the productions of the DONIZETTI OPERA 2026 Festival, in addition to the scholarship, a total gross fee of €4,500.00 will be awarded to every admitted student.

The Bottega students (as already stated in Art. 1) can also be involved in further artistic activities, whether promotional, didactic, professional or other kinds.

Art. 7 - Admission Requirements

The course is open only to singers born after 1 January 1994 who hold the Italian citizenship or the citizenship of an EU country. Citizens of non-European Union countries, who are legally resident in Italy and have a valid residence permit or student visa valid at the date of the selection and at the beginning of the course are also eligible for admission. Candidates who are not resident in one of the EU Member States must comply with the regulations in force for the entire duration of the masterclass and of the Festival productions, otherwise they will be excluded.

At the time of submitting their application, candidates must be in full possession of civil and political rights; if they are foreign citizens, they must prove to have an adequate knowledge of Italian or English language.

Art. 8 – Application Form

Application forms must be submitted no later than 1 p.m. (italian time zone GMT +1) on Sunday, February 15th, 2026, through the online form <https://forms.gle/x19oxGvLfw3ybMc78>, with:

- personal data sheet attached to the call for applications (in PDF format);
- copy of valid identity card or passport (in PDF format);

- copy of Italian tax code (if you have one, in PDF format);
- curriculum vitae (in PDF format);
- full-length photograph (in .jpg format);
- close-up photograph (in .jpg format);
- privacy subscription attached to the call for applications (in PDF format);
- link to the audio-video recordings of the arias chosen for the pre-selection (only YouTube or Vimeo).

Applications delivered by hand, fax or paper mail will not be accepted.

Fondazione Teatro Donizetti will not be responsible for any technical and/or computer issues preventing the correct delivery of applications submitted by candidates.

Non-compliance with the above terms will result in the exclusion of the candidate.

All communication to candidates by Bottega Donizetti will be made exclusively via the e-mail address provided by the candidates at the time of registration.

Art. 9 – Admission Procedure

The selection of participants will take place in two stages:

1. PRE-SELECTION - During the pre-selection procedure the video recording enclosed with the application form will be evaluated. This evaluation will be carried out at the sole discretion of the Committee set up by the Artistic Director and comprising artists and professionals in the field.

For the pre-selection assessment, candidates must send an audio-visual recording (including recitative and cabaletta, if applicable, and without traditional cuts) of 2 opera arias of their choice, taken from the repertoire of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini. Pieces must be performed by heart, without the aid of a score. Every recorded file, in HD quality and no longer than 10 minutes, may be sent using the online application form indicating the YouTube or Vimeo link, the only viable means for receiving audio-visual material. The recording must be recent and specifically made for the Bottega Donizetti pre-selection procedure.

Fondazione will publish the list of pre-selected candidates on the webpage dedicated to calls for selection, no later than Wednesday, February 18th, 2025. Each candidate who has passed the pre-selection procedure will then receive by e-mail the convocation indicating the place and time for the in-person audition.

2. IN-PERSON SELECTION - The selection will be based on a live audition that will be held in Bergamo (according to the calendar), in one of Fondazione Teatro Donizetti's premises. Candidates selected for the live audition will have to present the following pieces:

- **Luigia**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali*, **soprano**:
 - 2 opera arias of one's choice, taken from the repertoire of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini or another Belcanto composer (necessarily different from those presented for the audio-video pre-selection)
- **Pippetto**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali*, **mezzosoprano/contralto**:
 - 2 opera arias of one's choice, taken from the repertoire of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini or another Belcanto composer (necessarily different from those presented for the audio-video pre-selection)
- **Publio**, in *L'esule di Roma*, **tenore**:
 - 1 opera aria of one's choice, taken from the repertoire of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini or another Belcanto composer (necessarily different from those presented for the audio-video pre-selection)
 - from *L'esule di Roma*: Duetto n. 4, atto I with Murena: "Se della patria il Genio" (perform the part, although written in baritone clef, in all alternatives with the highest note)
- **Cesare Salsapariglia**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali*, **bass/bass-baritone/baritone**:
 - 2 opera arias of one's choice, taken from the repertoire of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini or another Belcanto composer (necessarily different from those presented for the audio-video pre-selection)

- **Biscroma Strappaviscere**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali*, **bass/bass-baritone/baritone**:
 - 2 opera arias of one's choice, taken from the repertoire of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini or another Belcanto composer (necessarily different from those presented for the audio-video pre-selection)
- **Procolo**, in *Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali*, **bass/bass-baritone/baritone**:
 - 2 opera arias of one's choice, taken from the repertoire of Rossini, Donizetti, Bellini or another Belcanto composer (necessarily different from those presented for the audio-video pre-selection)
 - from "Le convenienze ed inconvenienze teatrali": appendix 1b Aria "Che credete che mia moglie"

Pieces must be performed by heart, without the aid of a score, and complete.

The Bottega will provide candidates with a pianist (répétiteur) for the performance of the presented programme. Candidates must provide the scores of the pieces they have selected.

Candidates are allowed to be accompanied by a pianist of their choice; in this case, no charge or expense may be requested from Fondazione and candidates must inform well in advance of the audition that they will be accompanied by their own pianist.

The Examining Committee may decide to listen to the entire or to part of the programme submitted.

Those who miss the selection audition will be excluded from the Bottega.

In the event that those participating in the Masterclass classes do not fulfil their obligation to perform the roles in the Festival production, they will no longer be students of the Bottega, will be withdrawn and will have to return the scholarship.

Art. 10 – Admission to Bottega Donizetti

Admission to the Bottega will be decided on the basis of the final ranking list drawn up by the Examining Committee and published on Fondazione Teatro Donizetti website after the live selection procedure no later than Tuesday, March 31st, 2026. The Committee decision cannot be questioned.

Candidates who have been deemed eligible but have not been admitted to the masterclass may take the place of admitted students who eventually renounce and, depending on the Committee's decision, may attend the courses as auditors.

Admitted candidates will be sent a convocation via e-mail indicating the date and time of the beginning of the course.

The Committee may recognise as eligible candidates who have given proof of a good general technical-interpretative level and may invite them to participate as covers of roles in the DONIZETTI OPERA 2026 Festival productions with a fee commensurated with the commitment required.

Feedback on musical performances will only be given on live performances to candidates admitted to the final selection.

For information or further details on musical study materials and their retrieval, please send your queries to the following email address: bottega@fondazioneteatrodonizetti.org

For further information and/or clarification on the call in general, please contact us at: +39 035 4160616 – +39 035 4160634 – selezione@fondazioneteatrodonizetti.org