

Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Puccini's Death & First Giacomo Puccini International Singing Competition

The G. Puccini International Singing Competition is organized to commemorate the centenary of Giacomo Puccini's death and the first performance of the opera **Turandot**. This event aims to celebrate the composer's legacy and promote cultural cooperation between Italy and China by introducing the Puccini Festival to China. The judging panel for the First Puccini International Vocal Competition includes the General Director of the Puccini Festival, a world-renowned conductor, a distinguished director, an agent, and top musicians and educators from China. The competition will consist of two phases: an online preliminary round and live rounds. The live rounds are divided into three stages: the semi-final, demi-semi-final, and the final. The first two rounds will be accompanied by piano, while the final will feature a symphony orchestra under the baton of an internationally acclaimed conductor. Ten prizes will be awarded, accompanied by cash rewards. Among the finalists, two singers will be selected (one from the tenor, baritone, and/or bass registers, and one from the soprano or mezzo-soprano registers) to participate in the Puccini Academy of the Puccini Festival in Italy.

Organizers:

- Puccini Festival Foundation
- Henan Conservatory of Music - University of Zhengzhou
- Chinese Poetry Cultural Development Foundation

Co-organizers:

- Henan Conservatory of Music
- Henan Arts Center (Poly Theatre)
- Dewen Culture Co. Ltd.

Date: 28 November 2024 (Opening Ceremony) - 2 December 2024

Place: Henan Arts Center (Poly Theatre)

Orchestra: Henan Symphony Orchestra

Organizing Committee:



President: Franco Moretti

Italian General Director of the Puccini Festival Foundation and member of the board of directors of the Italia Festival Association, member of the Board of Directors of the Tirana National Theatre - Albania. He has founded top-tier artistic projects around the world.



Vice President: Dai Yuqiang

President of Henan Conservatory of Music at Zhengzhou University, renowned tenor, national first-class actor, and the only Asian disciple of Luciano Pavarotti. He has received numerous awards including the "China Drama Plum Blossom Award," "Wenhua Performance Award," and first place in the "Shizuoka International Opera Competition" in Japan.



Project Manager: Yi Lisha

Soprano, Ph.D. from Sofia New Bulgarian University, responsible for Planning and Execution of the Puccini Festival Overseas Competition Program. National visiting scholar at the Rome Conservatory of Music and a member of the National Training Program for Young Teachers and the International Education Forum.



Project Manager: Ying Zhihao

Baritone, Ph.D. from Sofia - New Bulgarian University, responsible for Planning and Execution of the Puccini Festival Overseas Competition Program. Artist of the Puccini Festival.

Jury Members (in alphabetical order):



- He Hui

Internationally renowned soprano, professor at Xi'an Conservatory of Music, and the only Chinese singer invited by the world's six top opera houses. She is also the first Chinese singer to perform as the leading soprano at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan. She has won numerous competitions, including second place in the "Operalia," first place in the "Verdi International Opera Competition," and the "International Opera Oscar Gold Award."



- Massimo Gasparon

Italian opera stage director and lighting designer. He has collaborated with numerous opera houses and festivals including the Puccini Festival, Rossini Opera Festival, and the Mariinsky Theatre in Russia.



- Michael Morelli

Danish-Italian CEO of Crescendi Artists International Management Company in Denmark, writer, and educator. His company represents over 60 globally signed conductors, singers, and musicians and collaborates with leading opera houses, festivals, and symphony orchestras.



- Jacopo Sipari di Pescasseroli

Internationally renowned Italian conductor, he has led hundreds of opera productions and major ballet titles worldwide, also collaborating with popular music artists such as Ricky Martin, Il Volo, and Anastacia. He is currently the Artistic Director of the National Theatre of Tirana, the Midsummer International Festival, and the Music Director of the Abruzzo Symphony Institution.



- Wei Song

Renowned tenor, national first-class actor, member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He is the artistic director of the Shanghai Opera House, a council member of the China Musicians Association, and Vice President of the Shanghai Musicians Association. He has also served as dean of the College of Music at Shanghai Normal University.



- Xu Zhaoren

Renowned bass, professor, and master's supervisor. He previously served as head of the Vocal Department at Shenyang Conservatory of Music, Vice President of the Chinese Vocalists Association, and a board member of the Performance Committee of the Liaoning Musicians Association and the Liaoning Chorus Association.



- Yang Yan

Renowned tenor, professor, and doctoral supervisor at the China Conservatory of Music. He is the director of the Opera Center at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music, Executive President of the Chinese Singers' Association, Vice President of the Canton Musicians Association, and President of the Canton Vocal Arts Research Association.

Competition Rules

Requirements:

1. Contestants of all nationalities are welcome.
2. Age limits:
 - Tenor/baritone/mezzo-soprano: up to 36 years old (born after 1 January 1988)
 - Soprano: up to 33 years old (born after 1 January 1991)
 - Bass: up to 40 years old (born after 1 January 1984)
3. Repertoire:
 - Five pieces in the original language (Italian, German, French, Russian, English, or Chinese) including at least three arias.
 - At least one of the arias must be composed by Giacomo Puccini (*This requirement does not apply to baritones, basses, or mezzo-sopranos).
4. Contestants may bring their own accompanists; if an accompanist is needed, the committee offers accompaniment for a fee of 600 RMB for one rehearsal and one performance.
5. Application fees:
 - Preliminary round: €100 / 800 RMB (Application fees must be paid via bank transfer with proof of payment attached to the application form).
 - Semifinals: €150 / 1200 RMB (Proof of payment sent to email).
6. Contestants are responsible for their own accommodation, travel, and personal safety during the competition.
7. Contestants are responsible for their own visa arrangements (refer to China's visa exemption policies).

Phases of the Competition:

1. Preliminary Round (Online): Two self-selected pieces, one of which must be in Italian. (Contestants should upload their videos to YouTube or Youku and provide the link in the application form.)
2. Quarterfinals: Two self-selected pieces with a maximum performance time of 10 minutes (divided into male and female groups).
(Tenors and sopranos must include at least one Puccini aria.)
3. Semifinals: Two pieces: one self-selected and one chosen by the judges (the self-selected piece must not be repeated from the quarterfinals).
4. Finals: One aria selected by the judges.

Schedule:

- Application period: From now until 15 November
- Announcement of semifinalists: 18 November
- Rounds in Henan: 28 November - 2 December
- Registration and Drawing: 28 November
- Semifinals (80 contestants divided into 2 categories: male and female): 29 November
- Demi-semifinals (30 contestants): 30 November
- Masterclass and rehearsal with orchestra: 1 December
- Final (10 contestants): 2 December

Awards:

There will be a total of 8 winners:

- **First Prize:** 1 male, 1 female €8000 each
- **Second Prize:** 1 male, 1 female €4000 each
- **Third Prize:** 2 males, 2 females €2000 each

Special Awards:

- **Puccini Centennial for the Best Voice Award:** €2000
- **Judges' Special Award:** €2000

Note

1. Registration can be completed through the on the official website of the Henan Conservatory of Music.
2. Contestants may apply to either the Puccini Festival Foundation or the Henan Conservatory of Music.
N.B. (The application must not be submitted to both institutions.)
3. The organizing committee reserves the right to the final interpretation of all matters related to the competition.