

## *All about the audition procedure*

### **1. Who can apply for an IOA audition?**

Students eligible to register for the selection process must not be older than 32 and must have completed a master programme in classical singing or piano, or an equivalent programme,<sup>1</sup> upon the start of the next IOA academic cycle. The IOA expects potential students to demonstrate the skills and professionalism acquired by master students.<sup>2</sup>

### **2. What is expected at an IOA audition?**

Candidates audition according to schedule. Candidates will present (in this order):

#### **Candidate-singer**

- Brief personal presentation by the candidate
- Performance: arias  
*Students prepare 3 arias.  
One aria is from the Italian repertoire, one aria must contain a recitativo.  
Arias are performed without the use of score.*
  - o First aria: candidate's choice
  - o Second aria: jury's choice  
*This decision is communicated by the Head of Jury.*
  - o The jury may request a third aria.
- Performance: text fragment  
*Students prepare one spoken text fragment (source: libretto, theatre play, poem or prose). This text fragment is performed by memory (text cannot be used at the audition).*
- Brief final interview  
*The candidate will be asked to explain his/her motivation, background and personality, to demonstrate his/her insight in the domain of opera and his/her knowledge of languages.*

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<sup>1</sup> Are eligible for admission to the IOA: students having obtained a master's degree, a degree of higher arts education, or a degree of an equivalent level of arts education. This is in accordance with the applicable management contracts between the educational institute and the Flemish Government over the period 2009-2016: "Het onderwijs aan de Operastudio staat in de eerste plaats open voor studenten die al in het bezit zijn van een graad van master of van een daarmee gelijkgestelde graad. Personen die niet in het bezit zijn van de graad van master kunnen toegelaten worden tot de auditie voor de laureaatsopleiding op basis van een intakegesprek waarin de Operastudio peilt naar de motivatie en de artistieke affiniteit van de student met de opleiding, en naar de aard van beroeps- of andere relevante ervaring." Zie OPERASTUDIO VLAANDEREN VZW (S. DE RUYCK), VLAAMSE MINISTER VAN ONDERWIJS, JEUGD, GELIJKE KANSEN EN BRUSSEL P. SMET, *Beheersovereenkomst*, opgemaakt op 17 april 2013 te Brussel, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> (Vlaamse KwalificatieStructuur (VKS, Flemish structure for qualification) level 7)

## **Candidate-repetiteur**

- Brief personal presentation by the candidate
- 1. One fragment from the Final II of Don Giovanni (Mozart): jury's choice.  
*The candidate is asked to perform, playing from the score and singing.*
- 2. One fragment from late 19th century Italian or German repertoire: candidate's choice.  
*The candidate will play from the score and sing, while keeping the pace indicated by a (jury-assigned) conductor*
- 3. One fragment from an opera: jury's choice.  
*The candidate is asked to perform a prima vista, playing from the score and singing.*
- Performance: text fragment  
*Students prepare one spoken prose fragment (source: preferably theatre literature).*
- Brief final interview  
*The candidate will be asked to explain his/her motivation, background and personality, to demonstrate his/her insight in the domain of opera and his/her knowledge of languages.*

## **Warm-up and accompaniment**

### ***For singers:***

Candidates will be able to do a pre-audition warm-up. For auditions, candidates may bring their own accompanist or may use the accompanist provided by the International Opera Academy.

### ***For pianists:***

Candidates will be able to do a pre-audition warm-up.

## **3. The audition: not the end of the IOA selection process**

1. *International, filmed audition: preselection*
2. *Video-Assessment by external jury*
3. *IOA Open Week*

The candidates selected during the video-assessment are invited to participate in a final audition week at the IOA studios, in Ghent. Information will be provided upon selection.

Following the audition week, the jury publishes a list of singers/repetiteurs admitted to the programme. This admission is *only* valid for the next programme cycle.

## **4. Selection criteria**

The following aspects are taken into consideration in the jury's review throughout auditions:

- Musical (singing/piano) technique
  - o Students are able to 'decipher' a score's musical line quickly and fluently.
  - o Students understand the score's expression and other indications.
  - o Students possess the technical potential to sing the arias and ensembles of the repertoire within their respective Fach.
  - o Students demonstrate a basic knowledge of the existence and content of different musical styles (baroque, classicism, etc.; 'national' styles; specific composers' styles).
- Language knowledge (in communication and in used repertoire)
  - o Students are able to express themselves fluently in English.
  - o Students demonstrate basic levels (esp. regarding musical diction and expression) of Italian, French, German and English.
- Interpretation
- Presentation (posture, stage presence)
- Growing potential
- Motivation (