



## The Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship 2018

The Acclaim Awards (Acclaim) have been operating since 1989. The Core Purpose of Acclaim is “To identify and provide vocal training and international experience to young Australian talent who the Awards believe are the strongest candidates for a significant international operatic career.” The Acclaim Awards has been focussed for a long time on placing leading young Australian bel canto opera singers onto the world stage. Acclaim’s slogan is at the core of Acclaim’s purpose, to provide young Australian artists with “a ticket to the world stage.”

For two weeks in September and October 2018, Acclaim will conduct its annual Italian Opera Masterclass Series. Acclaim are offering the opportunity for young Australian opera singers to compete in the Masterclass for a chance to win a fully funded study Fellowship to Italy.

The Acclaim Masterclass Series will commence on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September** and conclude on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018**. The venue will be the Camberwell Grammar School, 55 Mont Albert Road Canterbury, Victoria.

The winner of the 2018 Acclaim Fellowship will be announced at the conclusion of the Masterclass Series at an Acclaim Awards Dinner which will be held on the evening of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018. All finalists are required to attend and perform.

### Purpose of the Fellowship and profile of the participant

The objective of the Acclaim Fellowship is to prepare and train the artist so that they will be able to achieve an international opera career. The fellowship awardees will be given the opportunity to follow a highly specialized course, with the purpose of improving their Italian language, musical, technical, staging, stylistic and interpretive skills as well as the expansion of cultural knowledge necessary to perform on the international stage.

The Acclaim Fellowship is reserved for candidates with significant musical abilities, a strong dedication to the profession and a solid theoretical and technical base. An annual Fellowship will not be awarded by Acclaim if they do not believe there is a suitable candidate.

### Key Components

The key components of the Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship include some or all of the following:

- Individual voice teaching – singing, breathing, technical, stylistic, etc;
- Teaching of Italian language. The Program is designed for the artist to be able to achieve perfect enunciation, pronunciation and diction in Italian for opera performances. It is strongly focused on immersion and theoretical learning;
- Enrolment at a short term or perhaps a year-long Accademia Program (e.g. Accademia Teatro alla Scala; Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; Accademia dell’Opera di Bologna] (personally tailored to the Fellowship Awardee)
- Attend professional opera performances in Italy;
- Applications to Italian and other selected international opera competitions;
- Developing artist’s promotional tapes;
- Introductions to selected international agents;
- Arranging international auditions;
- Assistance in establishing and negotiating international contracts.

## **The Acclaim Awards Partners**

The Acclaim Awards is proud to work with some of the most significant and elite individuals and organisations in the Italian opera world. The Acclaim Awards Italian partners include the following:

- The Teatro Regio (Turin)
- Accademia Teatro alla Scala (Milan)
- Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (Florence)
- Opera Accademia de Bologna (Bologna)
- Professor Valerio Esposito [Conservatorio Statale di Musica Gioachino Rossini - Pesaro]
- Maestro Carlo Morganti [Teatro GB Pergolesi-Jesi]

## **Previous Winners**

Since 1989, the Acclaim Awards has been fortunate to have worked with and provided funding/scholarships to many talented artists and to be able to assist them in their development towards an international opera career. Some of these artists have included:

- Antoinette Halloran
- Siobhan Stagg
- Nathan Lay
- Nicole Car
- Emily Burke
- Kiandra Howarth
- Stacey Alleaume
- Michelle Buscemi
- Tomas Dalton
- Michelle Cook
- Adrian Tamburini
- Elena Zanthoudakis

## **Applications**

The Acclaim Awards invite all members of the Australian Opera community (Performers, Executives, Patrons, Conservatories, Colleges, Students and Teachers) to encourage talented individuals who meet the criteria to apply for the competition.

Any suitably qualified individual, anywhere in Australia, is warmly encouraged to send an Application for the Acclaim Masterclass Series for an opportunity to compete in the Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship.

An Entry form is attached to this document.

## **Competition Eligibility**

The Acclaim Fellowship is open to any:

- Bel Canto Opera singer;
- Australian citizen;
- Person aged between 18 and 32 as at 30<sup>th</sup> July;
- Singer who has had some professional performance experience;
- Singer with 2 Italian Bel Canto arias prepared;
- Singer who can provide documentation of musical and vocal training at a public or private institution;
- Singer who commits to attend at least 70% of the teaching components of the Acclaim Masterclasses.

A submission of a signed Application Form with the required Preliminary Audition CD/DVD or YouTube link must be received by Acclaim in Melbourne no later than 20 July 2018. Full Applications can be sent by mail or email.

Fellowship Applications can be made every year, providing the individual still meets the criteria.

On acceptance to the Masterclass Series, all finalists must sign a contract with Acclaim agreeing that if they are successful in winning the Acclaim Fellowship they will:

- Undertake the Program within 18 months of the award date or forfeit the award;
- Travel for a single period to Italy of no less than 8-10 weeks;
- Undertake all teaching and activities provided during the Program.

Non-compliance with any of the above could mean forfeiture of the Fellowship and in the that event the awardee may be required to refund some of the prize money.

## **Application Requirements**

As the number of participants is limited, registration will not automatically grant a place in the Masterclass Series. All Fellowship Applicants will be judged for the most ideal suitability from All Applications received that year. Applicants must submit:

- A completed Application form;
- A CD/DVD or YouTube link of their performance of two Italian arias (with piano accompaniment only);
- A written submission of at least 500 words detailing their opera career objectives and why the Acclaim Fellowship would be an important component in achieving their career development;
- Copy of their Curriculum Vitae;
- Two recent high-resolution quality headshot colour photos of the applicant;
- An application fee of \$50.

The Acclaim Awards Masterclass Series objectives are to:

1. Provide teaching by one of the world's foremost sopranos and teachers, Professor Valeria Esposito;
2. Enable the participants to compete for the Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship.

During the Acclaim Awards Masterclass Series each Competitor will receive ten days of teaching sessions. These sessions are valued at approximately \$2,500 for each competitor.

The Masterclasses are designed so that all 10 finalists receive the significant benefit of the intensive one-on-one teaching by Professor Valeria Esposito whether or not they are successful in winning the Fellowship.

Spectators are welcome to attend the Masterclasses and they are open to Acclaim Awards friends and families, supporters and Acclaim Patrons.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

**Stage 1.** The first stage involves submitting a signed Application Form together with a Preliminary Audition CD/DVD/YouTube link presentation.

The Preliminary Audition CD/DVD/YouTube presentation must include two contrasting arias with piano accompaniment (only) to be sung in Italian. Two copies of a CD/DVD are required.

The CD/DVD/YouTube will be reviewed by Acclaim as a Stage 1 Preliminary Selection Process. Up to 10 Finalists will be selected for the Masterclass Series.

The Acclaim Awards will assess and judge all Fellowship Applicants based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the voice
- Vocal technique
- Age and Potential
- Musical skill and knowledge
- Artistic interpretation
- Demonstration of comprehension of the pieces
- Italian Language skill

Successful Finalists will be invited to compete in the Masterclass Series commencing on Monday September 24<sup>th</sup> 2018.

If no candidate is identified during the annual Masterclass Series as meeting all the criteria, then Acclaim will not award a Fellowship.

**Stage 2.** Professor Esposito will evaluate and judge those she believes would best benefit from the Acclaim Fellowship. Finalists will also be judged on their responsiveness to lesson instructions.

At the conclusion of the final masterclass session, each finalist will perform one selected aria of their choice for Professor Esposito. The aria must be Italian Bel Canto and no longer than five minutes.

An Acclaim Awards Dinner will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018. All finalists will be required to attend the evening and perform. At the conclusion of the dinner the results of the selection process will be announced.



# The Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship 2018

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

Acclaim Awards Ltd. ('Acclaim') invite Australian opera singers to participate in the Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship 2018 in accordance with the following Rules and Regulations.

**By returning an Application Form to Acclaim each Applicant acknowledges and agrees to be bound by these rules.**

### 1. Entry Form

1.1 All Applicants must submit a signed Application Form and signed Acceptance Form.

1.2 Applicants CD/DVD's or YouTube link will to be sent to Italy where the final participants will be selected by Prof. Valeria Esposito. No more than 10 applicants will be selected.

1.3 Acclaim will email an acknowledgement of each applicant's entry form within seven days of receipt of that entry form.

### 2. Eligibility

2.1 The Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship is open to any:

- Bel Canto Opera singer;
- Australian citizen;
- Singers who have had some professional operatic performance experience
- Aged between 18 and 32 years as at 30<sup>th</sup> July.

### 3. Entry Process and Requirements

3.1 All Applications must be sent by mail to the address shown on the Application Form.

3.2. All Applications must be completed in full as shown on the Application Form.

3.3. All Applications must be received by Acclaim no later than 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Any Application received after this date may not be accepted for the Competition. Any incomplete or inaccurate Application may not be accepted. This will be fully at the discretion of Acclaim.

3.4 To complete a valid Application, Applicants must submit the following:

- i. The Application Form;
- ii. A CD/DVD/YouTube link of their performance of two Italian arias (with piano accompaniment only);
- iii. A copy of a birth certificate (or similar official document e.g. passport) confirming the date and place of birth to verify the nationality and age of the Applicant;
- iv. A curriculum vitae, setting out the Applicant's particulars of training, Fellowship, diplomas and degrees and recent stage performances;
- v. A written submission of at least 500 words detailing their opera career objective and why the Acclaim Prize would be an important component in their career development;

- vi. Two recent high-resolution quality colour photos of headshots of the applicant;
- vii. A signed Declaration Form
- viii. Proof of payment of the \$50 Administration fee.

- 3.5 Applicants should retain copies of all material sent with applications. Acclaim will not return applications or material submitted with Applications.
- 3.6 The Applicant agrees to obtain clearance from anyone who has rights to the submitted photographs and to indemnify Acclaim for any loss, liability or expense arising from Acclaim's use of the photographs for publicity purposes.
- 3.7 In submitting an Application form, each Applicant certifies that the information contained in the application documents submitted is true and correct and is not misleading or deceptive and that no material information has been omitted or deleted.
- 3.8 The Applicant, by the submission of their Application, agrees that Acclaim may use any information submitted including names and photographs for promotional and other purposes without payment of any fee to the Applicant or their agent.
- 3.9 Payment of the \$50 entry fee should be sent by cheque with Application or via EFT to: Bank: ANZ  
Account Name: Acclaim Awards  
BSB: 013 128  
Account Number: 497 402 055  
Description: Surname AAIOF

#### 4. **The Fellowship Components**

- 4.1 As a minimum, the Fellowship components may consist of the following and these may be altered or changed by Acclaim as it regards appropriate to each individual Fellowship awardee:
  - Return economy airfare to Italy and travel insurance;
  - 8-10 weeks teaching classes of 1 class per day of 1 hour each by Prof. Valeria Esposito;
  - 8-10 weeks teaching classes of 1 class per day of 1 hour each by voice coach Mo. Carlo Morganti;
  - Teaching of Italian language. The Program is designed for the artists to be able to achieve perfect enunciation, pronunciation and diction in Italian for opera performances;
  - Enrolment at a short term (personally tailored to the prize winner) Accademia Program (e.g. Accademia Teatro alla Scala; Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; and/or; Accademia dell'Opera di Bologna).
  - Enrolment in an Accademia 12-month program (e.g. Accademia Teatro alla Scala; Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; Accademia dell'Opera di Bologna)  
A per diem of AUD\$50 per day;
  - Accommodation at an apartment provided by Acclaim in Italy and/or Acclaim may pay or contribute financially to accommodation (individual or shared) in Internal travel expenses (as mutually agreed).
  - Enrolment in an Accademia 12-month program (e.g. Accademia Teatro alla Scala; Accademia del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; Accademia dell'Opera di Bologna)
  - A per diem of AUD \$50 per day;
  - Accommodation at an apartment provided by Acclaim in Italy and/or Acclaim may pay or contribute financially to accommodation (individual or shared) in Internal travel expenses (as mutually agreed).

## **5. The Fellowship**

The Finalist nominated as the Fellowship Awardee acknowledges and agrees to the following:

- 5.1 The Awardee will undertake the Fellowship (i.e. travel to Italy and undertake classes, etc) within 18 months of accepting the award;
- 5.2 The Awardee will notify Acclaim immediately if they become aware that they will be unable to undertake the Fellowship;
- 5.3 If the Awardee does not undertake the Fellowship within 18 months of it being awarded they agree to forfeit the Fellowship;
- 5.4 If a Fellowship is forfeit, Acclaim (at their sole discretion) may choose to award the Fellowship to another awardee or not award the Fellowship at all for that year;
- 5.5 The Awardee must study in Italy for at least 8-10 weeks and must attend all teaching lessons as provided by Acclaim;
- 5.6 The Awardee may be required to share accommodation in Italy with another Fellowship awardee or individual as nominated by Acclaim subject to reasonable safety and security imperatives.
- 5.7 If the Awardee does not study for the required period and/or does not attend all teaching lessons they may be required to repay Acclaim part or all of the fellowship expenses including airfare, accommodation, lessons, per diems, etc;
- 5.8 The Awardee by prior arrangement with Acclaim and Prof Esposito, attend opera performances, auditions, meet with artist's agents. However, written permission must be provided by Acclaim and/or Prof Esposito prior to making arrangements;
  - 5.8.1 The Awardee maybe eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses within Italy or Europe and the UK to attend opera performances, auditions, meet with managers, etc. However, written permission must be provided by Acclaim prior to making arrangements;
  - 5.8.2 Dates for undertaking the Fellowship are flexible and are mainly dependent on diary, work commitments and contracts by Acclaim nominated teachers and/or accademias. Acclaim will endeavour to work with the Awardee's diary, work commitments and contracts but there is an expectation that once dates have been selected that they will be maintained and honored by the Fellowship Awardee.
  - 5.8.3 Acclaim would consider enabling the Fellowship awardee to travel to or from Italy via other destinations if it assists them with interviews, auditions, etc. However, this would need to be discussed with Acclaim at the earliest possible time and is entirely at Acclaim's discretion.
  - 5.8.4 The Awardee will provide an email report to Acclaim of at least 500 words and emailed every fortnight. Acclaim will provide the key information components that are required;

## **6. Repertoire**

- 6.1 Each Applicant will be required to prepare three operatic arias which must be set out in the Repertoire List.
- 6.2 Two arias must be sung in Italian.
- 6.3 If selected as a Finalist for the Masterclass Series, the Applicant must provide two copies of the printed piano score of the chosen repertoire - one for the accompanist and one for Prof. Esposito.

## **7. Performance Rights (Australia)**

- 7.1 Applicants, by submission of their application, agree that Acclaim has the right, without payment of any fee to the applicant, to televise, film, record, broadcast or photograph Applicant for any reasonable purpose. All rights, including copyright in such media, shall vest in and be owned by Acclaim worldwide and in perpetuity.
- 7.2 Acclaim has the right to produce and distribute recordings, either in whole or in part, without limitation and without payment of any fee to the Applicant.
- 7.3 Applicants are expected to make themselves available for media, sponsor and promotional performances as required during the Masterclass Series. All approaches to and from the media, sponsors and others must be made through and with the approval of the Acclaim Awards.

## **8. Performance Contract**

- 8.1 Acclaim will not negotiate with or pay any fee to any artist's agent, or other management in respect of or on behalf of an Applicant.
- 8.2 Should a Finalist perform in Australia within two (2) years for the Acclaim Awards immediately following the Masterclass Series, Acclaim reserves the right to negotiate directly with the Applicant for performance or promotional activity or both for the benefit of the Acclaim Awards without payment of any fee to any promoter or artistic agent.

## **9. Conditions of the Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship**

- 9.1 An Applicant is required to sign a contract with Acclaim which outlines the conditions and requirements contained within this document.
- 9.2 Acclaim does not require any fee for its management services. Engagements obtained by Acclaim for an Applicant as part of the Fellowship will not be subject to any fee payable to that applicant's current or future artist management.
- 9.3 If an Applicant is unable to fulfil the obligation of the Fellowship, Acclaim may at its discretion offer the Fellowship to another Applicant or individual or chose not to award the Fellowship to any other party.
- 9.4 Finalists will be required to perform, without charge, on 2 occasions for Acclaim during the (2) years following attendance at the Masterclass Series.
- 9.5 Acclaim may use any biographical or photographic material provided by an Applicant to publicize this Fellowship or any other Acclaim activities.
- 9.6 Prize winners are required to always mention and highlight the Acclaim Award prize in their CV and website.
- 9.7 Applicants indemnify Acclaim against all loss, liability and expense in connection with his or her activities in participating in the Masterclass Series and Fellowship Competition. Applicants also indemnify Acclaim against loss, liability and expenses arising out of any intellectual property infringement or defamation proceedings brought against Acclaim to the extent such proceedings arise out of the publication of any report submitted to Acclaim by the applicant or any activity the Applicant undertakes during the period of the Masterclass Series.
- 9.8 Acclaim is not responsible for the personal safety and security of the Applicants. Applicants should make all necessary enquiries and take all necessary precautions to ensure their own safety and security.



## 10. Interpretation & General Provisions

10.1 In these Rules the following terms have the following meanings:

“Applicant” means an entrant who has returned all items required in making an Application to Acclaim in compliance with these Rules.

“Acclaim” means Acclaim Awards Ltd. registered no. A.C.N. 113 399 483 and is a registered Australian body under the Corporations Act 2001.

“Application Form” means the Application Form to enter the Acclaim Masterclass Series attached to and forming part of these Rules.

“Fellowship” means the Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship 2018 as set out in these Rules.

“Awardee” means the singer selected as winner of the Fellowship who is announced by the Chair in accordance with these rules.

“Declaration” means the declaration to be signed by Applicants and attached to these rules.

“Fee” includes any fee payment, commission, royalty, charge, tax or levy of any kind whatsoever as the context allows.

“Finalist” means an applicant who has been selected as one of the 10 Finalists/Singers for inclusion in the Acclaim Awards Masterclass Series.

“Repertoire” means the list of three arias submitted by the Applicant with the Application Form.

10.2 From time to time Acclaim may in its absolute discretion make by-laws to further clarify any of these Rules and such by-laws shall be interpreted and have the same force and effect as these Rules. Acclaim reserves the right to alter such details of the Masterclass Series and Fellowship as may become necessary.

10.3 In these Rules headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation; and unless a contrary intention appears. Words importing the singular number include the plural number and vice versa.

10.4 The law of the State of Victoria Australia governs these Rules and any contract or other agreement made pursuant to these Rules.



## Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship 2018

### APPLICATION FORM

To be received by mail or email no later than 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Name: .....

Address: .....

State: ..... Postcode: .....

Mobile: .....

E-mail address: (please print clearly) .....

Date of birth: ...../...../.....

Voice type: .....

Applicant Signature: .....

Applications are open to Australian citizens between the ages of 18 and 32 as at the 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Please provide a copy of your birth certificate or passport for verification with this Application.

#### The following must be included with this Application:

- CD/DVD/YouTube** link of performance of two Italian arias (with piano accompaniment only)
- CV**
- 2 Photographs**
- ID** (photocopied)
- Biography**
- Written submission** of at least 500 words
- Signed Declaration Form**
- List of Arias**
- Payment of application fee of \$50**

The Application fee of \$50 can be paid by cheque or by making a direct bank deposit to:

Bank: ANZ  
Account Name: Acclaim Awards  
BSB: 013 128  
Account Number: 497 402 055  
Description: Applicant's Surname followed by AAIOF  
e.g.: Smith AAIOF

All Applications are to be mailed or emailed to:

The Acclaim Awards

Att: Bernadette Blair-Slater

2/40 Lansell Road Toorak Victoria 3142

E: [acclaimawards@yahoo.com.au](mailto:acclaimawards@yahoo.com.au) Ph: 0412 240 948



## Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship 2018

### DECLARATION FORM

#### DECLARATION

I (*your name*) ..... apply to participate in the Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship 2018.

I have read and fully understand the Rules of the Fellowship and agree to be bound in all respects by the Rules.

I attest that I am eligible to participate in the Masterclass Series according to the conditions set forth in the rules.

If I am selected as a Finalist I agree to attend at least 7 of the 10 Masterclass sessions.

In the event that I am a successful Awardee, I acknowledge and agree that I have read and understood Clause 5 – The Fellowship, and I will undertake the Fellowship within 18 months of winning and if not undertaken within this timeframe, I agree to forfeit the Fellowship.

In the event I am a successful Awardee, I agree to sign a contract and abide by the conditions of that contract. I acknowledge that I have read and understood all Rules and Regulations.

Signed: .....

Name: (Please print) .....

Date: ..... / ..... / 2018

Witnessed by: .....

Name: (Please print) .....

Witness Address: .....



the  
**Acclaim Awards**

A TICKET TO THE WORLD STAGE

## Acclaim Awards Italian Opera Fellowship 2018

### ARIA REPERTOIRE LIST

Applicants for the Acclaim Italian Opera Fellowship are asked to prepare three arias, preferably two arias to be sung in Italian.

Name: .....

Voice type: .....

Address:.....

State: ..... Postcode: .....

Mobile: .....

Email: .....

#### The Arias:

	Title of Aria	Opera	Composer
1			
2			
3			