

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR ADMISSION TO THE "FESTIVAL DEI DUE MONDI ACADEMY- MASTERCLASS IN ADVANCED MUSICAL TRAINING" 69th EDITION OF THE FESTIVAL DEI DUE MONDI

1. Object of Selection and General Information

The Festival dei Due Mondi Foundation- ONLUS (hereinafter also referred to as the "**Foundation**") is issuing this Call for Applications for the purpose of identifying and selecting students for the "*Festival dei Due Mondi Academy - Masterclass in Advanced Musical Training*" (hereinafter also referred to as the "**Course**"), a high-profile cultural and artistic initiative consisting of a program of musical specialization for young musicians, through qualified educational activities, as well as participation in the Festival's artistic activities.

- **Program title:** *Festival dei Due Mondi Academy– Masterclass in Advanced Musical Training*;
- **Organization:** Festival dei Due Mondi Foundation- ONLUS;
- **Period carried out:** June 29 – July 12, 2026 (two weeks);
- **Available places:** total of 20 (5 for each instrumental class);
- **Cost:** participation is free for candidates selected.

Target participants: young musicians aged 35 or under on the date of publication of the Call for Applications;

Course Coordinator: Maestro Massimo Spada.

2. Training Offer

The Course offers an intensive and qualified educational experience, aimed at developing the technical, interpretative, and artistic skills of a young professional. The masterclass structure harmoniously integrates individual lessons, ensemble activities, and public performances.

The individual lessons are held by internationally renowned maestros, who accompany each participant on a personalized journey of in-depth technical and stylistic development.

At the same time, the ensemble practice is a central element of the program: the formation of heterogeneous chamber music groups stimulates confrontation, mutual listening, the creation of balanced sounds, and the ability to collectively interpret complex repertoire.

The experience is brought to completion with a series of public performances included in the Festival dei Due Mondi program.

Teachers and Subjects

The masterclasses are led by an internationally renowned faculty, composed of performers considered among the most authoritative on the contemporary music scene.

Marc-André Hamelin – Piano

Recognized worldwide for his extraordinary virtuosity, interpretative refinement, and ability to effortlessly explore the most complex repertoire, Hamelin is considered an absolute benchmark for piano literature. His award-winning recordings have become actual interpretive models.

Benedetto Lupo – Piano



One of the most celebrated Italian pianists of his generation, Lupo combines poetic depth, stylistic rigor, and a rare balance of sound. His international concert activity, combined with his consolidated pedagogical experience, makes him an ideal teacher for young pianists seeking artistic maturity.

Giovanni Sollima – Cello

A world-renowned cello player, composer, and performer with an unmistakable communicative power, Sollima has renewed the language of the instrument, significantly contributing to its spread in traditional and contemporary contexts. His ability to blend virtuosic technique and musical creativity offers students a unique and inspiring approach.

Kim Kashkashian – Viola and Chamber Music

Among the most influential figures in the international chamber music repertoire, Kashkashian has redefined the viola's role on the concert scene. Her career, marked by prestigious collaborations and landmark recordings, is accompanied by intense teaching activity at leading musical institutions around the world.

Marc Bouchkov – Violin

A violinist of extraordinary sensitivity and stage presence, Bouchkov is one of the most sought-after performers of the new generation. A winner of the most prestigious competitions, he combines a luminous sound with a rare ability to delve deeply into the musical text.

Andrea Obiso – Violin

First violinist of the prestigious Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Obiso is distinguished by an elegant virtuosity and an interpretative depth that has led him to collaborate with leading international conductors and orchestras. His orchestral and solo experience offers students a comprehensive perspective on the demands of the modern violinist.

3. Admission Requirements

To be eligible for the selection process, the candidate must meet the general and specific requirements listed below.

3.1 General Requirements

To be eligible for the selection process, candidates must meet the following general requirements:

- a) Italian citizenship, or citizenship of one of the European Union member states, or possession of a valid residence permit where required. The provisions of Article 1 of Presidential Decree No. 752 of July 26, 1976, regarding knowledge of the Italian language, remain unaffected;
- b) Age, no older than 35 years of age as of the publication date of this Notice;
- c) enjoyment of civil and political rights;
- d) not having received any criminal convictions, not being under interdiction, and not being subject to preventive measures or other measures;
- e) psychological and physical fitness (FFD - Fitness for Duty) to carry out the activities envisaged in this Notice; the Foundation reserves the right to assess the suitability of successful candidates in the ranking, in accordance with current legislation.



3.2. Specific Requirements

To be admitted to the selection process, candidates must have completed or enrolled in an advanced level music education program (first-level academic diploma, conservatory diploma or equivalent qualification).

3.3 Grounds for Exclusion

The following are ineligible for participation:

- those related up to the fourth degree of kinship or affinity to the Foundation's President, the Artistic Director, the Administrative Director, or a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors;
- those related up to the fourth degree of kinship or affinity to the Course instructors.

4. Admission Procedures

4.1 Application for Participation

The application for admission to the selection process must be written on plain paper, in legible font, and duly signed by the candidate or, in the case of minors, by the parent or legal guardian. The application, along with the additional documentation required in this article, must be sent to the Foundation's certified e-mail address (PEC) fondazionefestivaldispoletto@pec.it, or be **delivered** by mail or in person to the Foundation's headquarters at Via Vaita S. Andrea, 10 – 06049 – Spoleto (PG), starting from the date of publication of the present call for application and no later than the following date:

April 15, at [18:00] (Rome time)

The subject line and/or accompanying text of the certified email (PEC) or the package must include the following subject: "*Application for participation in the Festival dei Due Mondi Academy – Masterclass in Advanced Musical Training*" Course.

Applications received after this deadline will not be considered, and the Foundation will not be responsible for any delays, omissions, or errors in outgoing or incoming communications.

Each application for participation must be accompanied, under penalty of exclusion, by:

- a) a link to the audition video (YouTube, Vimeo or cloud platform);
- b) an updated *curriculum vitae*, including:
 - musical education (diplomas, certificates, advanced training courses);
 - any concert and artistic experience (concerts, competitions, collaborations with orchestras/ensembles);
 - any awards and recognition received.
- c) a copy of a valid identity document;
- d) a declaration of parental responsibility (mandatory for minors), signed by at least one parent or legal guardian.

The Foundation reserves the right to request original documentation of the declared qualifications at any time. Submitting false declarations will result in exclusion from the selection process or, if already admitted, revocation of participation in the Course.



4.2. Application Material Requirements. Audition Video

The audition video must meet the following technical and content requirements:

a) **Technical Requirements:**

- Running time between 10 and 20 minutes;
- Single shot, no editing.

b) **Video Content:**

- a) spoken presentation in English: the candidate must briefly introduce himself/herself, indicating his/her name, the date and place of recording and the musical program the candidate intends to perform.

musical performance with one of the following instruments: piano - violin – viola - cello

- b) the candidate must perform a musical program that demonstrates:

- i. technical competence, with particular emphasis on instrument control, precision and mastery of technical difficulties;
- ii. interpretive maturity, highlighting musical sensitivity, stylistic understanding and expressive ability;
- iii. a variety of repertoire, possibly including pieces from different periods and styles that are representative of the candidate's artistic and technical qualities.

The repertoire proposed must be appropriate for the advanced level of the Course and representative of the candidate's actual artistic and technical abilities.

The examining Committee will exclude videos showing signs of manipulation.

4.3. Commission and Evaluation Criteria

The admission and evaluation of the applications are entrusted to a Commission appointed by the Artistic Director of the Foundation after the deadline of the applications for admission.

Members are chosen on the basis of proven musical, artistic and/or teaching skills, respecting the principle of gender balance and promoting equal opportunities.

Following the initial assessment of the requirements set out in the Call for Applications, the Commission will evaluate the applications based on the materials submitted, awarding a maximum score of 100 points, distributed as follows:

- Artistic quality of the musical performance – up to 40 points: technical accuracy, sound quality, interpretative maturity and stylistic coherence will be evaluated;
- Potential for artistic growth – up to 25 points: the candidate's perceived ability to significantly benefit from the training course offered will be assessed;
- Coherence of the repertoire presented – up to 20 points: the suitability and difficulty of the program presented in relation to the course's level of specialization will be evaluated;
- Clarity and awareness of personal presentation – up to 15 points: communication skills, motivation and awareness of the artistic path will be assessed.

5. Ranking and Admission

Upon completion of the evaluation, the Commission will draw up a ranking of merit for each instrumental class, including all candidates deemed suitable in descending order of score, with the maximum score awarded being 100 points. The first five (5) candidates from each ranking will be admitted to the Course. The suitable candidates will be considered for the purpose of a possible promotion to the next position in the ranking.



The selection results, with the list of admitted candidates and any eligible candidates not selected, will be published on the official Festival dei Due Mondi website (www.festivaldispoletto.com) by May 1st. Individual communications must also be sent to the winning candidates. This individual communication will constitute notification for all purposes.

The admitted candidates must confirm their participation via e-mail no later than 7 days after the publication of the ranking. In the event of an admitted candidate withdrawing from the program, the next position in the ranking will be promoted.

The Commission's decisions are final.

6. Course Structure

6.1 Individual Lessons

Each participant will receive at least four 60-minute individual lessons with the designated instructor, spread over the two weeks of the Course.

The individual lessons with the instructor provide a unique opportunity to explore aspects such as sound quality, phrasing, technical precision and interpretative maturity.

6.2 Chamber Music

The course includes a minimum of three hours for ensemble rehearsals under the supervision of the instructors, with ensembles determined in the first few days of the course.

Chamber music is the core of the curriculum and offers students the opportunity to fully experience the dimension of musical dialogue and mutual listening. The ensembles formed, based on the participants' characteristics and the requirements of the repertoire, work together under the guidance of the instructor, analyzing both technical and interpretative aspects.

6.3. Group Masterclasses

The course includes listening sessions and critical analysis of the performances, open to all participants in the same instrumental class (minimum two 120-minute sessions).

6.4 Concerts

Each participant will be involved in at least one public performance as part of the official Festival dei Due Mondi program.

6.5 Activity Schedule

Teaching activities will take place every day, except Sunday, for four hours per day—two in the morning and two in the afternoon—with the following indicative schedule:

- Morning (9:30-11:30): individual lessons and ensemble rehearsals;
- Afternoon (15:00-17:00): group masterclasses, individual study, concert rehearsals;
- Evening: possible participation in Festival concerts or student performances.

The detailed schedule of the individual lessons will be communicated to participants within 20 days from the commencement date.

The main venues for the activities will be the Sala Pegasus, the Church of Sant'Agata, and Sant'Angioletto, with possible transfers for public concerts at different Festival locations.



Each teacher will dedicate one day of the week to chamber music, and the other five to individual lessons.

Each student will have at least four hours of lessons with the teacher per week.

Performances are guaranteed for all students and will vary at the discretion of the artistic director, and thus they may not necessarily be the same for everyone.

6.6 Attendance and Evaluation

Attendance to all learning activities is mandatory. Absences for serious and documented reasons must be promptly reported to the Academic Coordinator.

At the end of the course, each instructor will draw up a written individual evaluation for each participant, including: i) Technical and interpretative progress observed; ii) Quality of participation in group activities; iii) Performance in public shows; iv) Recommendations for further artistic development.

This evaluation will be issued along with a certificate of participation and will serve as a valuable tool for professional growth.

7. Hospitality and Logistics

7.1 Hospitality and Logistics

To encourage participation in the Course, the Foundation offers the selected students free accommodation with families living in the Municipality of Spoleto for the entire duration of the Course (from June 29 to July 12, 2026).

7.1.1 Hospitality Conditions

- a) Accommodation:
 - Single or shared room, depending on the host family's availability;
 - Access to bathrooms and common areas of the home;
 - Bed linen provided by the host family.

- b) Services included:
 - Breakfast;
 - Bed;

For meals not included in the accommodation will be paid by the Fondazione.

- c) Services included:
 - Utilities (water, electricity, gas, heating/cooling);
 - Wi-Fi internet connection, where available;
 - Use of kitchen for self-preparation of light meals, subject to prior arrangement with host family.

- d) Services excluded:
 - Laundry service (unless otherwise agreed with family);
 - Local transportation;
 - Meals consumed away from home;
 - Personal expenses of any kind.

The Foundation provides transportation for students whose location is not connected to the city center of Spoleto.

7.1.2 Assignment Procedure

The Foundation will assign host families based on availability and logistical compatibility. The names of the host families will be communicated to participants admitted within 15 days before the start of the Course, along with contact information and directions to reach the accommodation.

The Foundation reserves the right to change the host family assignments due to unforeseen organizational needs, promptly informing the interested parties.

7.1.3 Participant's Obligations

Participants hosted undertake to:

- Respect the host family's rules of coexistence;
- Maintain respectful and proper behaviour;
- Use the spaces and equipment provided with care;
- Promptly report any absences or schedule changes;
- Compensate for any damage caused to the home or equipment through intent or gross negligence.

7.2 Study Spaces

At least three rooms equipped with upright pianos will be available to students for daily individual study. These spaces allow participants to deepen their knowledge of lessons, prepare chamber music repertoire, and work continuously on technical and interpretative skills.

The Foundation takes out specific insurance coverage for damages incurred by students during the course of the scheduled activities, which also includes their stay with the host families.

8. Spoleto Young Award

At the end of the training program, after consulting with the instructors, the Artistic Director **Daniele Cipriani** with classical music advisor **Beatrice Rana**, will select the candidate who particularly stands out for his/her talent, commitment and artistic potential.

This evaluation takes into account the following elements: quality of performances and progress demonstrated during the course; ability to work in an ensemble; interpretative maturity; professional aptitude demonstrated in the various training activities.

The Foundation will award the student selected with the "**Spoleto Young Award**", consisting of a work contract with the following characteristics:

- legal nature of the relationship: occasional artistic performance contract;
- objective of the service: participation, as Young Musician, within the 70th edition of the Festival dei Due Mondi;
- compensation no less than the minimum wage established by the currently approved National Collective Labour Agreement (NCLA)

9. Responsibilities and Conduct Rules

Participants selected undertake to:

- attend all scheduled educational and artistic activities;



- maintain respectful behaviour towards teachers, colleagues, staff and the spaces made available;
- respect the schedules and organizational guidelines established by the Festival;
- use the classrooms and equipment with care and responsibility;
- participate in assigned concerts;
- not make audio or video recordings of lessons without prior authorization:

The Festival dei Due Mondi reserves the right to terminate the participation of students whose behaviour violates the regulations or compromises the proper conduct of the initiative.

The Festival is not responsible for:

- loss or damage to musical instruments and personal items;
- injuries resulting from improper use of the spaces or failure to comply with safety instructions.

10. Disclaimer for Use of Images, Audio and Video Recordings

Candidates admitted to the Course will receive, together with the notification of admission referred to in Article 5, a disclaimer form for the use of images, audio and video recordings.

Return of the duly signed form is a prerequisite for confirming participation in the Course and must take place by the deadline indicated in Article 5 for the confirmation of participation.

The disclaimer form includes the following conditions:

- a) *Grant of Rights.* The participant expressly and irrevocably authorizes the Foundation to:
 - take photographs, audio and video recordings during all course activities (individual lessons, group masterclasses, ensemble rehearsals, public concerts and collateral events);
 - use, publish, distribute, and reproduce such materials on any platform and medium (websites, social media, brochures, promotional materials, audiovisual archives, documentaries, radio and television broadcasts);
 - process, edit, or post-produce any audiovisual materials without requiring further authorization.
- b) *Purposes.* The use of materials is permitted for the following purposes:
 - institutional (documentation of the Foundation's activities);
 - promotional (enhancement of the Festival dei Due Mondi and its initiatives);
 - educational (diffusion of musical culture)
 - archival (preservation of the Festival's historical memory).
- c) *Free of Charge:* The granting of rights referred to in this article takes place completely free of charge, without the participant being entitled to compensation, consideration or copyright, even in the case of indirect commercial use of the materials.
- d) *Ownership.* All audiovisual materials produced during the course remain the exclusive property of the Foundation. Participants may not claim any ownership or economic exploitation rights of the materials.
- e) *Use on the part of participants.* Participants wishing to obtain copies of the audiovisual materials for personal use (artistic portfolio, resume, private archive) must submit a written, motivated request to the Foundation. Such authorization is at the discretion of the

Foundation and, if granted, will be limited to strictly personal, non-commercial use, with the source being cited ("*Festival dei Due Mondi Academy - Festival dei Due Mondi*").

11. Privacy – GDPR

Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("**GDPR**"), the personal data provided by candidates will be processed by the Foundation, as Data Controller, for purposes strictly related to the management of this selection process, the training activities and the institutional communications. The complete privacy policy is available at www.festivaldispoletto.com/privacy. Submitting your application constitutes acknowledgement of this policy. Providing your data is mandatory for the purpose of assessing participation requirements. Refusal to provide the data required for this purpose will result in your inability to participate in the selection process.

12. Final Provisions

Submission of the application implies full acceptance of this Call for Applications.

The Foundation reserves the right to make changes to the program for organizational or artistic reasons, ensuring, where possible, adequate and timely communication to participants.

At the end of the program, all participants will receive a certificate of participation, which does not constitute a legally valid qualification.

The consignment ceremony for the participation certificate is scheduled for July 13, 2026.

Spoletto, 02/03/2026