



Teatro Antonio Belloni associazione culturale

International Opera Competition

Luigi Alva 2026

Second Edition

Teatro "Antonio Belloni" Barlassina MB - ITALY

Final: 4 October 2026

The legacy of an art, the promise of a future

It is with deep emotion and a renewed sense of responsibility that we inaugurate this second edition of the Competition named after Luigi Alva.

Seeing an event bearing His name come to life and establish itself is, for us, not only a source of family pride, but also the natural continuation of what was his lifelong artistic mission: the pursuit of beauty through discipline, elegance and absolute respect for both repertoire and score.

Luigi Alva: the legacy of a legend, the journey of a Maestro

The second edition of the opera competition in memory of Luigi Alva transcends mere competition. It is a rare opportunity for our region and for the world of music to discover emerging talents: artists who, armed with passion and dedication, are preparing to perform on the most prestigious stages of the international scene.



An overseas journey

The legend of Luigi Alva began in 1951, when he gained international attention by winning second place in the "Enrico Caruso" competition for the best voices of South America. At that time, Alva was already a well-known performer in Peru, celebrated for his radio performances and for his mastery of Zarzuelas, a genre of lyric-dramatic operetta very popular in South America.

It was his mentor, Rosa Mercedes Ayarsa de Morales, who saw in him a spark worthy of a global stage. She urged him to leave his career as a cadet in the Peruvian Navy to pursue vocal perfection in Italy. Luis chose courage: he crossed the ocean by ship and landed in Genoa, later settling in Milan, where he supported his studies by singing in venues of various kinds with a trio of fellow Peruvian musicians.

The rise to success

Destiny found its interpreter when Maestro Emilio Ghirardini recognized his extraordinary musical sensitivity. From that moment, his rise was meteoric:

- 1954** Wins the ASLICO "new voices" competition and debuts as Alfredo in La Traviata at Teatro Nuovo in Milan.
- 1955** Joins the "Cadetti della Scala" - today's Academy - chosen by director Giulio Confalonieri.
- 1956** The definitive consecration. After inaugurating the Piccola Scala with Il matrimonio segreto, directed by a young Giorgio Strehler in his debut, Alva took the stage of the great La Scala alongside Maria Callas in a historic Barber of Seville.

The "station" of the heart is Barlassina - Italy

Beyond the chronicles of the great theatres lives a more intimate story, made of choices and of a meeting destined to last. In 1955, young Luis's journey made a fundamental stop in Barlassina: here he met the woman who would remain by his side throughout his life. In this place, and always together, they built their family, weaving affections and roots that still preserve his most authentic memory today.

Passing on the torch

After 98 intensely lived years, the long journey of Luis Alva has come to an end. The seat on that fortunate "train" he boarded in Lima, Peru, must not remain empty: it becomes a vibrant legacy that today passes into the hands of the young artists taking part in this competition. To you, young dreamers, Luis Alva entrusts his torch. Imagine him there, beside that "train" he loved so much, inviting you to climb aboard and, closing the door behind you, whispering with a reassuring smile a sincere "good luck". He remains in our hearts, and through your voice you will carry a fragment of His art towards your future.



AWARD CEREMONY

The award ceremony will take place at the end of the final concert on Sunday, 4 October 2026

The following prizes will be awarded:

First prize	Euro 2,000
Second prize	Euro 1,500
Third prize	Euro 1,000
Audience Prize	Euro 300

Ex-aequo prizes may be awarded. In such cases, the prizes will be divided equally among the winning contestants.

The jury will be composed of leading experts in the field of opera. The Audience Prize will be awarded on the basis of appreciation expressed through anonymous voting.

The jury's decision is final and not subject to appeal.

JURY

Pietro Mianiti	President of the Jury - Conductor
Ernesto Palacio	Tenor - Superintendent, Rossini Opera Festival of Pesaro
Daniele Borniquez	Head of Music Department, Teatro alla Scala Academy
Roberto Servile	Baritone - Artistic Dir., Youth Project, Sarzana Lirica and La Spezia
Ricardo Mirabelli	Tenor
Mario Dradi	DM Artist Management - General Manager

Piano accompanist

Svetlana Huseynova

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