

ÓEM

ÓPERA
ESTUDIO
DE MÁLAGA



Your stage, your future

Open call 2026

WHAT IS?

ÓPERA
ESTUDIO
DE MÁLAGA

Ópera Estudio de Málaga (ÓEM) is a living project promoted by the **Cervantes Theatre** in Málaga in collaboration with the baritone **Carlos Álvarez**, and the conductor **Carlos Aragón**, with the support of the **Unicaja Foundation** and the collaboration of the **Málaga Foundation**.

Each edition of ÓEM offers a professional immersion into the world of opera, an environment where you can **grow and experience the stage first-hand**. Young singers from all over the world are immersed in the creative process of a production, working alongside **teachers and professionals of recognised prestige** who share their experience, musicality and passion for opera.

Ópera Estudio de Málaga is a transformative experience that opens doors to the professional world, **giving visibility and exposure to numerous artists, media outlets and representation agencies**. Through an **international open call** we select the most promising voices to bring to life the characters of a production at the Cervantes Theatre in Malaga.



For five weeks - from 3 November to 6 December 2026 - the selected artists will work in Malaga with the artistic team at the Cervantes Theatre, developing vocal technique, acting and role preparation. The process culminates in two paid performances during the Cervantes Theatre's opera season (4 and 6 December, 2026), accompanied by the Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra and the Cervantes Theatre Choir. To foster concentration and performance, the organisation offers participants single room accommodation and full board throughout the period.

TEACHING STAFF



Carlos Alvarez vocal technique manager

Born in Málaga (1966), he received academic training at the same time at the Medicine School of the University and the Conservatory of Music of his hometown, until he became a professional singer in 1989. Since he made his debut, he has been part of the schedules and programs of the most important festivals and opera houses of the world, such as Liceu de Barcelona, ROH Covent Garden in London, Teatro Real de Madrid, Teatro alla Scala di Milano, Metropolitan Opera House in New York, Théâtre de la Bastille a Paris, Salzburger Festival, Wiener Staatsoper, National Opera in Tokyo, among many others, working with international conductors: Riccardo Chailly, Sir Colin Davis, Gustavo Dudamel, Valery Gergiev, James Levine, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Metah, Riccardo Muti, Seigi Ozawa, etcetera.

Currently, he holds the position of Secretary of Institutional Relations at ALE, the Union of Lyric Artists of Spain.

Some important distinctions: Doctorate Honoris Causa from University of Málaga, Spanish National Music Award 2003, Medalla al Mérito en las Bellas Artes, Wiener Staatsoper Kammersänger, 2 Grammy Awards, Golden Medal of Andalucía, Honorary Academician of the Fine Arts Academy of San Telmo, Academician of the Academy of Performing Arts of Spain.

TEACHING STAFF



Carlos Aragón musical director

One of the most versatile musicians on the Spanish scene, due to his dual role as a conductor and pianist, he has conducted titles such as *Otello*, *Suor Angelica* and *Manon* at the Teatro Villamarta in Jerez; *L'italiana in Algeri* in Córdoba; *La clemenza di Tito* and *Carmen* in Valladolid; and *La princesa árabe*, a project conceived by the Baremboim-Said Foundation, at the Arriaga in Bilbao, Baluarte in Pamplona and Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid, as well as his debut at the Grand Opéra d'Avignon with *Le nozze di Figaro* and at the Cervantes Theatre in Málaga with *Il trovatore*.

In the Spanish repertoire he has conducted *La corte de Faraón* at the Arriaga and at the Veranos de la Villa, and *El trust de los tenorios* and *El puñao de rosas* at La Zarzuela.

A regular accompanist for leading figures, he has given recitals at the Royal Chapel of the Palace of Versailles, the Tchaikovsky Hall and the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, as well as at the Monteverdi Festival in Venice.

Recent projects include *Così fan tutte* at the Teatro Calderón in Valladolid, *Doña Francisquita* in Jerez, *Il trovatore* and *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Cervantes Theatre in Málaga, and *El gitano por amor* at the Teatro de la Zarzuela, a production to which he returns this season along with *La corte de Faraón* at the Teatre Principal in Palma.

With a career marked by excellence and the transmission of knowledge, he combines his work as a pianist, conductor and pedagogue at the service of opera and new generations of singers.

TEACHING STAFF



Isabel Rey vocal technique masterclasses

Isabel Rey's passion for singing began at the age of six, when she started her musical training. Her interpretative maturity led to her embarking on her first recital tour at the age of seventeen. She made her full operatic debut in 1987. Internationally renowned for her vocal technique and sensitivity as a performer, she is an artist with a repertoire ranging from Monteverdi to Stravinsky, having performed over 70 different operas in three decades, many of which have been recorded on DVD. She has shared the stage with the most illustrious representatives of the universal art of singing, such as Juan Pons, Plácido Domingo, José Carreras, Alfredo Kraus, Montserrat Caballé, Jonas Kaufmann, Roberto Alagna, Jaime Aragall, Carlos Álvarez, Barbara Frittoli, Ruggero Raimondi and Matti Salminen, and has had the immense fortune of being able to work with legendary maestros such as Nello Santi, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Anton Guadagno and Alain Lombard. She also has an interesting videography and discography in which she performs some of her most important recitals and roles. Isabel Rey is particularly interested in the world of teaching and is sought after for her teaching talent and her flair for communication, with some students already pursuing international careers. Her commitment to very young singers has led her to give lectures and masterclasses in opera houses and music conservatories in several European countries. Isabel Rey is the winner of the Opera Actual Award 2023.

TEACHING STAFF



Aquiles Machado vocal technique masterclasses

Spanish-Venezuelan musician born in Barquisimeto. He began his studies at the Vicente Emilio Conservatory, studied singing with Maestro William Alvarado at the Simón Bolívar Conservatory in Caracas and with Maestro Alfredo Kraus at the Reina Sofía Higher School of Music in Madrid. He took advanced courses and masterclasses with renowned masters: Carlo Bergonzi, Raquel Adonaylo, June Anderson and Giuseppe Di Sptefano, among others. With an extensive international career spanning more than 30 years, performing in the most prestigious theatres in Europe, America and Asia, he has shared the stage and worked alongside leading figures in the international music scene: Ricardo Muti, Daniel Barenboim, Sir Mark Elder, Riccardo Chailly, Plácido Domingo, Gustavo Dudamel, Zubin Metha, James Conlon, Valery Gergiev, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Jesús Lopez Cobos or Mstislav Rostropóvich. His career is accompanied by an extensive catalogue of recordings and audiovisual recordings. He has explored a wide range of genres, from folklore to opera, including chamber music, oratorio, and contemporary music. He currently continues his artistic activity, combining it with teaching, orchestral conducting, stage direction and cultural management. He is in charge of several European educational projects aimed at musical education and the dissemination of opera among children, and is the current artistic director of the opera season of Amigos de la Ópera de A Coruña.

TEACHING STAFF



Anna Crexells maestro répétiteur

Anna Crexells is one of the best piano accompanists of her generation. Passionate about voices, she works at the Teatro Real, the Gran Teatre del Liceu, the Teatro de la Maestranza, the Fundación Ópera de Oviedo, the Teatre Principal de Mallorca and the Teatro Calderón de Valladolid. She is the official pianist for the Tenor Viñas Competition.

Sought after for her delicate musicality, she has collaborated with prominent artists such as Jaume Aragall, Josep Carreras, Francisco Araiza, Luciana Serra, Dolora Zajick, Juan Pons, Teresa Berganza, Mariella Devia and Eva Marton.

TEACHING STAFF



Silvia Mkrtchian maestro répétiteur

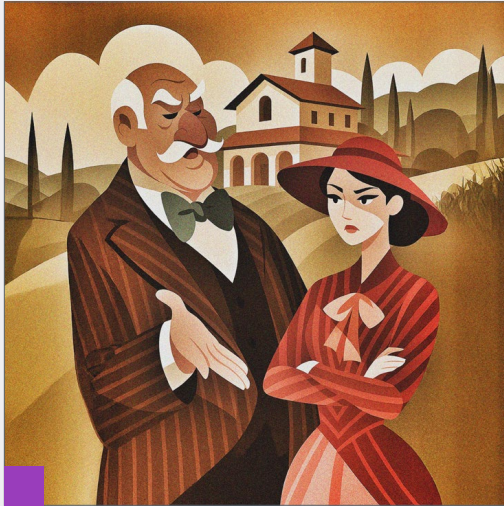
A pianist of Armenian origin and Spanish nationality, she is an internationally renowned performer known for her virtuosity, depth, and musical sensitivity. She began studying piano at the age of five, graduating with a Gold Medal from the Tchaikovsky Special Music School in Yerevan. She continued her education at the Komitas State Conservatory, where she graduated with honours 'Cum Laude' with the title of Professor of Piano, Chamber Music and Accompaniment. She holds a Master of Musical Arts degree in Piano, Chamber Music and Accompaniment.

Winner of seven prizes in international competitions, she has received the Special Prize for the Best Interpretation of works by Liszt and Cziffra. As a soloist she has performed with several Spanish orchestras, premièring works by Schnittke, Brouwer... and has given recitals in Europe and the United States.

She has collaborated with prominent conductors such as Michel Plasson, Carlo Rizzi or Ralf Weikert and has accompanied renowned lyrical singers such as Plácido Domingo, Montserrat Caballé, Ainhua Arteta, Carlos Álvarez, María Guleghina or Lianna Haroutounian.

Recognised for her artistic excellence, she has been appointed academician of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Fine Arts and Noble Arts of Cordoba.

NEXT PRODUCTION



To participate in the selection process, candidates must send a recording of an opera aria of their choice, always within a repertoire related to the style and character of the role they are applying for. In addition, it is essential to send the recordings of the corresponding excerpts from Bizet's opera *Don Procopio*, in accordance with the character or characters chosen.

Production

Title: ***Don Procopio***

Music Georges Bizet (París, 1838 - Bougival, 1875)

Libreto: original in Italian by Carlo Cambiaggio

Stage direction: Mario Gas

Conductor: Carlos Aragón

Performances: 4 and 6 December 2026

Venue: Teatro Cervantes de Málaga

Personajes

Don Procopio [bass or bass-baritone] Old miser

Don Odoardo [tenor] Officer in love with Bettina

Don Ernesto [baritone] Bettina's brother

Don Andronico [bass or bass-baritone] Bettina's uncle

Pasquino [bass or bass-baritone] Don Andronico's servant

Donna Bettina [soprano] Don Andronico's niece

Donna Eufemia [soprano] Don Andronico's wife



“My experience at Ópera Estudio de Málaga has been very intense. It’s a very rewarding experience to be able to collaborate with all the professionals here and to get closer to the professional world of opera”

Elías Gallego Torricelli - HERNANDO (tenor)

“Together with maestros Sagi, Aragón, and Carlos Álvarez, we are delving into a score that was hidden and that, fortunately, we are going to ‘uncover’”

Begoña Gómez González - LAURA (mezzo-soprano)



“It’s important for me to come to the Ópera Estudio de Málaga to step into the shoes of a leading character and learn from this whole experience in order to sing in a great theatre like the Cervantes in Málaga”

Javier Povedano - BALDAQUÍN (baritone)

“We had a wonderful masterclass with Barbara Frittoli and, of course, the support of Carlos Álvarez every day, which has meant so much to all of u”

Marianna Martirosyan - INÉS (soprano)



“This Ópera Estudio is an opportunity for me to take on more substantial roles and to gain experience (...) thanks to great artists like Carlos Álvarez, Carlos Aragón, and all the teachers who are with us”

Julio Nomdedeu - CORREGIDOR (baritone)

“The experience here at Ópera Estudio de Málaga has been wonderful. We have top-level teachers, incredible masterclasses with teachers who teach at La Scala in Milan, at the Metropolitan Opera... It’s a truly enriching experience and a fantastic opportunity as a singer”

Aurora Galán - ROSITA (soprano)





“This Ópera Estudio here in Málaga is a continuation of my training”

Ana Molina - LAURA (mezzo-soprano)

“I am very happy to be here at Ópera Estudio de Málaga”

Lucía García - INÉS (soprano)



“I’m thrilled that these kinds of projects are happening here in my homeland”

Alejandro Aparicio - MANOLO (tenor)

“I am very happy to be here in my homeland. I’m from Jaén, we’re in Andalusia, and I’m really looking forward to singing for the first time at the Cervantes Theatre in Málaga, such a beautiful and important venue”

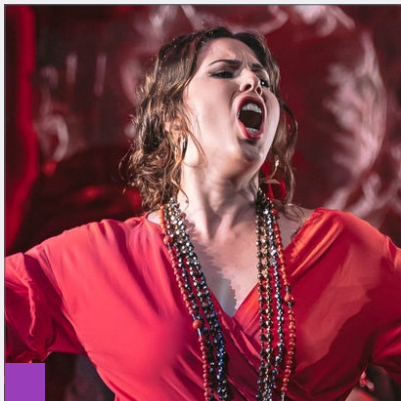
Francisco Muñoz Bermudo - CORREGIDOR (baritone)



“ÓEM has great symbolic significance, because as a baritone, it makes me so happy to be able to work hand in hand with Carlos Álvarez, who has been a role model for me since I started singing, and to have him with us every day, along with such a wonderful group of teachers”

Francisco Muñoz Bermudo - CORREGIDOR (baritone)

HOW TO APPLY



Intended beneficiaries

The program is aimed at young opera singers of any nationality between the ages of 18 and 35, with a higher degree in music with specialisation in Vocal Performance, or be enrolled in the final years of a higher degree in music with specialisation in Vocal Performance.

Applicants must have basic health insurance coverage for the entire training period. Candidates from outside the European Union must also have a study visa that is valid for Spain.

Call for applications

The selected singers will participate in the entire process of putting on the opera *Don Procopio*, by Georges Bizet, which will be performed at Teatro Cervantes during the 2026-2027 season.

- Training period: from November 3 to December 6, 2026
- Performances: December 4 and 6, 2026

Submission of applications and admission auditions

Applications must be submitted between November 7, 2025, and January 16, 2026, by completing the registration form and providing the required documentation.

The admission auditions will have a non-attendance disqualifying phase and a final face-to-face phase according to the procedures and deadlines specified in the [Conditions of the programme](#).

The selected singers must pay the 800€ corresponding to the course registration fee.

ÓEM

ÓPERA
ESTUDIO
DE MÁLAGA

Organised by

málaga



Ciudad
de Málaga

MálagaProcultura

TC TEATRO
CERVANTES

Sponsored by



Fundación
Unicaja

In collaboration with

FUNDACIÓN
MÁLAGA

operaestudiomalaga.es