



GEORG
SOLTI
ACCADEMIA
THE ART OF ITALIAN OPERA

“Solti. He believed that it is the duty of every musician to hand on to the next generation what they have learnt from the previous generation. He would be thrilled with the Solti Accademia. He would see it as his whole ethos - his whole idea.”

Lady Valerie Solti



MISSION

The Accademia's ambition is simple — to become known internationally as the **centre par excellence** for opera singers and répétiteurs in the early stage of their careers.

Our mission is to attract the **best young talent** in this field from anywhere in the world regardless of circumstance, and to offer them unmatched training and opportunities with some of today's best opera singers, coaches, conductors, and répétiteurs.



"I can truly say there is no vocal seminar that has been more beneficial than the Georg Solti Accademia. There is no coach in this business with sharper ears, keener knowledge or more poignant musicianship than Jonathan Papp. There was not a single coaching I had that did not yield dramatic improvement in vocal color or stylistic choice. I am thankful every day to have experienced such detailed and brilliant musicianship."

**Elizabeth Sutphen,
Soprano (GSA 2016)**

WHAT WE DO

Created in 2004 in memory of the great Hungarian conductor **Sir Georg Solti**, and still led by board chair Lady Valerie Solti, this unique programme offers training and full tuition scholarships to eighteen outstanding international musicians (12 singers and 6 répétiteurs). Since 2004, the GSA has mentored **hundreds of singers and pianists from over 45 countries** - immersing them in the language and culture of Italy, while giving them focused time to master their craft and hone their skills.

The Solti Accademia approach is special, and is fueled by the philosophy of Sir Georg Solti, and our close relationships with some of the **best classical music** and **opera professionals** around the world. Georg Solti believed in providing young musicians with first-rate training. As such, our primary goal is to ensure that, throughout the duration of our courses, our students receive the best possible education from some of the world's best musicians, many of whom were mentored by Solti himself. It is in Solti's memory and spirit that these musicians have come back to pass on the training they received as young artists to the **next generation**.

Our students benefit from masterclasses and mentorship given by a roster of leading opera singers, vocal coaches, conductors, and répétiteurs which have included: **Richard Bonyngé, Barbara Frittoli, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Angela Gheorghiu, Leo Nucci, Mirella Freni, Jose Carreras, Dennis O'Neill, Jeffrey Tate, and Carmen Gianattasio**, among many others.

Since its inception, the Georg Solti Accademia has built a reputation for excellence, professionalism, discipline, detail, and success. We are so proud of our alumni - many of whom have gone on to have **extraordinary careers** in the opera world. Further, we remain dedicated to our students once they have left the course and work to provide them with continued professional opportunities, mentorship, and connections to the global opera industry.

SINGERS

► **GSA Bel Canto Summer School (Tuscany, Italy)** - offers up to **twelve young singers** a fully-funded three week immersion in Italian opera singing, with a focus on language, style and technique in the 19th and early 20th century **Italian Bel Canto repertoire**. It takes place in the Tuscan seaside town of Castiglione della Pescaia. The study of this repertoire provides a strong foundation - helping to unlock a singer's vocal and artistic potential across all styles, languages, and genres of music.



In the words of the great tenor Luciano Pavarotti, **"If a singer is interested in having a long career, they should impose on themselves the task of mastering the bel canto style like a religious duty!"**

PIANISTS

► **The Repetiteur's Masterclasses (Venice, Italy)** - The GSA offers a fully-funded 8 day course for 6 outstanding young pianists to help them develop the many skills required of a repetiteur. These students study with a world-class faculty of opera conductors and coaches/repetiteurs, and collaborate with six talented young singers, all of whom are alumni of our summer course for singers.



SWITZERLAND

The Georg Solti Accademia is a **Swiss-based foundation** which is keen to acknowledge the contribution that Switzerland made to the life of our founder, Sir Georg Solti.

Solti studied piano, composition and conducting with Bartok, Dohnanyi, Kodaly and Leo Weiner at Budapest's Liszt Academy. Although he made his concert debut as a pianist, he was soon engaged as a conductor by the **Budapest Opera**. In 1937, Toscanini selected him as his assistant at the **Salzburg Festival**.

His career was interrupted with the outbreak of World War II, forcing him to flee to Switzerland as a refugee. There he turned again to the piano for his livelihood and in 1942 he was awarded first prize in the **Concours International de Genève** at the Victoria Hall.

Switzerland provided him not only with a way of making a living, but a way of actually surviving during such dark times. Solti remained there for the duration of the War.

THE SOLT CONNECTION

Each year at the Accademia we welcome talented artists from all over the world. After each course has ended, we consult the participants to get their **▶ feedback** on the impact this opportunity has had on their development, and to find areas in which we can improve the experience to help others in future years. Our vision for the future is to **ensure the continued quality** of staff, teachers and facilities available each year, cementing our place as one of the best training programs for young opera singers and répétiteurs to attend.

We also wish to extend our mission to reach new demographics of potential students, particularly in parts of the world where educational and professional opportunities for young opera singers and pianists are limited.

Further, we are always interested in reaching a greater community and audience outside Italy; hosting more concerts and masterclasses in China, the UK, France and the USA, and particularly as a Swiss foundation, to develop our activities in Switzerland.



The Accademia would like to thank all of our **sponsors** and **supporters** past and present without whom we would not be able to offer such a unique experience to our young artists. We would like to particularly thank **Rolex**, our corporate sponsor, for their support of the Accademia.



"Thanks very much to the Solti Accademia for providing such excellent learning opportunities for young singers. It is a great privilege and a great honor to be able to study here with these world-class master teachers."

Long Long, Tenor (GSA 2017)
Winner of 2019 Neue Stimmen Competition



STAFF

Jonathan Papp
Artistic Director

Candice Wood
Executive Director

Jonathan Lakeland
Assistant to Artistic
& Executive Directors

Roberta Biondi
Registrar

For more information about the GSA, and how you can support the work of the Accademia, please contact:

Candice Wood
Executive Director
cwood@gsaccademia.org