# Registration procedures

**Casting Auditions for *Dido and Æneas* (Purcell)**
**Discovery of young opera singers**

**Opéra-Théâtre de l'Euro-Métropole de Metz**

## 1. Eligibility requirements and singer profiles

The auditions are open to young professional singers and singers completing an advanced course of study at a higher-education institution.

**Roles being auditioned :**

- **Dido :** Mezzo-soprano or Contralto
- ***Æneas* :** Baritone or Baritenor
- **Belinda :** Light soprano or lyric soprano
- **The Sorceress :** Mezzo-soprano, Contralto or Baritone

## 2. Selection process and required application materials

The selection process will take place in two stages, beginning with a **strict pre-selection based on the application materials submitted**. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

The following documents and materials must be submitted electronically :

- **curriculum vitae (CV) :** detailing your experience, roles performed and training.
- **embedded artist photograph :** the photograph must appear directly on the CV to assist the panel in identifying candidates.
- **online video recordings :** two video links (YouTube, Vimeo, etc.), including one Baroque aria of the applicant's choice, preferably in English, and one aria or recitative showcasing the applicant's skills in declamation and acting.

## 3. Audition process – in person and open to the public

Candidates selected following the pre-selection stage will be invited to attend the in-person auditions, which **will be open to the public**. Candidates must ensure that they are **available on both days**:

- **Saturday, 19 December 2026 :** first round
- **Sunday, 20 December 2026 :** final round
- **Venue :** Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional (CRR) de **Metz**

## 4. Audition repertoire and prescribed pieces

Singers will be required to perform the following pieces from memory.

**Please note :** depending on the requirements of the production, artists selected for one of the roles covered by these auditions may also be asked to perform an additional supporting role.

- **Aria 1 – prescribed repertoire from the Bärenreiter Urtext edition :**
    - **Dido :** act I : recitative *"Ah! Belinda, I am prest with torment"* and aria *"Peace and I are strangers grown"* **AND** Act III: recitative *"Thy hand, Belinda"* and aria *"When I am laid in earth"*.
    - **Belinda :** act I : recitative *"Grief increases by concealing"* and aria *"Shake the cloud from off your brow"* **AND** Act II: aria *"Pursue thy conquest, Love"*.
    - ***Æneas* :** act I: recitative *"See, see, your royal guest appears"* and arioso *"If not for mine"* **AND** Act II: extended recitative *"Jove's commands shall be obey'd"*.
    - **The Sorceress :** act II: recitative *"Wayward sisters"* and aria *"The Queen of Carthage, whom we hate"*.
- **Aria 2 – candidate's choice :** one Baroque aria from the seventeenth or eighteenth century, sung in English (Purcell, Blow, Handel, etc.).
- **Acting assessment :** spoken or acted delivery of the text of one of the prescribed recitatives for the role, assessing English pronunciation and stage presence.
- **Accompaniment and concert pitch :** piano accompaniment will be provided at modern concert pitch, **A = 442 Hz**. Two pianists/vocal coaches from the Opéra-Théâtre will be available. Candidates must bring clean, bound scores compatible with the *Bärenreiter Urtext* edition.

## 5. Production schedule – mandatory attendance

By applying, candidates undertake to be fully available for all the following dates:

- **first musical rehearsal : 10 May 2027**
- **rehearsal and final preparation period : 10–26 May 2027**
- **performances : 27, 28 and 29 May 2027** at the **Basilique Saint-Vincent in Metz**

## 6. Application procedure and financial conditions

- **Application deadline : Monday, 30 November 2026 at midnight**
- **Applications should be sent to :** auditions.solistes@eurometropolemetz.eu
- **Financial conditions :** successful candidates will be engaged under a **professional contract**. Full details of the Opéra-Théâtre de l'Euro-Métropole de Metz's remuneration terms will be sent directly to candidates **once their registration has been approved**.