



CENTRO STUDI ITALIANI
Polo Universitario Internazionale

LA NUOVA ACCADEMIA DI LINGUA E VOCE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH CENTRO STUDI ITALIANI - URBANIA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: LAQUITA MITCHELL



MAY 30 - JUNE 21, 2026 URBANIA - ITALY

- **DISTINGUISHED
INTERNATIONAL FACULTY**
- **DAILY ITALIAN LANGUAGE
INSTRUCTION**
- **WEEKLY VOICE LESSONS,
COACHINGS AND WELLNESS
WORKSHOPS**
- **MASTERCLASS WITH
LAWRENCE BROWNLEE**
- **PUBLIC PERFORMANCES**
- **CULTURAL EXCURSIONS**
 - **San Marino/Rimini**
 - **Pesaro: Rossini's
birthplace**
- **IN-COUNTRY
TRANSPORTATION**
- **APARTMENT HOUSING
INCLUDED**



MORE INFORMATION: linguaevoce@gmail.com

APPLICATIONS: www.centrostuditaliani.org/application-nalv

■ WELCOME

Centro Studi Italiani became a crucial part of my artistic growth, providing not just technical and linguistic training but also a supportive environment to refine my skills and prepare for major opportunities as a young artist. The blend of focused study and real-world preparation was invaluable.

I would describe Centro Studi Italiani as "home" which is essential for an artist. A space where you can truly focus on your craft without distractions, all while drawing from the expertise of those who understand the unique demands of opera.

With the rich history and beauty of Italy, this return was not just a personal journey but an opportunity to share my passion and experiences with a new generation of artists. The program at Centro Studi Italiani offers a unique blend of language immersion and intensive vocal training, which I believe is essential for opera singers. It's an environment where students can not only enhance their technical skills but also gain a deep understanding of the cultural and historical context of the art form they are dedicating their lives to. Being in the heart of Italy's opera heritage, in a place where Rossini's legacy still echoes through the streets, is truly an inspiring experience.

Laquita Mitchell

Founder and Artistic Director

La Nuova Accademia di Lingua e Voce



■ THE MISSION

Our program is dedicated to supporting the next generation of opera singers by providing the resources and experiences they need to thrive in their careers. We are committed to:

- **Helping young artists develop their careers** through personalized guidance, training, and performance opportunities.
- **Providing hands-on experience in opera**, allowing young singers to work with professional artists and engage in real-world concert settings.
- **Fostering a deep understanding of Italian opera**, immersing singers in the Italian language, while exploring the rich history, and traditions of this renowned genre.
- **Offering opportunities to participate in masterclasses**, where young artists can refine their skills and receive valuable feedback from experts in the field.
- **Supporting advanced singers preparing for a professional career**, ensuring they gain the tools and confidence they need to succeed.
- **Creating a safe, supportive learning environment** where graduate and advanced singers can also prepare roles and hone their craft for future opportunities.

■ ARTISTIC TEAM

LAQUITA MITCHELL - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Soprano Laquita Mitchell, a Grammy-nominated artist, is renowned for her performances on international opera and concert stages. This season, she makes her début as *Aida* with Dayton Opera and performs with the California, Charleston, Cleveland, and Austin Symphonies. A 2004 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Prize Winner, she also won the Wiener Kammeroper's Hans Gabor Belvedere Competition and the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition. She holds a Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music and serves on the voice faculty at Mannes School of Music and Brooklyn College (CUNY).



STEPHEN POWELL - VOICE

Stephen Powell, a two-time GRAMMY nominee, has performed with opera companies and orchestras worldwide, including in the USA, Brazil, Ireland, France, and the UK. He has been on the voice faculty at Mannes School of Music for eleven years and teaches privately. His discography includes the GRAMMY-nominated *American Composers At Play* and *The Trial at Rouen*, as well as his second solo album *Why Do The Nations* and his third album *ARCHETYPE* from June 2023. He holds degrees from Northwestern University and DePaul University and trained at Lyric Opera of Chicago.

FRANCESCO FRABONI - ITALIAN COACH

Francesco Fraboni has worked on productions in the U.S., Germany, and Italy, including *Sweeney Todd* with the National Symphony Orchestra and as a *Solorepetitor* at the Gerhart-Hauptmann-Theater in Germany. He has also been a *Maestro collaboratore* at the Rossini Opera Festival in Italy. Fraboni has performed in recitals at venues like the Opéra de Rouen and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami. He holds a Master of Music from the Manhattan School of Music and is a professor at the Conservatorio Morlacchi in Perugia, specializing in accompanying and vocal coaching.



LAWRENCE BROWNLEE - INTERNATIONAL MASTERCLASS GUEST

Lawrence Brownlee is a leading bel canto tenor known for his performances on major opera stages worldwide. In the 2024-2025 season, he debuted as the title role in *Mitridate, re di ponto* with Boston Lyric Opera and return to the Metropolitan Opera as Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. He also performed at Opéra national de Paris, The New National Theatre in Tokyo, and Bayerische Staatsoper. Recently, he has performed at prestigious venues like Teatro alla Scala and Lyric Opera Chicago. Brownlee is also a Distinguished Visiting Faculty Member at The Juilliard School and serves as artistic advisor for Opera Philadelphia.

BARBARA SHIRVIS - WELLNESS COACH

Mayo Clinic trained and Nationally board certified (NBHWC) Wellness Coach Barbara Shirvis shares her unique expertise with developing singers to cultivate a science-based approach to a healthy, positive mindset in order to effectively manage the specific challenges in a singer's life. A professional classical soprano, Barbara sang over 30 leading roles, 30 concert and symphonic roles, and dozens of recitals spanning a 30+ year career while raising two children with husband, baritone Stephen Powell. A voice teacher, adjudicator, and workshop presenter for over 20 years, Barbara offers every student and client compassion, clarity and optimism.



■ PROGRAM DETAILS

ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Participants will enjoy 3 hours of Italian language every morning Monday through Friday (45 hours total). The language course is comprehensive and includes the study of grammar, vocabulary, reading, speaking and listening.

VOICE LESSONS/MUSIC COACHINGS

Participants will receive two 1-hour voice lessons per week and two 45-minute coachings with an Italian coach.

MASTERCLASS

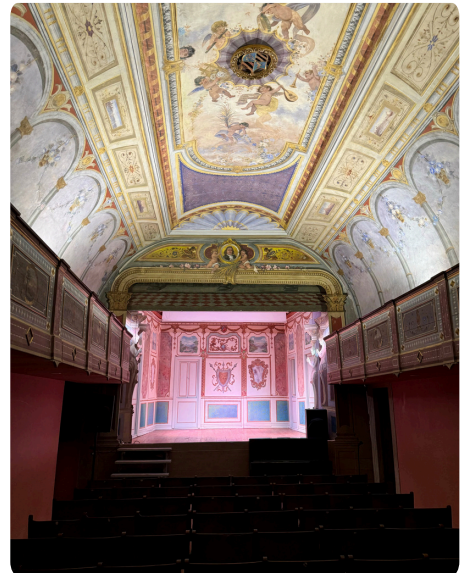
Selected singers will participate in the La Nuova Accademia inaugural masterclass series with Centro Studi Italiani alumnus Lawrence Brownlee.

WELL CANTO - HEALTHY MINDSET FOR SINGERS

Participants will take part in weekly workshops to explore insights and apply practical tools that help maintain a state of well-being.

PERFORMANCES

- One out of town concert (Teatro della Rocca - Sassocorvaro)
- Final Concert (Zedda Hall - Centro Studi Italiani)



CULTURAL EXCURSIONS

2 full-day excursions to San Marino/Rimini and Pesaro (Rossini's birthplace)
Bus transportation, Centro Studi Italiani chaperone, individual on-site exploration



HOUSING

Double room occupancy in fully furnished shared apartments. All utilities included.

TRANSFERS

Airport transfer from Rome Fiumicino Airport to Urbania on May 31st
Transfer from Urbania to Rome city center on June 20th

■ CENTRO STUDI ITALIANI



- Proudly celebrating 40 years of language instruction in the heart of Italy.
- Founded in 1985, Centro Studi Italiani is the first school for foreigners in the Marche Region. Ever since its foundation the school has provided Italian language and culture classes to more than 12,000 students from 120 countries all over the world.
- Centro Studi Italiani offers all levels of Italian; the courses are flexible, varied, rich and unique. Classes are intentionally small to allow students to relate to each other while enjoying personalized and individual attention from faculty.

■ URBANIA



Nestled between the Apennine Mountains and the Adriatic Sea, Urbania has long been recognized as a historic center of art and culture. The city was carefully chosen as the school's location to perfectly align with its vision of offering "small courses in a small town." Participants will have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in a safe, unspoiled environment, allowing them to focus on their studies. Urbania offers a variety of amenities, including supermarkets, shops, gyms, bars, restaurants, cafes, and pizzerias. During the summer, both participants and faculty enjoy outdoor concerts, shows, exhibitions, and entertainment of all kinds. Urbania presents a refreshing alternative to cities overwhelmed by mass tourism, offering an easy, friendly atmosphere where participants can make connections and practice the language.



■ HOUSING

Participants will share double-occupancy rooms in fully furnished, comfortable apartments, all centrally located within walking distance of the school, supermarkets, shops, and more. Each apartment is equipped with linens, washers, kitchen utensils, and appliances, with an average of up to four participants per apartment.

Wi-Fi is available at the school and in cafes around town.

All privately owned apartments are carefully selected to meet the high standards set by the Centro Studi Italiani housing office.



■ HIGHLIGHTS, FEES AND REGISTRATION

Dates	May 30 - June 21, 2026
Airport in Italy	Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO)
Transfers in Italy	Included
Length	3 weeks
Housing	Double room occupancy - fully furnished shared apartments All utilities included
Italian language	15 hours per week, 45 total
Flight info	<p>Flights and medical insurance are not included in the program fee.</p> <p>Travel to Italy: All flights must land in Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO) by noon on Sunday May 31st. Chartered bus to Urbania will leave at 1 pm.</p> <p>Travel back to destination origin: All participants must book their flights back to their original countries no earlier than Sunday, June 21st. While the bus from Urbania to Rome will depart on Saturday June 20th, to avoid delays and missed flights, we highly recommend that all participants spend the night in Rome and leave the next day, which is Sunday June 21st. No flights should be booked to depart on Saturday, June 20th. Expenses in Rome are the responsibility of each participant.</p> <p>All flights should be booked AFTER receiving formal acceptance into the program and upon completion of the non-refundable deposit payment.</p>
Program fee	€ 3.990
Payment plan	<p>Non-refundable deposit: € 1.000, due date: February 1, 2026 Balance: € 2.990, due date: March 15th, 2026</p> <p>Terms & Conditions (see next page) Accepted payment methods: credit card, bank transfer (see next page)</p>
Required documents	<p>Valid passport Non-US passport holders: <u>please refer to this website to check if you are required to apply for entry visa</u></p>
Application and payment	<u>www.centrostuditaliani.org/application-nalv</u>

■ TERMS AND CONDITIONS

APPLICATION AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

- All applicants should submit an online application form which can be found at the following link: www.centrostuditaliani.org/application-naly
- The application form includes a payment form
- Payments will be sent directly to Centro Studi Italiani
- Accepted payment methods: credit card or bank transfer (TransferMate)
- Participants will pay in their currency: the system will automatically calculate the price conversion from euro to the participant's local currency
- No commissions will be applied
- All payment instructions are included in the payment form

DEADLINES AND CANCELLATION POLICY

- Application and non-refundable deposit deadline: February 1st, 2026
- Balance due date: March 15th, 2026
- If a participant withdraws within 7 days after the balance payment deadline, the balance amount will be refunded
- After 7 days, the balance amount will not be refunded

APPLICATION AND NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT DEADLINE	€ 1.000 - February 1st, 2026
BALANCE DEADLINE	€ 2.990 - March 15th, 2026

