



# THERESIA ORCHESTRA

## CALL FOR GRANT AWARDS

*Learning Grants for the period July 2025 – July 2027*

### PREAMBLE

Fondazione ICONS,

HAVING regard to art. 4 of its Statute

HAVING regard to the resolution of 19 June 2017 of the General Council which approved the Call for Grants conferral for musicians participating in the learning projects of Theresia Orchestra

### LAUNCHES

a contest based on merit to award **Learning Grants** addressed to musicians wishing to enter Theresia Orchestra and participate in its learning activities for the period  
***July 2025 – July 2027***

This Call is published on the website of the Theresia Orchestra [www.theresia.online/auditions](http://www.theresia.online/auditions)

The Call is published on 14.02.2025

The deadline for the submission of applications is **Thursday, 27 March 2025, 23:59pm (CET)**.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Fondazione ICONS**

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## **ART. 1 | SUBJECT OF THE CALL**

### **Art. 1.1. Characteristics of the Grants**

The Grants enable the participation to Theresia Orchestra's residencies covering the period **July 2025 – July 2027**, whose calendar is available at [www.theresia.online/calendar](http://www.theresia.online/calendar) and provisionally described in Art. 3.3.

Each Grant includes:

- Participation in the learning and artistic activities of Theresia Orchestra, including Orchestra Residencies, Chamber Music Academies, Specialized Workshops etc. to improve skills and experience in the performance of symphonic and chamber music repertoire of the Classical Era on period instruments.
- Participation in the scheduled concerts and recording activities at the end of each Orchestral Residency and Chamber Music Academy.
- Participation in the learning and artistic activities of the Theresia Academy, including capacity building sessions, soft skills development, co-creation workshops, etc.

Grantees will have to sign a binding **Learning Agreement** and commit to participate to all the scheduled Residencies and activities relevant to their instrument, their role within the orchestra and their own professionalizing path within Theresia.

The musicians who will be particularly distinguished by artistic merit at the end of their granting period may be invited, in the unquestionable judgment of the Artistic Direction of Theresia, to join the professional alumni orchestra named Concerto Theresia and/or by joining as tutors and/or concertmaster of their section and with a professional contract, for at least one more year of Theresia Orchestra activity.

### **Art. 1.2. Open Grants**

The present Call is finalized to the award of new Learning Grants for a Learning Program covering the period **July 2025 – July 2027**. In particular, the Grants are available to applicants for the following instruments:

- viola
- cello
- double bass
- oboe
- clarinets
- bassoon
- horn

## **Art. 1.3. Grant Amount and Conditions**

The total amount of the grant will be agreed upon individually with each grantee before signing the Learning Agreement, according to the activities they will participate in. The grant will be calculated based on a daily lump sum of 85 EUR per day, according to the dates listed in the LA and ILP, gross of any withholdings applicable under Italian law, for musicians awarded the grant in the instrument categories described in Art. 1.2.

Fondazione ICONS will be fully in charge for organizing accommodation for grantees participating in artistic Residencies and on-site activities during their stay in Italy and abroad, and for the related expense.

Fondazione ICONS will cover the travelling costs for the orchestra during concert tours and the meals offered before each concert.

Fondazione ICONS will not cover the expenses of board and travelling to the destination specified in the Schedule (see Art. 3.3) that will be entirely borne by the Grantees. Fondazione ICONS will however try to offer special discounts for subsistence expenses to each Grantee, where possible and applicable.

## **Art 1.4. Qualified musicians for reserve list talent pool**

A candidate can be qualified for the reserve list talent pool of Theresia Orchestra without being awarded one of the available full grants if he receives a positive evaluation from the jury following the auditions.

Qualified candidates will be included in a reserve list of musicians who may be offered a grant in case of renounce or withdrawal of awarded grants for their instrument.

In addition, qualified candidates are insert in a list of musicians that may be invited to join Theresia for specific productions and will also be invited to take part in on-line activities of Theresia Orchestra's learning cycle, such as musicological webinars and further educational activities for young professional musicians.

## **ART. 2 | AUDITIONS**

The auditions will be held in Lodi, Italy in partnership with Accademia Gaffurio, on 1 and 2 May 2025 (whole day) for all instruments. **The detailed schedule will be communicated together with the invitation to attend the audition session in person in order to allow attendants to book their travel arrangements.**

### **Art. 2.1. Requirements for participation**

Exclusively musicians who meet the following **mandatory requirements** may apply for admission to the selections:

- Born on or after **1 January 1997**.
- Citizenship of one of the Countries of the European Union or of the European Economic Area. Non-EU citizens may apply if they have a residence permit for study in one of the Countries of the European Union.
- In-depth knowledge of performance praxis on authentic instruments.
- Use of period instruments or copies of period instrument.
- **The use of the classical bow for strings and classical instruments for winds is mandatory during the Auditions.**

## Art. 2.2. Program of the Auditions

**IMPORTANT:** All candidates must use classical instruments and a historically informed set-up for all audition activities, including the Preselection Video and Live Auditions.

- **Pitch:** All instruments must be tuned to A=430Hz.
- **Wind Instruments:** Only period instruments from the classical era are allowed. **CANDIDATES PLAYING BAROQUE OR MODERN INSTRUMENTS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE.**
- **String Instruments:** Must follow the historically informed set-up for the classical era outlined in the [String Instrument Set-up Guidelines](#). It is mandatory to use a classical bow. **CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE.**

### 1- Preselection video

Technical requirements for the video:

- 1 single take only
- No editing
- Good audio quality
- The video should not be older than 12 months

### Content

Candidates must:

- Perform the required pieces for their instrument.
- Briefly introduce themselves (maximum 2 minutes).

Required pieces per instrument:

If you wish to receive the scores, please write to Yeefei Koay, orchestra manager, at [yeefei.koay@icons.it](mailto:yeefei.koay@icons.it)

Viola

Franz Anton Hoffmeister: n. 7 *Andante e Allegro* in a min from the 12 Studies

(Note: In some editions (e.g Edition Peters), the *Andante e Allegro* is **No. 6**)

Cello

Carlo Graziani: Capriccio in C Major for Cello solo: *Allegro and adagio* – the recapitulation of the *Allegro* is not mandatory

## Double bass

Domenico Dragonetti: n. 1 or n. 2 or n.3 of the 12 Waltzes

Orchestral excerpt - Ludwig van Beethoven: from Symphony n. 5 in c minor Op 67 – III Scherzo. Allegro, beginning until bar 212 (or: bar 1 to 18, bar 53 to 71, bar 133 to 212)

## Oboe

- Carlo Besozzi: One *allegro, allegretto Or Moderato* from his 28 Etudes

- Carlo Paessler: One from his 24 Larghi

## Clarinet

- Gaetano Donizetti: *Studio per clarino*

- Ernesto Cavallini: Caprice n.5 (Allegro)

## Horn

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Concerto n.3 KV447, first movement, *Allegro*

- Jacques François Gallay: One of the 12 Grands Caprices op.32

## Bassoon

- Etienne Ozi: n. 19 or n. 25 of the 42 Caprices

- François Devienne: *Largo* from Sonata n.1

## 2- Live auditions

The live auditions will be held in the form of a chamber music workshop. The musical program and scores will be sent along with the invitation to the live auditions. Additionally, candidates will be required to perform a short sight-reading exercise.

## 3- Interviews

Candidates who passed the musical part of the auditions will be invited to a motivational interview with ICONS Human Resources department, which will take place online within two weeks after the musical part. The detailed schedule will be sent between Friday, 2 May and Monday, 5 May 2025.

The Board of Examiners for the Auditions will be composed of:

Alfredo Bernardini - Principal Conductor

Gemma Longoni - Concertmaster

Mario Martinoli - Artistic Director

Federica Bresciani - Fondazione ICONS Head of Human Resources

## **Art. 2.3. Award of the Grant**

All candidates participating to the live auditions in Italy will be ranked by the Boards of Examiners on a classification of merit, including motivational aspects.

## **Art. 2.4. Further Procedures**

If the present Call fails to identify sufficient qualified candidates, Fondazione ICONS reserves the right to launch subsequently a new contest based on Learning Qualifications and Examinations for the conferral of the remaining available Grants.

## **ART. 3 | PROCEDURE OF ALLOCATION AND REPORTING OF THE GRANTS**

### **Art. 3.1. Grant allocation and payment**

The allocation of the Grants will be subject to the signature by the Grantee and Fondazione ICONS, of a binding Learning Agreement reflecting the provisions laid down in this Call. The duration of the Grant and its starting date will be defined in the Learning Agreement.

The allocation of the Grants will be subject to the actual performance of training activities proposed for each Learning Program based on the reference instrument.

The allocation will be made by bank transfer and will be paid by instalments based on the progress in the Learning Program for each category of instrument and type of Grant.

### **Art. 3.2. Revocation of Grant and suspension of the Learning Program**

The Foundation reserves the right, to its unquestionable judgment, to revoke the Grant if the musician being awarded fails in the prescribed learning obligations, viz.:

- If the musician fails to attend at least 85% of the planned activities within the duration of the grant
- If the musician shows no interest in attending to the proposed capacity building modules of the Theresia Academy
- If the study activity and participation is judged qualitatively inadequate by Fondazione ICONS management and/or musical conductors and/or tutors and/or learning supervisors.

In case of voluntary waiver of the Grant, the Scholar must compulsorily submit a request for waiver to Fondazione ICONS, which shall be assessed and formally approved by the General Council of Fondazione ICONS.

In both cases, the amounts already paid should be returned in full to Fondazione ICONS within 30 days of the date of notification of revocation to the Grantee. The voluntary waiver of the Grant implies the exclusion from the learning program.

### Art. 3.3. General Schedule

The detailed schedule and activities for each grantee will be agreed individually and determined by the Individual Learning Plan [ILP], attached to the Learning Agreement.

The ILP will be updated on a regular basis (twice a year).

With the signature of the Learning agreement, the grantee commits to give priority to Theresia projects and to wait for the signature of each ILPs before accepting other commitments in that period.

Participation in concerts, or any recordings that will be organized at the end of each Residency, is compulsory and forms an integral part of the Learning Program. The future Schedule envisages the following Residencies<sup>1</sup> of interest for the new grantees and is available at the address [www.theresia.online/calendar](http://www.theresia.online/calendar):

#### 1. Chamber Music Academy - Residency 48

14 - 22 July 2025 - Geneva (Switzerland)

Tutor: Chiara Banchini (violin), Alfredo Bernardini (Oboe)

Franz Joseph HAYDN: Divertimento in C Major Hob.II:17

Ludwig van BEETHOVEN: Symphony N. 1 in C Major Op. 21 (arr. by Carl Friedrich Ebers)

Concert on 20 July 2025 in Geneva - Église de St-Germain

Concert on 21 July 2025 in Geneva - Église de St-Germain

In collaboration with Les Concerts d'été à St-Germain, Geneva

#### 2. Orchestral Project: Recording of the complete symphonies by Joseph Martin Kraus

Three 10-days recording periods + small concert tours in 2026-2027, dates and venues to be announced.

Conductor: Alfredo Bernardini

In collaboration with the label Classic Produktion Osnabrück

## ART. 4 | APPLICATION

In order to participate to the Auditions, candidates must fill out the form available at the following [link](#).

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Susanna Bucher, artistic secretary, at [susanna.bucher@icons.it](mailto:susanna.bucher@icons.it).

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<sup>1</sup> Dates and locations may be subject to slight changes. A final calendar will be specified in the Learning Agreement. Possible changes will be communicated by Fondazione ICONS. at least 3 months before the event. The official updated calendar of Residencies is always updated and available at the address [www.theresia.online/calendar](http://www.theresia.online/calendar).

Applications will be considered individually and judged as eligible only if provided with all the required documents.

Due to the high number of expected applications, the Board of Examiners might make a pre-selection on the basis of the CV and the video recording. Only a limited number of musicians will be invited to the audition sessions in Antwerpen.

The deadline for application submission is **Thursday, 27 March 2025, 23:59pm (CET)**

## **ART. 5 | NOTIFICATION OF THE OUTCOME**

The outcome of the pre-selection and the official invitation to the audition sessions in Italy on 1 and 2 May 2025 will be notified directly to each successful candidates as soon as possible and in due time to allow invited candidates to book travel arrangements.

## **ART. 6 | TRAVEL COSTS**

Applicants are responsible for expenses incurred in connection with travel for the audition.

## **ART. 7 | BINDING CLAUSE**

Participation in this Call involves the candidate accepting all the provisions of this regulation.

Lodi, 14 February 2025

The President  
Mario Martinoli

*Privacy Policy: pursuant to art. 13 of Legislative Decree 196/03, we inform that the data provided with the application for admission to the selection is subject to confidentiality and shall be processed solely for organizing the concerts and for sending notices regarding the grant. The provision of data is not compulsory, but it is necessary to give full assistance to the participants and their non-notification is a reason for exclusion. Pursuant to art. 7 of the above-mentioned law, the data controller is entitled to know, update, delete and rectify the data or to oppose its use.*



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