



Conservatorio di Musica di Stato "Antonio Scontrino" di Trapani (I TRAPANIO2)

ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Program (BIP)

Wolf-Ferrari's *La vita nuova*: Orchestral Practice and Performance

Teatro Pardo, Trapani (Sicily) – 14/24.09.2026

Staging of a Vocal-Choral Masterwork

Overview

In this Blended Intensive Program, students will immerse themselves in the study, rehearsal, and performance of Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari's monumental but rarely performed cantata, *La vita nuova* (Op. 9). Moving away from standard logistical tasks, this program is strictly focused on high-level orchestral and vocal training, culminating in a professional staging at the **Teatro Pardo in Trapani** as part of the **Festival Scontrino 2026**.

Maestro **Massimiliano Stefanelli** will serve as the conductor and curator of the project, guiding the ensemble through the rigorous stylistic and technical demands of this extraordinary late-Romantic score.

First premiered in Munich in 1903, *La vita nuova* is a profound musical setting of Dante Alighieri's youthful verses. Wolf-Ferrari bridges the gap between Italian melodic tradition and German symphonic complexity, creating a rare masterpiece for baritone, soprano, chorus, and orchestra. Because it is seldom featured in standard concert seasons, this BIP offers a unique pedagogical opportunity for musicians to rediscover a hidden gem of the early 20th-century European repertoire, mastering its delicate textures, soaring post-Romantic harmonies, and deep text-music relationships.

The project is aimed at advanced music students willing to explore the following topics:

- Orchestral praxis and section rehearsals for large-scale late-Romantic symphonic-choral works.
- Stylistic interpretation of Wolf-Ferrari's unique blend of Italian lyricism and German late-Romantic orchestration.
- The dialogue between the pit/stage and the vocal forces (solos and choir).
- Musical dramaturgy: translating Dante's medieval poetry into instrumental and vocal phrasing.

_Content

The Programme is centred on the musical preparation, rehearsal process, and final execution of *La vita nuova*. Instrumentalists and singers will focus exclusively on their artistic roles, exploring the complex structural and expressive demands of the score. The concert program may include additional pieces by other composers.

Students will gain deep insight into the pieces' specific performance traditions and stylistic nuances, simulating a professional opera house or festival production schedule. The project concludes with public performances within the prestigious framework of the Festival Scontrino 2026.

_Program Objectives

- Developing advanced orchestral skills through the study of a rare, complex symphonic-choral repertoire.
- Deepening stylistic knowledge of early 20th-century Italian-German musical idioms.
- Enhancing professional performance stamina and ensemble synergy under expert conducting.
- Fostering international artistic networks among highly talented young instrumentalists and vocalists.

_Target group and participation requirements

The program is open to exceptional music students from international partner institutions. For this specific production, the selection is limited to the following musical roles:

Orchestra (Instrumentalists):

- 2 Flutes
- 10 Violins
- 2 Violas
- 3 Double Basses

Choir (Vocalists):

- 2 Mezzo-Sopranos
- 3 Alti
- 5 Tenors
- 2 Baritones
- 4 Basses

Orchestral/vocal scores and parts of the work are available at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OQGDQ-c31i7bOlxaxP1rKyICKAJZAAZm?usp=sharing>

_Application, Audition & Selection Process

The selection will be based on a video upload submission (free repertoire) demonstrating technical proficiency and stylistic awareness. Applications will be rigorously evaluated by a specialized artistic committee chaired by the Conductor, Maestro Massimiliano Stefanelli. Selected students will receive an official letter of confirmation by July 3, 2026.

_Grant

Travel and accommodation expenses are covered by an Erasmus grant provided by the student's home institution. The procedures for student participation in the selection process are determined by each university, in accordance with the guidelines set by their respective Erasmus offices.

_Period

BIP On-line session: 04.09.2026 – 10.09.2026

BIP On-site session (Trapani, Italy): 14.09.2026 – 24.09.2026

_Contacts

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