PATÉTIQUE
MELODRAMMA
A FOUR-ACT OPERA WITH OVERTURE AND REQUIEM

PATHETIQUE MELODRAMMA — OPERA LIRICA INTERNAZIONALE

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INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR COMPOSITION
ACT IV — EX TENEBRIS VITA

Requiem for Pathetique Melodramma
2026

ART. 1
ISSUING AUTHORITY AND GENERAL FRAMEWORK

Pathetique Melodramma — Opera Lirica Internazionale, represented by its Author and Artistic Director Gianluca Giadima (hereinafter referred to as "the Commissioner"), with the editorial support of [Donemus Publishing B.V. — Amsterdam] (confirmation pending) and under the patronage of [MiC — Italian Ministry of Culture] (confirmation pending), hereby issues this International Call for Composition, open to the international community of composers.

Pathetique Melodramma is a four-act opera structured around the complete and unaltered performance of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 "Pathétique". The original libretto, written by Gianluca Giadima, is registered with SIAE — Società Italiana degli Autori ed Editori — since 27 December 2017.

The dramaturgical, narrative and visual architecture of the opera is defined and complete in every part. This call is addressed to the search for the most coherent and fitting musical voice to complete the conclusive musical structure of the opera, constituted by Act IV.

ART. 2
OBJECT OF THE COMMISSION

The object of this call is the commission of the original composition of Act IV of Pathetique Melodramma, entitled:

EX TENEBRIS VITA — Requiem

The Requiem constitutes the fourth and conclusive act of the opera, conceived as a philosophical redefinition of death itself: not requiem aeternam, but lux perpetua vivens. The composition emerges from the final silence of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 and represents its necessary metaphysical consequence.

The technical specifications of the required composition are as follows:

a) *Forces: full symphonic orchestra (Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6 forces), mixed choir of approximately 60–80 voices, vocal soloists integrated within the choral structure;*
b) *Text: libretto in Latin, completed and made available to the selected composer;*
c) *Duration: 18–20 minutes;*
d) *Style: consistent with the late-Romantic Russian orchestral tradition, including its contemporary evolutions and offshoots.*

ART. 3
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Composers of any nationality and age may apply, provided they meet the following requirements:

1. *at least one orchestral or choral composition performed publicly in an institutional context, adequately documented;*
2. *full understanding of the dramaturgical project, the narrative synopsis and the libretto text, obtainable upon request of the official project documentation;*
3. *openness to dialogue with the Author and the Scientific Committee during the development and refinement phases of the composition.*

Unsolicited Applications: *the Scientific Committee reserves the right to admit for evaluation compositions of exceptional artistic merit, even in the*

absence of requirement 1, where the intrinsic quality of the work justifies it.

ART. 4
REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

For the purposes of participation, candidates are required to submit, under penalty of exclusion, the following documentation:

1. *curriculum vitae with a complete list of compositions and their documented public performances;*
2. *statement of intent, not exceeding 500 words, describing the candidate's artistic vision for the Requiem in relation to the project Pathetique Melodramma;*
3. *the complete composition Ex Tenebris Vita, in its entirety and internal coherence, submitted in full score (PDF format) and audio format (MIDI or orchestral recording).*

Incomplete applications, drafts or single movements will not be accepted. The composition must be submitted in its entirety and structural coherence.

ART. 5
EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Scientific Committee will evaluate submitted compositions according to the following criteria, considered in their entirety and interdependence:

1. *narrative coherence with the opera's libretto and with the dramaturgical structure of Act IV;*
2. *stylistic coherence within the late-Romantic Russian orchestral tradition, including its contemporary evolutions and offshoots, provided they are conscious and motivated;*
3. *adherence to the temporal framework of 18–20 minutes;*
4. *evocative capacity: the composition's ability to express, through musical language, the founding concept of ex tenebris vita.*

The Scientific Committee is not bound to select any composition if none of the submissions received is deemed adequate to the project. The verdict of the Scientific Committee is final and unappealable.

ART. 6
SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The selection is entrusted to the Scientific Committee, composed as follows:

1. *Artistic Direction — Author, Dramaturg and Artistic Director of Pathetique Melodramma (President);*
2. *Opera & Symphonic Music — Representative of the international opera and symphonic community;*
3. *Editorial & Musicological — Representative of the international music publishing sector.*

All submitted compositions will be heard exclusively by the members of the Scientific Committee and the editorial partner managing the submissions. No material will be disclosed to third parties without the composer's prior written consent.

ART. 7
COMPENSATION AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The selected composer will receive an all-inclusive compensation of EUR 24,000.00 (twenty-four thousand/00) for the commission of the composition, paid in progressive instalments linked to agreed milestones, or in a single payment if the composition is deemed complete and final.

The compensation is determined in accordance with the Nieuw Geneco Fair Practice Code for composition commissions, edition 2025–2026, parameter "Groot ensemble/orkest plus", speelduur 21–30 minutes, bewerkelijkheid hoog.

The compensation is guaranteed by the Commissioner and is independent of the outcome of the project's institutional funding processes.

The selected composer, following communication of the outcome, is required to be available for a period of dialogue and adaptation with the Scientific Committee, aimed at the possible refinement of the composition in coherence with the dramaturgical vision of the opera. This activity is included in the compensation indicated above.

Intellectual property of the composition remains attributed to the composer to the extent of 70% and to the Commissioner to the extent of 30%. The specific conditions of licence, use and dissemination will be defined in the commission contract signed with the selected composer.

ART. 8
SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the dedicated portal, managed by the project's editorial partner. Technical details for registration and submission of materials will be made available on the official website upon publication of this call.

To request the official project documentation (libretto, Requiem text, dramaturgical synopsis, visual dossier), interested composers may write to: call@pathetiquemelodramma.org

Incomplete applications, applications submitted through channels other than those indicated, or applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

ART. 9
DEADLINES

The following deadlines are established:

1. *Opening of the call: on the date of publication on the official website www.pathetiquemelodramma.org;*
2. *Deadline for requesting project documentation: 31 August 2026;*
3. *Deadline for submission of applications: 30 September 2026, 23:59 CET;*
4. *Announcement of results: by 30 November 2026, via press conference* and on the official channels of the project.

ART. 10
LANGUAGE OF THE OPERA AND DISSEMINATION OF THE CALL

Pathetique Melodramma is an opera in Italian, with the exception of Act IV — Ex Tenebris Vita — whose text is in Latin, upon a musical structure rooted in the Russian orchestral tradition of Tchaikovsky.

This call is published in Italian and will be translated and disseminated in English, Dutch, Polish, German and French, in the languages of the partner countries of the project.

ART. 11
PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

Personal data provided by candidates will be processed exclusively for the purposes of this call, in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and applicable data protection legislation. Submitted materials will not be disclosed to third parties without the candidate's prior written consent.

ART. 12
ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS

The submission of an application implies full and unconditional acceptance of all provisions contained in this call.

ART. 13
JURISDICTION

For any dispute relating to this call, the Court of Milan shall have jurisdiction.

Milan, May 2026

Gianluca Giadima
Author & Artistic Director
Pathetique Melodramma — Opera Lirica Internazionale

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