



Press release
NEW ROF ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT
Collaboration with the Italian Association of Blind and Visually Impaired
People begins in 2024

The Rossini Opera Festival presented this morning at its headquarters a new pilot project in collaboration with the Italian Association of Blind and Visually Impaired People. The aim of the initiative is to give the blind community access to the Festival's performances through audio introductions and interludes created for the occasion by specialised staff and broadcast during the performance through mini radios equipped with headphones.

The Intendant Ernesto Palacio presented the initiative: 'In a year as special for the city as this one, the Festival has created an equally special edition, four days longer and with an even richer programme. It seemed natural to us that such an edition should guarantee maximum accessibility for our audiences'.

The general director, Cristian Della Chiara, explains the genesis of this complex project: "In order to ensure that this year's Festival can appeal to the widest possible audience, we have structured an offer that facilitates access for people with disabilities, as well as for families and the young and very young, to crown the dense didactic activity that we carry out in schools of all levels in the province. However, the improvement of the accessibility of our shows also goes through this pilot project, which was born from the discussion with Maruska Palazzi, Guarantor for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Municipality of Pesaro, who established the contact with the Italian Association of Blind and Visually Impaired People.

National Councillor and President of the Provincial Section of the Italian Association of Blind and Visually Impaired People, Maria Mencarini, gave a detailed description of the activities for the summer of 2024: "Accessibility to opera is expanding in Italy, thanks to a project first implemented with the University of Macerata. This year in Pesaro, on 15 August, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* will be fully accessible for the visually impaired for the first time. A professional voice will guide the audience through the set, costumes, and vocal and musical actions, with inserts prepared by technicians during rehearsals. I am happy that the ROF has taken this step, which means much more than it may seem, because it demonstrates the attention and listening to an inclusive community".

The closing speech was given by President Daniele Vimini: "I would like to thank the Festival Management and the Italian Association of Blind and Visually Impaired People for conceiving and carrying out this project, which is very much in line with the activities of Pesaro 2024 Italian Capital of Culture, which has made inclusiveness and the involvement of the cultural associations of the territory one of its main themes. I would also like to thank Marinelli Cucine for their sensitivity and valuable support".

Rossini Opera Festival

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