



Press Release
ROF RECEIVES THE ABBIATI PRIZE:
***ERMIONE* AWARDED BEST PERFORMANCE OF 2024**

The award ceremony for the Franco Abbiati Music Critics' Awards, presented by the Associazione Nazionale Critici Musicali and now in its 44th edition, took place today in the Sala della Repubblica at the Teatro Rossini, during the first of the *ROF Talks*. The most prestigious award, for Best Performance of the Year, was awarded to *Ermione*, staged at the ROF 2024. Intendant Ernesto Palacio, Artistic Director Juan Diego Flórez – also among the opera's principal cast – conductor Michele Mariotti, and director Johannes Erath were present to receive the award.

These were the reasons provided by the Jury of the Associazione Nazionale Critici Musicali for the award's decision: "For the nuanced interpretation through the symbiotic relationship between musical and theatrical conception, with a unity of purpose and quality aimed, in line with the principle stated by the Festival's founder Gianfranco Mariotti, not at reassuring flattery, but at reflection and discussion on the work itself". The award was presented by Andrea Estero, President of the Association, and Angelo Foletto, President of the Award Jury.

Ermione, conducted by Michele Mariotti and staged by Johannes Erath, with sets by Heike Scheele, costumes by Jorge Jara, video by Bibi Abel, and lighting by Fabio Antoci, was performed at the Vitrifrigo Arena on 9 August 2024 (with further performances on 13, 17, and 20 August). Michele Mariotti conducted Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della Rai, the Choir of the Teatro Ventidio Basso, and a cast including Anastasia Bartoli (*Ermione*), Viktoria Yarovaya (*Andromaca*), Enea Scala (*Pirro*), Juan Diego Flórez (*Oreste*), Antonio Mandrillo (*Pilade*), Michael Mofidian (*Fenicio*), Martiniana Antonie (*Cleone*), Paola Leguizamón (*Cefisa*), and Tianxuefei Sun (*Attalo*).

Pesaro, 10 August 2025.