



OPENING CEREMONY OF THE MILANO CORTINA 2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES TO BE A CELEBRATION OF HARMONY

THE ACTRESS MATILDA DE ANGELIS, THE FIRST OF THE TALENTS INVOLVED IN THE SHOW

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GIORGIO ARMANI

*The Ceremony will be widespread: every athlete will have the opportunity to take part in one of the most iconic moments of the Olympic Winter Games.
The creative team selected by Balich Wonder Studio was unveiled today.*

Milano, October 16, 2025 – It will be a story of beauty, creativity and Italian identity that will come to life on 6 February 2026 at the Milano San Siro Stadium, when the whole world will light up for the Opening Ceremony of the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Winter Games.

Today, right in the heart of the stadium that will host the event, Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 unveiled the title, creative vision and first of the talents involved. It was a symbolic moment, attended by President Giovanni Malagò, CEO Andrea Varnier, Director of Ceremonies Maria Laura Iascone and Marco Balich, Creative Lead of the Opening Ceremony and Chairman of Balich Wonder Studio.

Armonia: The theme that will guide the show

The title chosen for the Ceremony is **Armonia** – a universal concept that becomes both a visual and emotional tale. A journey through art and innovation, nature and city, tradition and future. A tribute to Italy and its values, combining the evocative power of our history and culture with the Olympic spirit.

Armonia will serve as the common thread of a story that weaves together imagination and beauty, Leonardo da Vinci and the great inventors, Italian design and taste, music and elegance. It will be a collective narrative celebrating Italian talent in all its forms, from artists to athletes, to the young generations shaping tomorrow.

An outstanding cast for a global show

The first name announced is that of **Matilda De Angelis**, an Italian actress appreciated all

over the world. Versatile, intense, contemporary: she will be one of the narrative voices of the show, embodying the Italian creative talent that dialogues with the world.

Marco Balich, creator of memorable Olympic ceremonies, will lead a team of highly acclaimed creative professionals. The team includes:

- **Simone Ferrari**, Creative Director and Deputy Creative Lead
- **Damiano Michieletto**, Creative Director
- **Lida Castelli**, Protocol Creative Director
- **Lulu Helbaek**, Creative Director

Also presented today were some of the exceptional talents contributing to the Opening ceremony:

- **Paolo Fantin**, Production Designer
- **Andrea Farri**, Music Director
- **Massimo Cantini Parrini**, Costume Designer

During the press conference, a **special tribute to Giorgio Armani** was also announced. A true symbol of Italian excellence and a friend of sports, who combines creativity, discipline, and passion for the values that make us proud.

A multi-centered ceremony, just like the Games

Milan Cortina 2026 will be the first edition of the Winter Games with a multi-centered model. The Ceremony will also reflect this vision: thanks to an innovative and inclusive project, **all athletes will be able to participate** in a shared experience between Milan, Cortina, Valtellina and Val di Fiemme.

The stage of Armonia

The official rendering of the stage that will host the Ceremony at the **Milano San Siro Olympic Stadium** has also been unveiled: a spectacular structure designed to connect with all the territories of the Games.

On 6 February 2026, Milano Cortina 2026 will invite the world to discover that ***Armonia is not only what you see or hear, but what unites, inspires and builds the future.***

Giovanni Malagò, expressed how *“Armonia is not just a theme – it is our promise to the world. In these Games, the mountains will speak to the cities, people will recognize themselves in shared values, and Italy will show its ability to unite, welcome, and inspire. The Opening Ceremony will be the first great global embrace of Milano Cortina 2026.”*

Andrea Varnier stated: *“Milano Cortina 2026 chose to build an innovative and sustainable model, aligned with its mission and the legacy it aims to leave. The Opening Ceremony will be the first moment when this tale begins before the world in a vision that respects territories, celebrates talent, and speaks to future generations.”*

Maria Laura Iascone commented: *“Armonia is a simple yet powerful word. It is the key that allows us to intertwine different languages – artistic, visual, and human – and transform them into a collective experience. It will be a story that moves and inspires, where every gesture and image will be part of a shared design.”*

Marco Balich concludes: *“Armonia is the ability to transform our values into shared images, sounds and emotions. It is a journey into the true colors of Italy – its art, its creativity, its humanity. But Armonia does not speak only to Italy: it speaks to the whole world, celebrating sport and offering a fitting moment of inclusion and encounter. With Milano Cortina 2026, we want to offer a Ceremony that combines Italian style with the power of emotions.”*

FONDAZIONE MILANO CORTINA 2026

The objective of Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026, in agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI), the Italian Paralympic Committee (CIP), Città di Milano and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Regione Veneto and Regione Lombardia, Province autonome di Trento and Bolzano, is to plan, organise, finance and implement the Milano Cortina Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2026. Established on 9 December 2019, Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 is led by President Giovanni Malagò and CEO Andrea Varnier.

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