



MILANO CORTINA 2026: THE CEREMONIES OF THE PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES PRESENTED IN VENICE

*On 6 March, at the Verona Arena, the Opening Ceremony will present "Life in Motion,"
an anthem to life and movement.*

*Among the first announced talents: Stewart Copeland, legendary drummer of The Police, and
Meduza, global ambassadors of house music.*

*On 15 March at the Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium, the Closing Ceremony
will celebrate the beauty of memories with "Italian Souvenir."*

Arisa will be the star of the grand finale of the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games.

Venice, 15 January 2026 – Exactly 50 days before the start of the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games, Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 unveiled the titles, creative visions, and first talents involved in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of this upcoming edition of the Paralympic Winter Games at Palazzo Balbi in Venice.

This highly symbolic and institutional event was attended by Alberto Stefani, President of the Veneto Region; Luca Zaia, President of the Veneto Regional Council; Giuseppe Fasiol, Extraordinary Commissioner for the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Winter Games; Craig Spence, Chief Brand and Communications Officer of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC); Giovanni Malagò, President of the Organizing Committee of the upcoming Paralympic Games; Marco Giunio De Sanctis, President of the Italian Paralympic Committee (CIP); as well as Paralympic athletes and Ambassadors for Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 Andrea Macrì and Orietta Bertò.

Representing Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026, Ceremonies Director Maria Laura Iascone presented the creative themes of the Ceremonies, together with Alfredo Accatino, Artistic Director of the Paralympic Ceremony and President of Filmmaster and Angelo Bonello, Artistic Director and Show Director of G2 Eventi – Casta Diva Group, which will produce the Paralympic Closing Ceremony.

"The Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Games will not only be a great sporting event," said **Alberto Stefani**, President of the Veneto Region, "but even more so a moment of inclusion and recognition of the commitment, courage, tenacity, and fair competition of our athletes. They will be a valuable opportunity for growth and an example for young people and for the whole community, within which everyone can play a leading role."

For **Luca Zaia**, President of the Veneto Regional Council, "the Paralympic Games are the truest face of sport: one that never gives up and transforms limitations into strength. As institutions, we must do our part, including in practical terms, by breaking down all architectural and cultural barriers. Thanks to the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Arena di Verona will become a historical monument that is fully accessible to people with reduced mobility: this is a sign of civilization, not a technical detail. It will be the symbol of a Veneto that welcomes everyone, without any exception."

Giovanni Malagò, President of Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 stated: “The Paralympic Ceremonies are one of the most important and significant moments of the Games: an opportunity to narrate, through universal languages, the value of sport, inclusion, and the strength that athletes embody every day.”

Maria Laura Iascone, Ceremonies Director of Milano Cortina 2026 added: “The Ceremonies will be emotional and participatory experiences, built around people: athletes, audiences, and communities. Two distinct stories, united by the same desire to create connection, bonds, and memory.”

The Paralympic Winter Games, scheduled from 6 to 15 March, will mark a historic moment for the Paralympic Movement, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first Winter Paralympics held in 1976 in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden, and the 20th anniversary of Torino 2006. An unmissable event for those who want to experience the excitement of Milano Cortina 2026: tickets are available online, with nearly 90% priced at €35 or less.

“Life in Motion”: the creative theme that opens the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Games

The Opening Ceremony, set for Friday, 6 March 2026, at the Arena di Verona, marks a historic milestone: for the very first time, a Paralympic Ceremony will be held in a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The title chosen is **“Life in Motion”**: a tribute to life as change and transformation, inspired by the language of art and its unique ability to interpret the ever-changing contemporary reality. An approach that redefines the concept of disability through a new harmony between people and environment.

In preparation for this historic event, EUR 20 million have been invested to enhance accessibility throughout Verona, ensuring an inclusive experience for all. This commitment goes beyond the Ceremony itself: it represents a concrete step toward a future where culture and sport are increasingly accessible to everyone, benefiting visitors and citizens alike. At the same time, the IPC and Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 have worked closely with NPCs and the IPC Athletes’ Council to guarantee meaningful athlete engagement—both remotely and in person—throughout the design and planning of the Ceremony.

The Opening Ceremony will feature numerous Italian and international talents. Among the first names announced by Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 stand out Stewart Copeland, legendary drummer of The Police and composer who has inspired generations, and Meduza, the celebrated trio of music producers who are symbols of Italian house music worldwide and among the most streamed artists globally.

Contemporary art will play a prominent role, with tributes to Jago, one of Italy’s most internationally renowned sculptors, and to Emilio Isgrò, artist, poet, novelist, and playwright who revolutionised global art in the second half of the 20th century with his “erasures.”

Alfredo Accatino said: “A Paralympic Ceremony is an extraordinary opportunity for those who experience it live and those who organise it. It is a celebration of athletes and sport, but it also allows us to outline a process of cultural growth necessary to define a new way of living, respecting differences and identities, not just disabilities. We aimed for something positive, joyful, courageous, radical, and engaging. Through art. We believe we have succeeded.”

In addition to the strong involvement of the athletes, protagonists of challenges, dreams and achievements that will make the Paralympic Games unforgettable, the public will also play a leading

role. Starting today, the initiative “Volare Milano Cortina 2026” officially begins (link here: [Filmmaster Chain Song](#)). Through this project, contributions will be collected and may be selected to become part of the final chain song. “Nel blu dipinto di blu”, the most famous Italian song by Domenico Modugno and chosen as the finale of the Ceremony, will bring together voices and contributions from around the world in a single, shared performance.

The creative team for the Opening Ceremony, led by Artistic Director and Filmmaster President Alfredo Accatino, includes:

- Adriano Martella, Head of Creative of Filmmaster and Creative Director for the Paralympic Opening Ceremony;
- Marco Boarino, Show Director for the Paralympic Opening Ceremony

“Italian Souvenir”: the beauty of memories for the closing act of the Paralympic Games

Memories as a vehicle for beauty, emotion and shared memories capable of uniting the world; this is the concept behind **“Italian souvenir”**, the creative theme of the Closing Ceremony of the Paralympic Winter Games, scheduled for Sunday 15 March 2026 at the Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium. After days of outstanding sport and overcoming personal limits, the Ceremony will take athletes, volunteers and fans on a visual and sensory journey that will capture the most intense emotions of the Games that have just ended. Not just a simple conclusion, but a snapshot of a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that will take the form of a large interactive album of memories, alternating between snapshots of unforgettable sporting successes and postcards of the beauty of the Italian regions that hosted the competitions. Spectacular images to be cherished as memories as the Paralympic flag is handed from Milano Cortina 2026 to French Alpes 2030.

During the press conference in Venice, Fondazione Milano Cortina 2026 revealed the first talents for the Closing Ceremony.

Arisa, one of the most distinctive voices in Italian music, will perform on stage at the Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium. With her uniqueness and interpretative intensity, she has also won over international audiences and earned prestigious awards such as the Nastro d'Argento with “Canta ancora” for Best Original Song. After performing the Milano Cortina 2026 song “Fino all'alba” at the 2022 Sanremo Festival, Arisa will return to lend her voice to the grand finale of this unforgettable edition of the Paralympic Winter Games.

Francesco Paolo Conticello commented: *“This Closing Ceremony not only marks the end of a competition; it is the solemn final act of the entire Milano Cortina 2026 journey. With G2–Casta Diva Group, along with Angelo Bonello as Artistic Director and Show Director, we wanted to create a great show to recount and celebrate all those unforgettable memories we will share, through several challenges, countless round of applause, and infinite wonder. It will be the moment when Italy officially bids farewell to the world, turning the final salute into an explosion of art and beauty. A universal embrace that starts from our mountains and our cities, leaving the world with a true Italian souvenir.”*

The creative team for the Milano Cortina 2026 Closing Ceremony, led by Francesco Paolo Conticello, President and CEO of G2 Eventi – Casta Diva Group, includes:

- Angelo Bonello – Artistic Director and Show Director
- Francesca Formisano – Music Composer

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, organize, 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. The Olympic and Paralympic Games are the largest sporting event in the world, with an unprecedented media impact.

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