



**MALTA  
SUMMER  
FESTIVAL**  
REIMAGINING OPERA

# Dance meets Opera



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PKProjects

The YADA Dance Company

Moveo Dance Company

Kivos Ensemble

Óliver Díaz  
Conductor

Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

21 July 2022  
Fort St Elmo, Valletta  
8.15 pm





# MALTA SUMMER FESTIVAL

REIMAGINING OPERA

The Malta Summer Festival seeks to present opera in an innovative way, bolstering the genre's visibility particularly with younger generations.

Building on the MPO's 20/21 end-of-season Grand Finale which reached 1million views online, the engagement of internationally acclaimed artists underlines the quality presented in the MSF. Additionally, the collaborations between local and foreign practitioners ensure that the festival acts as a bridge promoting Malta as a hub for arts and culture whilst leaving a legacy to the country's creative ecology.

The use of digital platforms and interdisciplinary art forms together with edutainment projects aimed specifically at younger audiences taps the festival's mission of rendering opera more accessible and engaging.

The Malta Summer Festival is presented by the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) in collaboration with Arts Council Malta and the Malta Tourism Authority with the support of Hilton Malta, the Ministry for Gozo and the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.



## HON OWEN BONNICI

Minister for the National Heritage,  
the Arts, and the Local Government

We shall continue our hard work in the creative sector; I am delighted to experience the development of our creative industries, particularly the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, whose hard work surely cannot go unnoticed. As a team, you collaborated to produce a magical show. The past few years taught us how important it is to utilise our energy and resources in music and culture as this is ultimately the soul of a nation.

Today's international collaboration brought a sense of togetherness between local and international artists. This demonstrates the sector's resilience and illustrates what can be achieved when artists from over the globe come together to exchange ideas and create a masterpiece. This is a clear example of why we should all do our utmost to help and support them through schemes and other initiatives.

Few small countries, such as Malta, managed to have their unique history, identity, culture, and language. This is precisely why we should keep pushing for other similar events.



## HON CLAYTON BARTOLO

Minister for Tourism

### TOURISM AND CULTURE TOGETHER.

The definition of nowadays tourism is about a positive, holistic and most of all quality experience.

The pandemic brought with it a shift in the demands and requisites a tourist looks for when choosing a destination, be it for holiday or other interests.

The summer season, the busiest period when it comes to visitor volumes to the Maltese Islands is no longer solely associated with having our country marketing itself as a sun and sea destination.

While it is crucial that we preserve our traditional attractiveness, having an innovative and a diverse programme is paramount in today's tourism world.

Apart from the appetite for travel there is also a desire for more outdoor and public activities after two years of continuous restrictions.

This is why in the past years, the Malta Tourism Authority has been on preparatory mode to assure that when the country is free from restrictions, our islands offer a diverse and robust cultural calendar for foreign and domestic tourists.

In this equation, the Malta Summer Festival plays an instrumental part, literally. I am optimistic that it will bring with it an added value to Malta's cultural soul, seeking to nurture the orchestral dimension across all ages.



## **SIGMUND MIFSUD**

**Malta Philharmonic Orchestra CEO**

Over the years, the MPO garnered a wide experience participating in festivals and high-profile events. Building on our successful digital transformation, producing our own festival was the next natural step.

With the mission of setting a benchmark in terms of artistic quality whilst appealing to wider audiences, the Malta Summer Festival presents a fusion of innovation and engagement celebrating opera.

Having internationally acclaimed stars share the stage with local artists whilst investing in edutainment projects embodies our vision of leaving a sustainable impact on our creative industry. In parallel, as cultural ambassador of our country, the MPO will further enhance Malta's position on an international platform.



## ÓLIVER DÍAZ

Artistic Director Malta Summer Festival

The Malta Summer Festival is a breath of fresh air amongst international festivals taking place in Europe over the summer period.

Exploring the world of opera from all possible angles, the festival pursues the perfect symbiosis between Maltese artists and some of the best artists on the international scene, wherein everyone, artists, the public and Maltese society in general, is enriched by this wonderful cultural exchange.

The hype created by specialised international media as well as by some of the leading artists of the moment offers an apt perspective of the scope of this first edition of the Malta Summer Festival.

With all the resources available in the 21st century at the service of the operatic tradition, we seek to present the world of lyric in a new way, in other words, reimagining opera

# Dance meets Opera

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## Programme

### **Bedřich Smetana (1824 – 1884)**

Overture from The Bartered Bride (1863)

The Bartered Bride: Three Dances (1863)

I. Polka

II. Furiant

III. Dance of the Comedians

### **PK PROJECTS**

### **Charles Camilleri (1931 – 2009)**

Overture and Celebration from

The Knights of Malta Ballet Suite (1946)

### **Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)**

Ballabile from Aida's Gran Finale Act 2, Scene 2 (1870)

### **THE YADA DANCE COMPANY**

### **Manuel de Falla (1876 – 1946)**

Spanish Dance No. 1 from La Vida Breve (1913)

### **Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)**

Excerpts from Carmen Suite No. 1 (c. 1882)

I. Prélude – Act I, prelude (fate motive)

II. Intermezzo – Interlude (entr'acte)

III. Les Toréadors – Theme from prelude to Act 1

### **MOVEO DANCE COMPANY**

### **Richard Wagner (arr. Wouter Hutschenruyter)**

Ride of the Valkyries (1851)

### **Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 – 1921)**

Danse Bacchanale from Samson et Dalila (1877)

### **KIVOS ENSEMBLE**





## PK PROJECTS

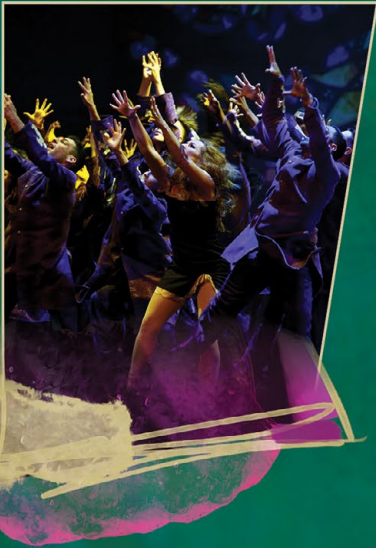
PKProjects has been founded by Pamela Kerr, who has long worked as an independent dance artist. It delves into creating choreographic work and collaborations with various art and artists. She has worked with various dance artists and companies both locally and internationally, and her work has been presented in Malta, Portugal, Italy, Cyprus and most recently Dubai.

Locally, her work has featured during Notte Bianca, Jum Dun Karm, the fringe festival of The Malta International Arts Festival, ŽiguŽajg, The Malta International Arts Festival, Toi Toi, Educational programme of Teatru Manoel, and others.

She has attended various workshops and masterclasses with the likes of Random Dance Company, Roberto Olivan, Christopher Tandy, Samuel Guist, Ultima Vez, Hofesh Schechter and many others. In 2018, TAG, a performance she codirected and choreographed together with Kostas Papamatthaiakis, was nominated for Best Performance for young audiences.

### Dancers:

Jade Farrugia | Julia Lundberg | Luke Bugeja Gauci | Victor Hermundstad



## THE YADA DANCE COMPANY

The YADA Dance Company is a thriving source of creativity made up of some forty dancers mostly hailing from the College of Dance. Established by its founder and mentor Felix Busuttill in 1984, YADA has produced some of Malta's best dance productions over the past years. In 1989, Felix Busuttill opened The College of Jazz Dance, now known as The College of Dance, together with Justin Roy Barker, which is now respected as one of the foremost dance schools in Malta. In the year 2000, Felix Busuttill, together with Daron Galea, inaugurated the YADA Dance Academy on the sister island Gozo and later the YADA Dance Academy at Gymstars in Tarxien, Malta and now housed in Attard.

The Company is very versatile and its repertoire ranges from glamorous cabaret shows to top TV shows to operas and operettas as well as major theatre productions. The repertoire is vast, from contemporary dance to classical ballet to Broadway.


The YADA DC has performed in 4 continents and 22 countries. In the period of 10 years, it has performed twice in the presence of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II and in front of 154 Head of States. Locally, it keeps on attracting thousands of thrill seekers with performances that have a striking sensory and emotional appeal. One of YADA's largest milestone was reached when the company premiered a show at The Theatre of Fine Arts in San Francisco, being the first Maltese dance company to perform in the United States of America. A total of four shows were performed and YADA received outstanding reviews from some of the top journalists in the West Coast of America.

### Dancers:

Emma Fenech | Gillian Borg | Karen Bartolo | Jamie Caruana  
Candice Coppola | Ilaria Frazzetto | Rosario Raineri | Rafa Pimiento  
Paolo Chiarenza | Francesco Rosario Zappala'

# MOVEO DANCE COMPANY

[www.moveodancecompany.com](http://www.moveodancecompany.com)



Moveo Dance Company was founded by the Artistic Director Dorian Mallia in 2008 and has ever since been producing contemporary work both locally as well as internationally. In 2011, Diane Portelli became one of Moveo's performers and in 2017 teamed up with Dorian as company Director and Resident Choreographer. As part of its repertoire, the company has produced various original productions, including The Picture of Dorian Gray, Carmen, The Other Door - What's Wrong, amongst others, which have been presented in various local and international theatres. Most of its repertoire has been presented internationally in London, Berlin, Washington DC, Denmark, Brno Cz, Liberec Cz and Romania.

Moveo has also presented its work at numerous festivals and events, including Notte Bianca, Lejliet Lapsi, Malta International Arts Festival, Science in the City, ŽiguŽajg Kids and Youths Festival, Toi Toi and CHOGM. It also has 4 performances listed as part of the Malta Showcase catalogue of Maltese works of excellence. In 2018 directors Doria Mallia and Diane Portelli under Moveo Dance Company, won the prestigious award Premju Għall-Arti as Artists of the Year. In 2020, Moveo was also awarded the 'Best Creative Enterprise Award'.

Moveo operates on a two-strand vision where its outreach projects are as important as its theatrical artistic productions. The Company has been involved in various projects with the elderly, persons with disabilities, as well as other members of the community who do not have easy access to the arts.

Moveo Dance Company's artistic ethos revolves around searching for the new and that which can capture an ambiguous notion in performance. The constant study of the body in motion is also very essential to our work. It means that what we create is never static and always evolving. The body in performance is most intriguing, as within it lies a whole spectrum of possibilities that include identity, cultural and social behaviours.

## Dancers:

Dorian Mallia | Diane Portelli | Charlotte Carpentier | Cindelle Bouard  
Victor Hermundstad | Gabriele Farinacci | Kostas Papamatthaiakis



## KIVOS ENSEMBLE

Kostas Papamatthaiakis is the founder member of Kivos Ensemble. He is a freelance performer and a project-based choreographer living in Athens. He graduated from the National School of Ballet of Greece in 2010. Whilst still a student, Kostas performed for Richard Alston, Hellenic Dance Company, Aenaon Dance Theatre and the Greek National Opera. Since 2012 he has performed for companies such as Candoco Dance Company and ŽfinMalta Dance Ensemble, and independent choreographers in Greece, United Kingdom, Malta, Germany and Italy, touring their works internationally. He has also been involved in theatre works giving movement direction and assisting choreographers. Since 2019 he has been performing in Germany for Israeli choreographer, Yaron Shamir in his works Urban Wolves and Mr. Krake.

### Dancers:

Simona Semeraro | Kostas Papamatthaiakis | Francesco Biasi | Giulia Petti



## ÓLIVER DÍAZ

Conductor

After studying piano at the Peabody Conservatory of the John Hopkins University, Óliver Díaz was awarded with the prestigious 'Bruno Walter' orchestral conducting scholarship to study at Juilliard School of Music with conductors such as Otto Werner Mueller, Charles Dutoit and Yuri Temirkanov.

He has also worked in important Spanish opera houses such as Palau de Les Arts, Campoamor Theatre, Zarzuela Theatre, Royal Theatre of Madrid, Gran Teatro del Liceu and Teatro de la Maestranza, and outside our borders, in Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Roman Theatre in Orange, and Royal Opera House in Muscat (Oman), also being the first Spanish conductor to debut in the pit of the prestigious Helikon Theatre in Moscow.

Between 2015 and 2019 he held the position of Musical Director of Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid, and is a founder member and vice-president of the Spanish Association of Orchestra Directors (AESDO).

In recent years, he has developed his double role as composer and musical arranger in different productions commissioned by Teatro de la Zarzuela and in an extraordinary project by the RTVE Orchestra.

He has to his credit more than a dozen recordings made for record labels NAXOS and Warner Music Spain, amongst others.

Future commitments include his return to Teatro de la Zarzuela, and coliseums such as Teatro de la Maestranza, Campoamor Theatre in Oviedo and Gran Teatro del Liceo, as well as concerts in Madrid, Tenerife and his debut in the ABAO season.



## MALTA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

For half a century, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) has been Malta's foremost musical institution.

The orchestra was founded in April 1968, when musicians from the defunct "Commander-in-Chief" (C-in-C) orchestra of the Malta-based British Mediterranean Fleet regrouped as the Manoel Theatre Orchestra. It continued to serve as the theatre's resident orchestra until September 1997, when it became an independent orchestra, taking up the name National Orchestra of Malta. The orchestra became the MPO in 2008 when it expanded into a full-size symphony orchestra, bringing together musicians from Malta, Europe and beyond.

Joseph Sammut, the C-in-C's last conductor, was the orchestra's first conductor, remaining at the helm until 1992. Since then, the orchestra has also been under the direction of Joseph Vella, John Galea, Michael Laus, and Brian Schembri. In 2019, the MPO has appointed Sergey Smbatyan as Principal Conductor, joining Resident Conductor Michael Laus as part of the orchestra's Artistic Team. The MPO also works with local and international guest artists including Lawrence Renes, Diana Damrau, José Cura, Mikhail Pletnev, Gil Shaham, Joseph Calleja, Gautier Capuçon, Daniel Lozakovich and Enrico Dindo.

As Malta's leading musical ensemble, the MPO averages more than one performance a week including symphonic concerts, opera productions in Malta and Gozo, community outreach and educational initiatives, as well as various concerts of a lighter nature. During the past seasons, the MPO embarked on a Digital Transformation reaching over 32 million people worldwide through its Online Programme in 2021.

The orchestra has performed in leading venues across the globe, including in the United States, Russia, Dubai, Germany, Austria, China, Italy, and Belgium, and presently embarks on at least one international tour each concert season.

The MPO is a keen exponent of Maltese composers, regularly performing their works in Malta and overseas, as well as frequently premiering and commissioning new compositions.

Through the MPO Academy and the Malta Youth Orchestra, which regularly give concerts across Malta, the MPO is also responsible for the training and professional development of the next generation of Maltese musicians.

# MALTA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

## **Violin 1**

Maria Conrad\*\*  
Reg Clews  
Elena Imparato  
Philipp Orlov  
Klara Nazaj  
Vincenzo Picone  
Roberta Cannas  
Fiona Giambra  
Emilia Wiśniewska  
Roberta Attard  
Riccardo Rossano  
María Díaz-Caneja

## **Violin 2**

Matteo Colombo\*  
Inmaculada Muñoz Salgüer  
Stefan Calleja  
Pierre Louis Attard  
Natalia Lauria  
Valhvor Montfort  
Rosanne Dimech  
Francesca Moldovan  
Stephen Debattista  
Mario Micallef

## **Viola**

Nadia Debono\*  
Alexandre Razera  
Ester Garcia Salas  
Orietta Zammit Beaumer  
Eva Martin  
Savio Debono  
Mateusz Kuźma  
Matthew Fenech

## **Cello**

Ákos Kertész\*  
Yaroslav Miklukho  
Nora Karakousoglou  
Frank Camilleri  
Desirée Calleja  
Jaime Puerta Polo

## **Double Bass**

Gjorgji Cincievski\*  
Michelle Agius  
Dionne Xuereb  
Marco Agnetti

## **Flute**

Rebecca Hall\*  
Fiorella Camilleri  
Clara Galea

## **Oboe**

John McDonough\*  
Chiara Telleri  
Sam Baxter

## **Clarinet**

Giuseppe Recchia\*  
Daniele Galletto  
Julian Azzopardi

## **Bassoon**

Giacomo Cella\*  
Lampros-Ioannis Lapinas  
Maria Spiteri Zahra

## **French Horn**

Etienne Cutajar\*  
Marco Cola  
Manuele Catalano  
Bernardette Vella

## **Trumpet**

Kevin Abela\*  
Brendan Ball  
Francesco Barbara  
Isaac Lucas

## **Trombone**

Roderick Bugeja\*  
Dennis Camilleri  
Jesmond Azzopardi

## **Tuba**

Christopher Spiteri\*

## **Timpani**

Fernando Arias\*

## **Percussion**

Daniel Cauchi\*  
Jean Pierre Vaillancourt Cassar  
Alan Grech  
Raffaella Baldacchino

## **Harp**

Britt Arend\*

\*\* orchestra leader

\* section principal

13 July

### The Three Little Pigs Opera

A family opera in English with music by Mozart

Kimberley Grech Soprano Althea Trosi Mezzo Soprano Louis Andrew Cassar Baritone Fernando Campero Baritone  
Raúl Vázquez Stage Director Alessandro Arcangeli Lights & Projections Designer Nadia Balada Costume Designer  
José García Gutiérrez Conductor Malta Youth Orchestra

14 July

### Songs of Chamber

Amihai Grosz Viola Alma Sadé Moshonov Soprano Nadia Debono Viola Christine Zerafa Piano

16 July

### Opera Gala

Vittorio Grigolo Tenor Marina Monzó Soprano Nicola Said Soprano  
Óliver Díaz Conductor Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

18 July

### An Evening With Donizetti

Tatiana Lisnic Soprano Celso Albelo Tenor  
Iván López-Reynoso Conductor Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra

19 July

### Soirée à Chambray

Carol García Mezzo Soprano José García Gutiérrez Horn Britt Arend Harp

21 July

### Dance Meets Opera

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Óliver Díaz Conductor Malta Philharmonic Orchestra





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