

# 2023/24

Season Programme



MALTA  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA



# 2023/24

## Season Programme









August



# 31 Aug '23

## MPO Season Opening Concert 23/24

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GRANDMASTER SUITE HILTON MALTA, ST JULIANS

**MICHAEL LAUS**  
Conductor

Carl Maria von Weber  
*Der Freischütz*, Overture


Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
Suite no.4, 'Mozartiana'

Modest Mussorgsky/Maurice Ravel  
*Pictures at an Exhibition*

The MPO opens its new concert season with an exhilarating programme. Resident conductor Michael Laus leads the orchestra in Weber's Overture to his opera *Der Freischütz*, a thrilling work brimming with vibrant melodies.

Inspired by Mozart's epic opera *Don Giovanni*, Tchaikovsky wrote his delightful four-movement orchestral suite *Mozartiana* in his honour.

The piece de resistance, Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, arranged for orchestra by Ravel, features ten vivid musical sketches, each representing paintings tied together by a recurring promenade theme.





September





# 14 Sep '23

## The Classical Shift: celebrating diversity with the MPO

*A Europride Valletta 2023 production in collaboration  
with Teatru Manoel*

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TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA

**CLIFF ZAMMIT STEVENS**  
Tenor

**ALI GROEN**  
Conductor

Dutch conductor Ali Groen will expertly guide the orchestra to create an unforgettable musical journey that showcases both artistic brilliance and a commitment to inclusivity. The harmonious fusion of classical music and a celebration of diversity will not only honour the works of unorthodox composers but also shed light on the historical underrepresentation of minorities in the classical music realm. This vibrant performance will feature an exquisite layer of vocal artistry with the participation of tenor Cliff Zammit Stevens.





# 21 Sep '23

## Il-Kuncert tal-Indipendenza

*A Festivals Malta production*

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**TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA**

**MICHAEL LAUS**

Conductor

Nicolò Isouard  
Michel-Ange Overture

Vincenzo Bugeja  
Lodoviska, Sinfonia

Ruben Zahra  
The Forbidden mvts 2 & 4

Josef Bugeja  
Crux

Paolino Vassallo  
Intermezzo from Edith Cavell

Otto Nikolai  
The Merry Wives of Windsor, Overture

Giuseppe Verdi  
I vespri siciliani: L'estate & L'autunno from  
Le quattro Stagioni

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra commemorates Independence Day in the annual concert presented with Festivals Malta. Mro Michael Laus leads the orchestra in an extensive musical journey featuring a wide range of Maltese composed music, by Nicolò Isouard, Vincenzo Bugeja, Ruben Zahra, Paolino Vassallo, and Josef Bugeja. The program will also feature Otto Nicolai's gorgeous Overture and will conclude with Giuseppe Verdi's Vespri Siciliani. Join the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in this celebration at the gorgeous Manoel Theatre.



# 30 Sep '23

## Rockestra: More Than a Feeling

*In aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation*

**AURELIO BELLI**  
Conductor

Under the artistic direction of Pawlu Borg Bonaci, 'More than a Feeling' is the theme for this year's edition of Rockestra.

Musical director Aurelio Belli will be conducting the orchestra and leading singers Aidan Drakard, David Loewe, Mikaela, Moira, Martina, Kersten Graham, Kevin Paul, Kenneth, Matthew James, Klinsmann, Raquela, Chris Grech, Peter Grech, Frank Calleja, Lara Dimech, Brooke Borg, and Pawlu Borg Bonaci.

**MALTA FAIRS & CONVENTIONS CENTRE, TA' QALI**



A black and white photograph of a man playing a trumpet. He is wearing glasses and a dark shirt. The background is dark with many out-of-focus light sources creating a bokeh effect. The word "October" is overlaid in a large, orange, serif font.

October





# MPO CHAMBER SERIES SEASON 23/24

## 1 Oct '23

### MPO Chamber Series #1

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Quintet for Piano and Winds K.452

Robert Schumann  
Piano Quintet Op.44

**JOHN MCDONOUGH**  
Oboe

**GIACOMO CELLA**  
Bassoon

**MARCELLINE AGIUS**  
Violin

**ALEXANDRE RAZERA**  
Viola

**MICHAEL LAUS**  
Piano

**GIUSEPPE RECCHIA**  
Clarinet

**ETIENNE CUTAJAR**  
Horn

**MATTEO COLOMBO**  
Violin

**ÁKOS KERTÉSZ**  
Cello

The MPO Chamber Series returns with a number of chamber concerts taking place over the course of the 23/24 season, in the stunning Robert Samut Hall. This series of concerts kicks off with Mozart's *Quintet for Piano and Winds* and Schumann's *Quintet for Piano and Strings*.

Michael Laus, the MPO resident conductor, will perform both works at the piano together with principal MPO players.

# 14 Oct '23

## Madama Butterfly

*A Teatru Aurora production supported by Arts Council Malta in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo*

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TEATRU TAL-OPRA AURORA, VICTORIA GOZO

**COLIN ATTARD**

Conductor

Madama Butterfly is not merely the story of a Japanese or an American. It is the story of every young girl who, clings to the belief that any love at first sight necessarily ends in a loving and permanent marriage. It is the story of a blinding love, but also the story of prepotency, imperialism – cultural and sexual. All this, set to the lyric beauty of Puccini's score that makes Butterfly, timeless.

# 26 & 28 Oct '23

## Rigoletto

*A Teatru Astra production supported by the Gozo Cultural Programme managed by the Malta Arts Council, and the Ministry for Gozo*

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TEATRU ASTRA, VICTORIA GOZO

**JOHN GALEA**

Conductor

Composed during his middle period, Rigoletto is the first opera of Verdi's popular trilogy which comprises also *Il Trovatore* and *La Traviata*.

The opera owes most of its popularity to the way the modesty and delicacy of the music engulfs the listeners' emotions through ineffably beautiful duets and a prodigality of melodic invention, exalting Verdi's sublime search for human truth through a colourful palette hidden behind the mask of Rigoletto, the Mantuan jester.



November





# Do-Re-Mi



## 3 Nov '23

# Family Fanfare Concert: Launching Do-Re-Mi

*MPO Children's Project*

**ST AGATHA'S AUDITORIUM, RABAT**

**MARIA BLANCO**

Artistic Director

**RODERICK BUGEJA**

Conductor

**SIMON BARTOLO**

Script Writer

Do-Re-Mi is an innovative Children's Project by the MPO, designed to introduce the enchanting world of classical music to our young audiences in a lively and captivating manner. Led by Artistic Director Maria Blanco, Do-Re-Mi promises to breathe life into seven distinct orchestral instruments, each bursting with personality and eager to showcase their musical talents. Children will have the unique opportunity to forge connections with these charming musical characters created by script-writer Simon Bartolo.

Join us on a musical odyssey beginning this Family Fanfare orchestral concert, hosted by the delightful Christopher Spiteri and conducted by the amiable Maestro Roderick Bugeja.

This captivating journey will continue on a selection of Sunday mornings throughout the months of November to June with interactive chamber music performances that promise to be both entertaining and educational.

# 5 Nov '23

## MPO Chamber Series #2

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ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA

IORELLA CAMILLERI

Flute

CHIARA TELLERI

Oboe

INMACULADA MUÑOZ SALGÜERO,  
STEFAN CALLEJA, MATTEO COLOMBO

Violin

MARCO GALLINA, ESTER GARCÍA SALAS

Viola

YAROSLAV MIKLUKHO, DESIRÉE QUINTANO

Cello

Giuseppe Cambini

Quintetto no. 1

Giuseppe Cambini

Quartetto no. 2

Franz Xaver Süssmayr

Quintett

Joaquín Turina

La Oración del Torero

Felix Mendelssohn

String quartet no. 2 in A minor

MPO musicians team up to perform Mendelssohn's Passionate *String Quartet no. 2 in A minor*. The music takes us to the elegant gallant style of Cambini, closely followed by Süssmayr's *Quintett*.

The chamber concert is concluded by Turina's *La oración del Torero* which offers a variety of colours and energy levels which will have you dancing on your seat.

# 11 Nov '23

## Classics at the Cathedral

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*An Ulited il-Belt il-Qadima production*

GOZO CATHEDRAL, CITTADELLA GOZO

GIUSEPPE RECCHIA

Clarinet

JOSEPH DEBRINCAT

Conductor

Nicolò Isouard

Sinfonia in C minor

Carl Maria von Weber

Clarinet Concerto no. 2

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Symphony no. 41

Classics at the Cathedral features the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in a selection of popular works from the "classical" repertoire. Held at one of the most iconic churches in the Maltese islands, the Gozo Cathedral, and presented by Ulited il-Belt il-Qadima, this concert will be conducted by Joseph Debrincat, Maestro di Cappella of the Cathedral.

Italian clarinetist Giuseppe Recchia will be the soloist in Weber's *Clarinet Concerto no. 2*.

# 12 Nov '23

## Do-Re-Mi Meets Do

*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARIA BLANCO**

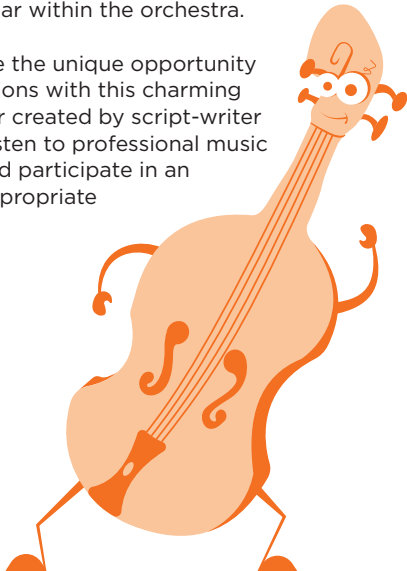
Artistic Director

**STEFAN CALLEJA**

Violin

Following the opening Family Fanfare orchestral concert, we continue our journey by introducing the character of Do (Violin), a very prominent orchestral instrument, who also likes to be the leader and is very popular within the orchestra.

Children will have the unique opportunity to forge connections with this charming musical character created by script-writer Simon Bartolo, listen to professional music performances and participate in an engaging age-appropriate workshop.



# 25 Nov '23

## Joseph Calleja Christmas Special

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**MALTA FAIRS & CONVENTIONS CENTRE, TA QALI**

**ANDREA BOCELLI**

Special Guest

Joseph Calleja and Andrea Bocelli will join forces for an unforgettable concert experience in Malta this November. The highly anticipated event will serve as a spectacular start to the Christmas season, enchanting locals and tourists alike with their timeless voices and stunning performances.







# December

# 3 Dec '23

## MPO Chamber Series #3

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARCELLINE AGIUS, ROBERTA ATTARD**

Violin

**ORIETTA BEAUMER**

Viola

**FRANK CAMILLERI**

Cello

**MICHELLE AGIUS**

Bass

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Divertimento in D Major

Antonín Dvořák

Quintet in G Major

The MPO musicians regroup to bring together Mozart's *Divertimento in D Major*. The sole purpose of the Divertimento was to entertain. Mozart was able to earn a quick and small fee through these compositions thanks to his gift for pleasing melody and masterly orchestration, he could produce them with ease while working on more demanding projects. The MPO musicians will also perform Dvořák's *Quintet in G Major*, where the double bass is added to the conventional string quartet.

The Quintet was written during an extremely prolific period in Dvorak's career. Adding the double bass to support the bass line gave the opportunity for the cello to explore the upper register which makes this quintet stand out from all the string quartets composed. The rhythms found in the Quintet resemble the Slavic period of Dvorak.

# 6 Dec '23

## MYO Christmas Concert

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*In collaboration with the St John's Co Cathedral Foundation*

**ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL, VALLETTA**

**MALTA YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

**PHILIP WALSH**

Conductor

The Malta Youth Orchestra returns to the scene with an annual Christmas concert, together with the St John's Co Cathedral foundation choir under the direction of Gillian Zammit.



# 10 Dec '23

## Do-Re-Mi Meets Re

*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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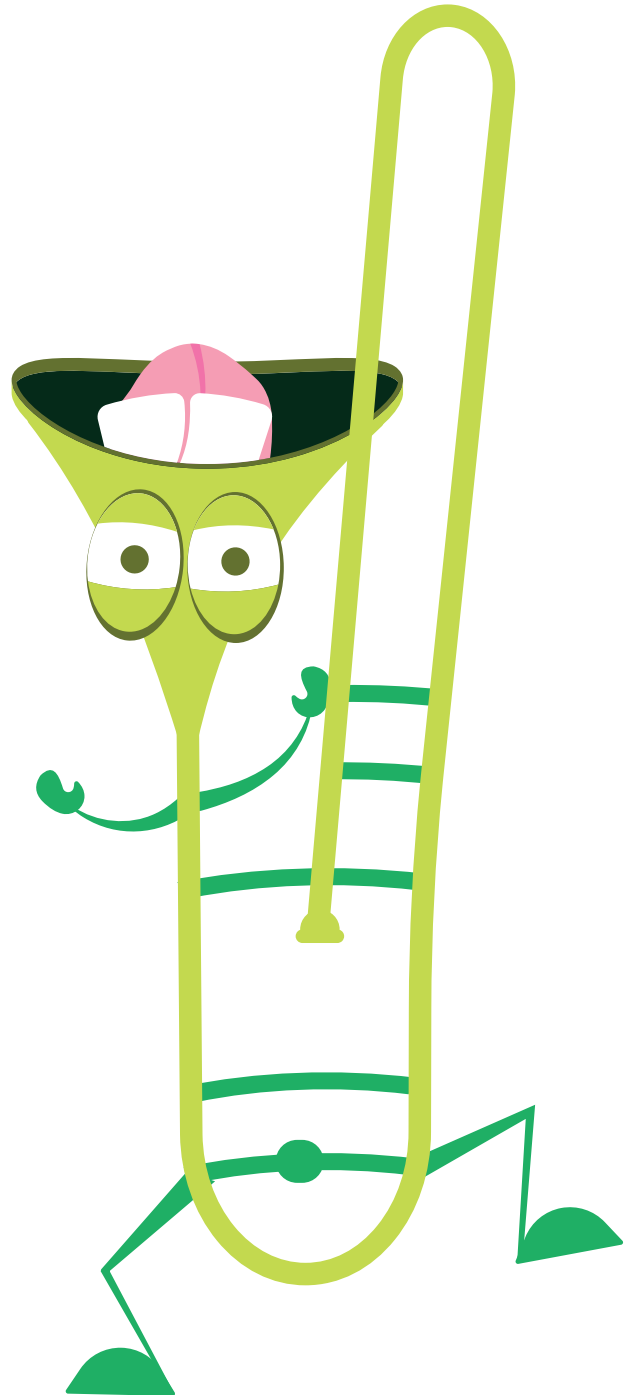
**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARIA BLANCO**  
Artistic Director

**RODERICK BUGEJA**  
Trombone

The Do-Re-Mi fun-filled musical journey continues with the introduction of the character of Re (Trombone), who is usually funny and fun-loving. The trombone also wants to be the kind (re) of the show and will take the role of conductor in the larger concerts.

Children will have the unique opportunity to forge connections with this charming musical character created by script-writer Simon Bartolo, listen to professional music performances and participate in an engaging age-appropriate workshop.





# 16 Dec '23

## Romantic Classics

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MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
VALLETTA

**CARMINE LAURI**  
Violin

**MAXIMILIAN HORNUNG**  
Cello

**MICHAEL LAUS**  
Conductor

Ludwig van Beethoven  
*Coriolan Overture*

Johannes Brahms  
*Double Concerto*

Franz Schubert  
*Symphony no. 9*

An epic masterwork in every sense, Schubert's *Symphony No. 9* also known as *The Great*, marks his final major orchestral contribution. Michael Laus leads the MPO in an exploration of its pure musical grandeur and lyrical intensity. Based on Heinrich von Collin's tragedy, Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture* transpires drama, from its powerful beginning to its delicate ending. Acclaimed soloists, violinist Carmine Lauri and cellist Maximilian Hornung, join the orchestra for Brahms' *Double Concerto* in a sublime fusion of sonorities and breathtaking melodies.



# 23 Dec '23

## Christmas Extravaganza

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MALTA FAIRS & CONVENTION CENTRE,  
TA' GALI

**WAYNE MARSHALL**  
Conductor

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# 29 Dec '23

## New Year's Gala Night

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MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
VALLETTA

**MICHALIS ECONOMOU**  
Conductor



# January



# 5 Jan '24

## Italy Tour Concert At Home

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# 7 Jan '24

## MPO Chamber Series #4

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ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA

ETIENNE CUTAJAR  
Horn

CHRISTOPHER SPITERI  
Tuba

RODERICK BUGEJA, DENNIS CAMILLERI,  
JESMOND AZZOPARDI  
Trombone

MARCELLINE AGIUS, KLARA NAZAJ  
Violin

NADIA DEBONO, ALEXANDRE RAZERA  
Viola

ÁKOS KERTÉSZ  
Cello

CHRISTINE ZERAFA  
Piano

Joseph Vella  
Soliloques Op.83 for Horn

Arthur Frackenpohl  
Brass Duo

Christer Danielsson  
Concertante Suite

Christopher Muscat  
Quintessence (piano quintet)

Robert Sanders  
Sonata in B flat for Horn and Piano

The MPO brass ensemble, led by principal horn Etienne Cutajar, team up for a varied programme including a work by Joseph Vella for solo horn, and an unusual duo for horn and tuba. Pianist Christine Zerafa joins forces with the MPO string quartet for a performance of another work by a Maltese composer, Christopher Muscat's *Quintessence*.

# 14 Jan '24

## Do-Re-Mi Meets Mi

*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARIA BLANCO**

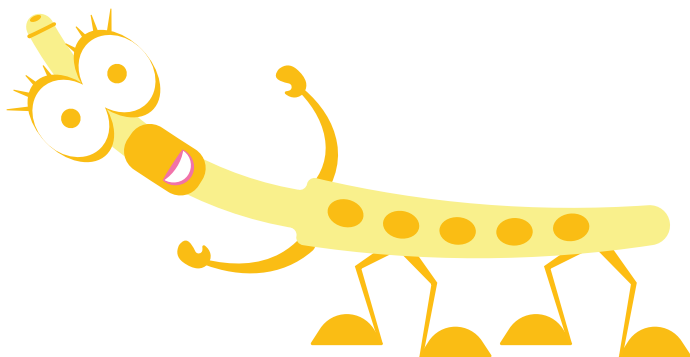
Artistic Director

**CLARA GALEA**

Flute

The Do-Re-Mi musical adventure proceeds with the introduction of the character of Mi (Flute). Although small in size, Mi will always ensure that she is heard! Mi has an even more annoying baby cousin – known as the Piccolo.

Children will have the unique opportunity to forge connections with this charming musical character created by script-writer Simon Bartolo, listen to professional music performances and participate in an engaging age-appropriate workshop.



# 17 Jan '24

## Goldberg Variations on Wind Instruments

*A Valletta International Baroque Festival production*

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**CASINO MALTESE, VALLETTA**

Johann Sebastian Bach

Goldberg Variations

*(arranged for winds and harp by John McDonough)*

Bach's Goldberg Variations have been transcribed for an enormous variety of instruments, which render the original work even more fascinating. The Valletta Baroque Festival commissioned a transcription of the Goldbergs for eight wind instruments and harp by principal MPO oboist John McDonough.

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# 18 Jan '24

## Bach Keyboard Concertos - Concert 1

*A Valletta International Baroque Festival production*

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**TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA**

**MICHAEL LAUS, MARIA-ELENA FARRUGIA**

**CHRISTINE ZERAFA**

Piano

**MICHAEL LAUS**

Conductor

Johann Sebastian Bach

Keyboard Concerto no. 1 BWV1052

Keyboard Concerto no. 2 BWV1053

Double Keyboard Concerto BWV1062



# 19 Jan '24

## Bach Keyboard Concertos - Concert 2

*A Valletta International Baroque Festival production*

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**TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA**

**FRANCIS CAMILLERI**  
**JOANNE CAMILLERI**  
**GISELLE GRIMA**  
Piano

**MICHAEL LAUS**  
Conductor

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Keyboard Concerto no. 3 BWV1054  
Keyboard Concerto no. 4 BWV1055  
Keyboard Concerto no. 5 BWV1056  
Double Keyboard Concerto BWV1061

# 20 Jan '24

## Bach Keyboard Concertos - Concert 3

*A Valletta International Baroque Festival production*

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**TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA**

**CAROLINE CALLEJA**  
**CHARLENE FARRUGIA**  
**JOANNE CAMILLERI**  
Piano

**MICHAEL LAUS**  
Conductor

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Keyboard Concerto no. 6 BWV1057  
Keyboard Concerto no. 7 BWV1058  
Double Keyboard Concerto BWV1060



# 24-26 Jan '24

## MPO Italy Tour

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As Malta's foremost musical institution, the MPO continues to be a proud exponent of Maltese music at home and abroad. The orchestra makes a welcome return to Italy under the direction of its Resident Conductor Michael Laus, with concerts in Rome (Auditorium Parco della Musica) and Bologna.

# February



# 2 Feb '24

## Oratorio 'Hawn f'nofs l-għar musbieh qed jixgħel'

WORLD PREMIERE

*A Fondazzjoni Paulus production*

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**BASILICA OF ST PAUL, RABAT**

**ALAN SCIBERRAS**

Tenor

**LOUIS ANDREW CASSAR**

Baritone

**GODWIN SCERRI**

Narrator

**CHRISTOPHER MUSCAT**

Conductor

Fondazzjoni Paulus' annual Agape Festival will, this year, feature the world premiere of a new oratorio *Hawn f'nofs l-għar musbieh qed jixgħel*, lyrics by Mgr Michael Bugeja and set to the music by Christopher Muscat who will also conduct the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. This oratorio is inspired from the letters of St Paul and their resultant strong theological messages.

# 4 Feb '24

## MPO Chamber Series #5

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MIRIAM CAUCHI**

Soprano

**SIMON ABDILLA JOSLIN**

Cello

**MARIA-ELENA FARRUGIA**

Piano

Antonín Dvořák

Gypsy songs Op. 55

Sergei Rachmaninov

Cello Sonata in G minor Op. 19

How fair the spot Op. 21 no. 7

A Dream Op. 8 no. 5

Spring Waters Op. 14 no. 11

Oh never sing to me again Op. 4 no. 4

N. Rimsky-Korsakov

The Nightingale & the Rose Op. 2 no. 2

The clouds begin to scatter Op. 46 no. 2



# 11 Feb '24

## Do-Re-Mi Meets Fa

*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARIA BLANCO**

Artistic Director

**ALEX BEZZINA**

Trumpet

The Do-Re-Mi exciting adventure continues with the introduction of the character of Fa (Trumpet), who is known as being a Showman! Fa is also an attention seeker and makes himself versatile to appeal to many people.

Once again, children will have the unique opportunity to forge connections with this charming musical character created by script-writer Simon Bartolo, listen to professional music performances and participate in an engaging age-appropriate workshop.





# 17 Feb '24

## A Symphony to the Jungle

*A Raw not War Entertainment production*

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**MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
VALLETTA**

**AURELIO BELLI**  
Conductor

*A Symphony to the Jungle* is an orchestral pop show, composed of 20 greatest hits from the famous eighties rock band Guns N' Roses, including 'Welcome To The Jungle', 'Don't Cry' and 'Sweet Child of Mine' to name a few, licensed by Universal Music Publishing, Warner Music Group and Sony Music Publishing.



24 Feb '24

# Symphonic Concert

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MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE  
CENTRE, VALLETTA

BERNICE SAMMUT ATTARD  
Piano

ANU TALI  
Conductor



# March



# 3 Mar '24

## MPO Chamber Series #6

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ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA

NATASCHA CHIRCOP

MARCO RIVOLTINI

Piano

Paul Hindemith

8 Walzer Op. 6

Antonín Dvořák

Slavonic Dances Op. 72 nos. 5 – 8

John Corigliano

Gazebo Dances

Allen Shawn

Three Dance Portraits

Maurice Ravel

La Valse (arr Lucien Garban)

Colourful rhythmic structures and textures are explored through different dance forms over the span of a century. The programme varies from Dvorak's *Slavonic Dances* in Bohemian traditional dance forms to Shawn's *Dance Portraits*, which highlight the detailed intensity of notes and dancing buoyancy of rhythms, integrating dissonant harmonies and romantic pianism. Included also are The *Gazebo Dances* by Corigliano, a reminiscence of the little bands playing in the village squares of New England, together with Hindemith's *8 Waltzes*, an early intimate work having sinuous rhythms which starkly contrasts with Ravel's fully-fledged *La Valse* with all its virtuosity and sensual richness.

# 3, 6, 8 & 10 Mar '24

## Armida

*A Teatru Manoel production*

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TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA

DAVIDE LEVI

Conductor

This season Teatru Manoel will be presenting the opera *Armida* by Gioachino Rossini with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Davide Levi. The production features an international cast of acclaimed singers, creatives, directors, and designers. The set will make use of operatic scenery dating back over 100 years.

# 10 Mar '24

## Do-Re-Mi Children's Showcase Concert

*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARIA BLANCO**

Artistic Director

The Do-Re-Mi experience continues with a Children's Showcase Concert dedicated to children, following a call, talent-scouting and auditions by a selection committee.

Children attending the concert will also have opportunity to engage interactively, through participation in the music workshops and our amenable presenters.

# 14-16 Mar '24

## Mużika Mużika

*A Festivals Malta production*

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**MALTA FAIRS & CONVENTION CENTRE,  
TA' QALI**

Mużika Mużika, now in its 4th edition, has become a much-awaited annual appointment with the exceptional participation of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. Join us for another wonderful edition.





April



# 5 Apr '24

## APS Easter Concert 2024

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ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL,  
VALLETTA

**ALAN CHIRCOP**  
Conductor

The second edition of the APS Bank Easter Concert, under the direction of Alan Chircop, features a programme of jubilant sacred music in the impressive baroque surroundings of St John's Co-Cathedral.



# 7 Apr '24

## MPO Chamber Series #7

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ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA

**PHILIP ATTARD**  
Soprano Saxophone

**SAMUEL MALLIA**  
Alto Saxophone

**JOSEPH VELLA**  
Tenor Saxophone

**GODFREY MIFSUD**  
Baritone Saxophone

Joseph Zemp  
*Air Scandinave*

Pedro Iturralde  
*Suite Hellenique*

Alexander Glazunov  
*Saxophone Quartet Op. 109*

Thierry Escaich  
*Tango Virtuoso*

Gavin Whitlock  
*Celtic Suite*

Four of Malta's leading saxophonists join forces to perform saxophone quartet works with influences from around the world. Zemp's *Air Scandinave* opens the programme with clear inspiration of Scandinavian music. One of the core works in the saxophone quartet repertoire will also be featured, which is Glazunov's *saxophone quartet*, a late work in the composer's oeuvre with influences from different composers in the Romantic era. Iturralde's influences in jazz and traditional Greek dances will feature in his *Suite Hellenique* and Whitlock's *Celtic Suite* will showcase musical influences from Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

# 13 Apr '24

## Closing Concert 18th Malta Spring Festival

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Danish conductor Anne Marie Granau collaborates for the first time with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in the closing concert of the 18th edition of the Malta Spring Festival.

# 14 Apr '24

## Do-Re-Mi Meets Sol

*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARIA BLANCO**

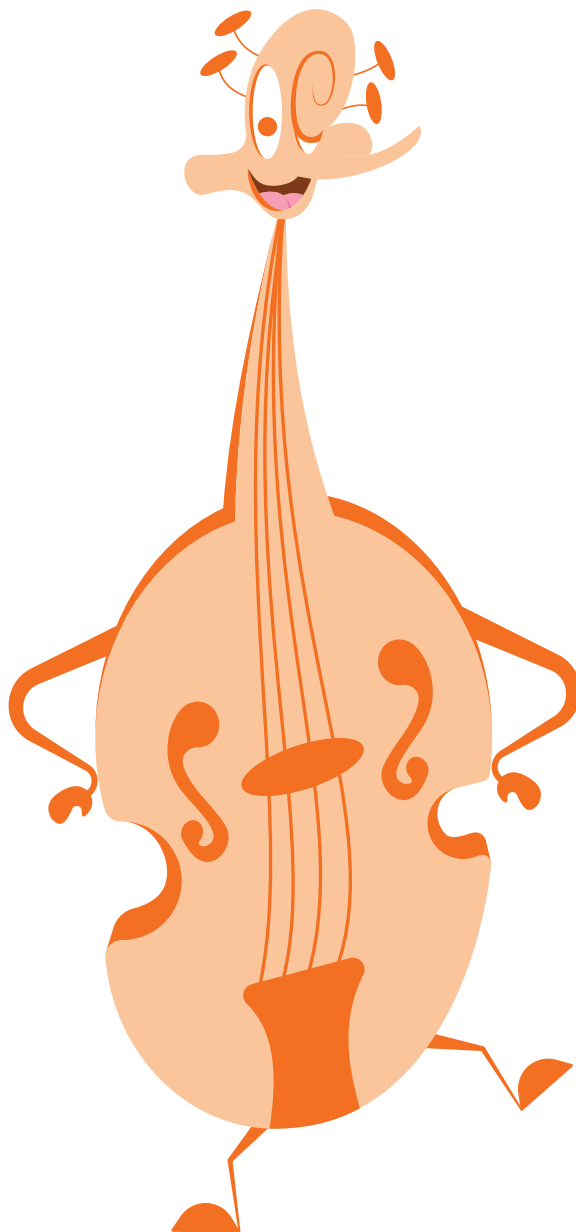
Artistic Director

**MICHELLE AGIUS**

Double Bass

The Do-Re-Mi journey resumes with the character Sol (Double Bass), who is a strong, dominant instrument, who also believes that its "all about da-bass"!

The young audience will have the unique opportunity to forge connections with this charming musical character created by script-writer Simon Bartolo, listen to professional music performances and participate in an engaging age-appropriate workshop.





May

# 4 May '24

## Joseph Vella's Valeriana

### WORLD PREMIERE

*A Festivals Malta production in collaboration  
with Teatru Astra*

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TEATRU ASTRA, VICTORIA GOZO

**CHRISTOPHER MUSCAT**  
Conductor

Joseph Vella's demise in 2018 not only left a void in the local cultural scene but also cut short his work on what was meant to be his magnum opus, the opera *Valeriana*. Based on an award-winning libretto by Vincent Vella, this opera was completed by Christopher Muscat, himself a former composition student of Vella, who will be leading the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra for this world premiere.

# 5 May '24

## MPO Chamber Series #8

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ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA

**MARIA BLANCO**  
Piano

**STEFAN CALLEJA**  
Violin

**ESTER GARCIA SALAS**  
Viola

**DESIRÉE CALLEJA**  
Cello

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Piano Quartet in G minor K478

Johannes Brahms  
Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor op. 25

Immerse yourself in the unparalleled experience of chamber music with these two timeless masterpieces which have stood the test of time. Mozart's elegant and classical craftsmanship shines through with musical brilliance, while Brahms' quartet is more emotionally charged ranging from profound melancholy to triumphant jubilation. Covering the full spectrum of human emotions and technical mastery, these two piano quartets promise a captivating listening experience for all.





# 10 May '24

## Foundation Day Concert 2024

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PJAZZA TEATRU RJAL, VALLETTA

**MICHAEL LAUS**  
Conductor

Christopher Muscat  
Festival Overture

Sergei Prokofiev  
Lieutenant Kije, Suite

Ottorino Respighi  
I pini di Roma

The Malta Youth and the Malta Philharmonic orchestras will join forces in this Foundation Day Concert, under the direction of Resident Conductor Michael Laus, with a programme of exciting works including Christopher Muscat's *Festival Overture* and Ottorino Respighi's *I Pini di Roma*.

# 12 May '24

## Do-Re-Mi Meets La

*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARIA BLANCO**  
Artistic Director

**CHRISTINE VELLA**  
Saxophone

The Do-Re-Mi musical adventure moves on to the introduction of the character La (Saxophone), who is Oh! so smooth and always the charmer. La comes in varied sizes and voices for major impact and assorted musical colours.

Children will have the unique opportunity to forge connections with this charming musical character created by script-writer Simon Bartolo, listen to professional music performances and participate in an engaging age-appropriate workshop.



# 18 May '24

## Feel the Magic

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**TEATRU ASTRA, VICTORIA GOZO**

**JOHN GALEA**  
Conductor

Under the baton of conductor John Galea, the MPO interprets *Raġġ (A Beam of Light)*, a concept album by Edward Mifsud inspired by the progressive rock genre with lyrics derived from poems from the *Moviment Qawmien Letterarju (Literary Renewal Movement)*. The work merges together traits of classical music and popular music into an orchestral setting, captivating listeners in a unique fusion that resonates with enthusiasts of both ends of the classical-popular music spectrum.



# 25 May '24

## From the British Isles

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ST AGATHA'S AUDITORIUM, RABAT

**CARMINE LAURI**  
Violin

**JUN KIM**  
Conductor

Hamish MacCunn  
Overture *Land of the Mountain and Flood*

Benjamin Britten  
Four Sea Interludes

William Walton  
Violin Concerto

Vaughan Williams  
Symphony No. 5

The MPO celebrates the musical legacy of the British Isles under the direction of award-winning conductor Jun Kim. MacCunn paints a spectacular Scottish landscape in *Overture: Land of the Mountain and Flood*, while Britten's *Four Sea Interludes* portray captivating sketches of the English seaside. Maltese violinist Carmine Lauri interprets Walton's *Violin Concerto*, a work brimming with virtuosity and lyricism. Written amidst the raging war, Vaughan Williams' *Symphony No. 5* masterfully evokes a sense of serenity, profoundness and hope for peace.



# 31 May '24

## Classical & Contemporary Colours

*MPO in collaboration with Modern Music Days and Teatru Manoel*

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**TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA**

**KONSTANTINOS DESTOUNIS**

Piano

**CHRISTOPHER MUSCAT**

Conductor

Albert Garzia

Scent

Veronique Vella

Fine Line

Maurice Ravel

Piano Concerto in G

Felix Mendelssohn

Hebrides Overture

Ludwig van Beethoven

Symphony no. 1

The turn of the 19th century brought with it the first of nine symphonies that revolutionised music. Despite being inherently Classical, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1* boasts innovative orchestration with unique textures and harmonisation. Conducted by Christopher Muscat, the MPO performs riveting works by Maltese composers, Albert Garzia's *Scent* and Veronique Vella's *Fine Line*, and is joined by famed pianist Kostantinos Destounis for Ravel's dazzling *Piano Concerto in G*. The audience is transported to Fingal's Cave with Mendelssohn's gem *Hebrides Overture*. This concert is part of Teatru Manoel's Modern Music Days series.





June

# 2 Jun '24

## MPO Chamber Series #9

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**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**CAROLINE CALLEJA**  
**JOANNE CAMILLERI**  
**MARIA-ELENA FARRUGIA**  
**GABI SULTANA**  
Piano

Johannes Brahms  
Selection of Hungarian Dances for 4 hands

Gabriel Faure  
Dolly Suite for 4 hands

Gyorgy Ligeti  
5 Pieces for 4 hands

Mike Cornick  
3 pieces for 6 hands

Maarten Smit  
Petite Suite for 6 Hands Op. 12

Dionysis Boukouvalas-Steve Reich  
Fantasy on a theme by Steve Reich

Niccolo' Paganini  
La Campanella for 6 Hands

Four of Malta's foremost pianists will join forces to present an exciting programme of works in various combinations of duos, trios, and even four pianists on one piano. Taking the audience through a variety of styles, this concert promises to be full of sparkling fun.

# 7 Jun '24

## The Three Tenors

*VCA Productions*

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**PJAZZA KASTILJA, VALLETTA**



# 9 Jun '24

## Do-Re-Mi Meets Ti

*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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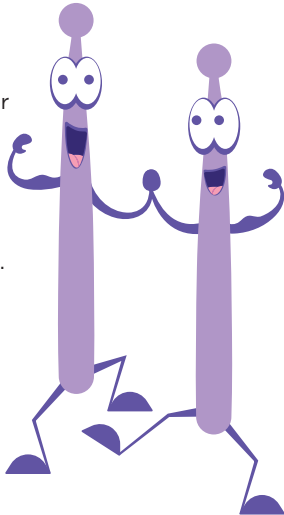
**ROBERT SAMUT HALL, FLORIANA**

**MARIA BLANCO**  
Artistic Director

**DANIEL CAUCHI**  
Drumstick

The Do-Re-Mi journey continues with the introduction of the seventh and final musical character of the series – a pair of Drumsticks called Ti. Drumsticks are used to hit, bang, scratch and tickle the percussion instruments, making them the very heartbeat of music!

Children will also have the opportunity to forge connections with this charming musical character created by script-writer Simon Bartolo, listen to professional music performances and participate in an engaging age-appropriate workshop.



# 14 Jun '24

## Victoria International Arts Festival - Opening Concert

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**TEATRU ASTRA, VICTORIA GOZO**

**PHILIP WALSH**  
Conductor

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# 22 Jun '24

## Malta International Arts Festival - Concert

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**TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA**

**MICHAEL LAUS**  
Conductor

Dmitri Shostakovich  
Cello Concerto

Ludwig van Beethoven  
Symphony no.5





# 28 June '24

## Luminaria

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TEATRU MANOEL, VALLETTA

**SIMON SCHEMBRI**  
Guitar

**ALAN CHIRCOP**  
Conductor

Charles Camilleri  
*Maltese Dances*

John Galea  
*Ġgantija Suite*

Felix Mendelssohn  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream, Incidental Music*

Joaquín Rodrigo  
*Concierto de Aranjuez*

The MPO directed by Alan Chircop presents a sublime concert showcasing Maltese heritage and folklore, history and myth. The programme includes captivating works by celebrated Maltese composers, Charles Camilleri's tribute to folk music *Maltese Dances* and John Galea's evocative symphonic poem *Ġgantija Suite*. Featured is also Rodrigo's elegant *Concierto de Aranjuez* featuring guitarist Simon Schembri.

An exquisite selection of Mendelssohn's entrancing incidental music *A Midsummer Night's Dream* transports the audience into Shakespeare's magical world.



# July





# 7 Jul '24

## MPO Chamber Series #10

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**Robert Samut Hall, Floriana**

**IORELLA CAMILLERI**

Flute & Piccolo

**MARIA-ELENA FARRUGIA**

Piano

Manuel de Falla

Siete canciones populares españolas

Béla Bartók

Romanian Dances

Donato Lovreglio

L'eco di Napoli

Eduardo Martín

Suite Habana

Astor Piazzolla

Histoire du Tango

Fiorella Camilleri, the MPO's principal piccolo player, will take us on a journey around the world, exploring different musical identities of Spain, Romania, Italy, Cuba, and Argentina. These dances and folk tunes which are to be performed have an unsurpassed beauty of a rich historical culture, that dwell in the roots of humanity.

# 15 Jul '24

## Victoria International Arts Festival - Closing Concert

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ST GEORGE'S BASILICA, VICTORIA, GOZO

**PHILIP WALSH**  
Conductor

# 17 Jul '24

## Family Fanfare Concert: Do-Re-Mi Season Finale

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*Part of MPO Children's Project*

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PJAZZA TEATRU RJAL, VALLETTA

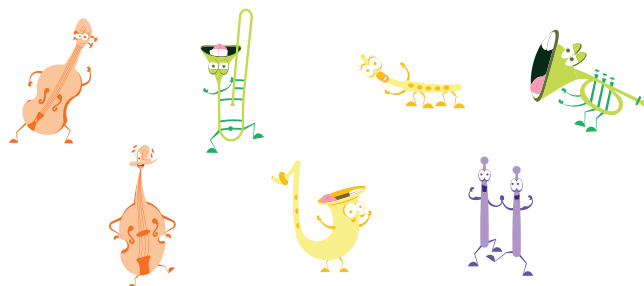
**MARIA BLANCO**  
Artistic Director

**RODERICK BUGEJA**  
Conductor

**SIMON BARTOLO**  
Script Writer

The Do-Re-Mi delightful journey reaches its final destination for the 23/24 concert season with a large orchestral concert at Pjazza Teatru Rjal in Valletta.

The seven fun-loving musical characters from the series come together. Collaborating the musical experiences of the Do-Re-Mi concerts, they join forces with the orchestra to deliver a thrilling performance in an exciting Orchestral Fanfare!



# THANK YOU

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The MPO is a Public Cultural Organisation within Arts Council Malta under the remit of the Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government.



**GOVERN TA' MALTA**  
MINISTRY FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE,  
THE ARTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



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## MPO CORPORATE SPONSORS



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