



MALTA  
SUMMER  
FESTIVAL  
REIMAGINING OPERA

# Opera Gala



**MALTA  
SUMMER  
FESTIVAL**  
REIMAGINING OPERA

# Opera Gala

**Vittorio Grigolo**

Tenor

**Marina Monzó**

Soprano

**Nicola Said**

Soprano

**Óliver Díaz**

Conductor

**Malta Philharmonic Orchestra**

**16 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

# Opera Gala

**MALTA  
SUMMER  
FESTIVAL**  
REIMAGINING OPERA

## Programme

### **Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901)**

Overture from Nabucco (1836)

### **Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924)**

Vals de Musetta from La Bohème (1896)

Che Gelida Manina from La Bohème

Sì. Mi chiamano Mimì from La Bohème

O Soave Fanciulla from La Bohème

### **Nicolò Isouard (1775 – 1818)**

Overture from Le Médecin Turc (1803)

### **Giuseppe Verdi**

Caro Nome che il mio Cor from Rigoletto (1851)

### **Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)**

La Fleur que tu m'avais Jetee from Carmen (1875)

### **Giuseppe Verdi**

È strano! è strano! from La Traviata (1853)

### **Giacomo Puccini**

E Lucevan le Stelle from Tosca (1900)





## VITTORIO GRIGOLO

Tenor

From boy soloist in the Sistine Chapel to principal tenor in the world's most prestigious opera houses, Vittorio Grigolo is the Italian tenor of his generation. Born in Arezzo and raised in Rome, he performs the leading roles of the Italian and French repertory. Recent engagements have taken Vittorio's Traviata, Boheme, Rigoletto, L'Elisir d'Amore, Lucia di Lammermoor, Faust, Roméo et Juliette, Manon, Les Contes d'Hoffmann, Werther and Tosca to the greatest opera stages of the world.

Vittorio's 2018-2019 season includes Rodolfo and the Duke for The Metropolitan Opera, Nemorino at Opéra National de Paris, and Cavaradossi at the Wiener Staatsoper and at Royal Opera, London.

Off of the operatic stage, Vittorio is a successful recording artist with a platinum debut album, a Grammy-nominated recording of Bernstein's West Side Story and four albums with Sony Classical. Live concert performances include his "Italia... un Sogno" tour around Italy and the Concert pour la prise de la Bastille under the Eiffel Tower. His solo recital at The Metropolitan Opera was reviewed as "a truly unforgettable evening" (Latinos Post) with his voice described as "an attractive, ardent and supple instrument that he wielded to passionate effect" (New York Times).

Big screen appearances include The Duke in Andrea Andermann's acclaimed live broadcast of Rigoletto from Mantua, and live, world-wide broadcasts of La Boheme from The Metropolitan Opera, and Boheme and Werther from The Royal Opera, London.

Recent recognition: the Caruso Award and the Tiberini d'Oro (2015), the Distinguished Artistic Leadership Award - The Atlantic Council (2016) and the NIAF Special Achievement award (2017).

In 2018 he was awarded the "Opera News Award" for his outstanding contribution to the world of opera.



## MARINA MONZÓ

Soprano

Marina Monzó was born in Valencia in 1994. After studying flute, she obtained her diploma in singing at the Conservatorio Superior de Música de Valencia. In 2016, she made her stage debut at the Bilbao Opera, where she performed the title role in *La Sonnambula*.

She continued her vocal studies at the Accademia Rossini in Pesaro under the direction of Alberto Zedda, singing for several years at the Rossini Opera Festival. She perfected her vocal technique with Isabel Rey, Gioacchino Zarrelli, Mariella Devia, Daniela Dessì, and Renata Scotto, amongst others.

Marina has sung the roles of La Contessa di Folleville in Rossini's *Il Viaggio a Reims* in Pesaro, Ines in Donizetti's *La Favorita*, Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto* at Teatro San Carlo di Napoli and Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Giulia in Rossini's *La Scala di Seta*, at the Royal Opera House of Muscat and Rossini Opera Festival, as well as Susanna in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Zerlina in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, at the NCPA in Beijing, Fluvia in *La Pietra del Paragone* at the Rossini Opera Festival, Marola in *La Tabernera del Puerto* at the Teatro de la Zarzuela, Norina in *Don Pasquale* and Adina in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and Despina in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at the Palau de les Arts in Valencia.

Future appearances include new productions in Mexico City, Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Teatro Real and Teatro de la Zarzuela.



## NICOLA SAID

Soprano

Maltese Soprano, Malta Airport Foundation Ambassador, BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation Scholar and Peace and Prosperity Trust Young Artist, Nicola Said has an active international career on the operatic and concert stage, performing frequently in her native country and throughout Europe, UK, USA, and the Middle East for top official delegate events.

Having sung a number of operatic roles including Mimì La Bohème with Instant Opera in Normansfield Theatre London, and the title role in Lucia di Lammermoor at the Festival Lyrique-En-Mer Belle-Île in France, Nicola has recently made her operatic film debut as Madeline in Blat (Reuben Pace).

Nicola frequently performs with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra as a guest singer, having recently recorded La Bohème Act I Finale with conductor Gianluca Marcianò. Nicola is also a frequent performer at Teatru Manoel, where she opened the first recital of the season after the Theatre was shut down due to Covid.

Nicola studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Yvonne Kenny, completing the Opera Course on full scholarship after her Masters in Performance fully funded by the Malta Arts Scholarship, Government of Malta. She has performed in top venues in UK including Cadogan Hall, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Barbican Hall, St. John's Smith Square and at the Royal Opera House. She has recorded and premiered Paul Carroll's works at Abbey Road Studios with the Commonwealth Orchestra and has given recitals for HRH The Earl of Wessex in a Duke of Edinburgh event and at St. James's Palace and Kensington Palace.

Nicola is Founder, Director and Artistic Director of Malta Opera, a new opera organisation based in Malta. Conceived at the start of covid and still in its early stages of development, Malta Opera will focus on engaging and promoting local talent while cultivating international collaborations.



## 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

MALTA  
SUMMER  
FESTIVAL

## Violin 1

Marcelline Agius\*\*  
Reg Clews  
Roberta Attard  
Agnieszka Kuźma  
Emilia Wiśniewska  
Philpp Orlov  
Elena Imparato  
Fiona Giambra  
Klara Nazaj  
Riccardo Rossano  
Maria Dias Kanega

## Violin 2

Matteo Colombo\*  
Inmaculada Muñz Salgüer  
Stefan Calleja  
Pierre Louis Attard  
Natalia Lauria  
Sonja Larson  
Francesca Moldovan  
Stephen Debattista  
Mario Micallef

## Viola

Alexandre Razera  
Ester García Salas  
Eva Martin  
Orietta Zammit Beaumer  
Savio Debono  
Joana Nunes  
Matthew Fenech  
Vladimir Paulen

## Cello

Ákos Kertész\*  
Yaroslav Miklukho  
Lucie Kuchařová  
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  
Ismail Mourtuda

## Clarinet

Giuseppe Recchia\*  
Daniele Galletto  
Julian Azzopardi

## Bassoon

Giacomo Cella\*  
Lampros-Ioannis Lapinas

## French Horn

Etienne Cutajar\*  
Marco Cola  
Manuele Catalano  
Bernardette Vella

## Trumpet

Brendan Ball\*  
Francesco Barbara  
Isaac Lucas

## Trombone

Roderick Bugeja\*  
Dennis Camilleri  
Jesmond Azzopardi

## Tuba

Christopher Spiteri\*

## Timpani

Michael Camilleri\*

## Percussion

Daniel Cauchi\*  
Kristian Schembri  
Jean Pierre Vaillancourt Cassar

## 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

PKProjects | The YADA Dance Company | Moveo Dance Company | Kivos Ensemble  
Óliver Díaz Conductor Malta Philharmonic Orchestra



# MALTA SUMMER FESTIVAL

REIMAGINING OPERA

13-21 July 2022



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