

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark, patterned dress, is seated and playing a large, ornate harp. The harp is the central focus, with its frame and strings rendered in vibrant, textured colors like purple, red, and gold. The background is a complex, abstract composition of various colors and textures, suggesting a stage set or a dreamlike environment. The overall mood is artistic and evocative.

**MALTA
SUMMER
FESTIVAL**
REIMAGINING OPERA

Soirée à Chambray



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Carol García
Mezzo Soprano

José García Gutiérrez
Horn

Britt Arend
Harp

19 July 2022
Fort Chambray, Ghajnsielem, Gozo
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.



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

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Programme

Engelbert Humperdinck (1854 – 1921)

Abendsegen from Hänsel and Gretel (c. 1892)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)

Voi che Sapete from Le Nozze di Figaro (1786)

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)

An die Musik (1817)

Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)

Alphorn, TrV 64 (1878)

Franz Strauss (1822 – 1905)

Nocturno, Op.7 (unkown)

Giacchino Rossini (1792 – 1868)

Assisa a pie d'un salice (1821)

Charles Gounod (1818 – 1893)

Rêverie (1872)

Le Soir (c. 1840)

Henriette Renié (1875 – 1956)

Contemplation (1898)

Gaetano Donizetti (1797 – 1848)

L'amor funesto, A 286 (1842)

Giacchino Rossini

Canzonetta spagnuola (1821)

Louis Spohr (1784 - 1859)

Was treibt den Waidmann in den Wald, WoO 92 (1825)



CAROL GARCIA

Mezzo Soprano

Carol García is a Spanish mezzo soprano from Barcelona, finalist and winner of several international singing competitions such as Francisco Viñas, Paris Opera competition, Belvedere Competition and Operalia, among others. She was a former member of the Atelier Lyrique in the Paris Opera in 2009, where she started her career as a Baroque and Belcanto specialist and developed her warm and effortless voice singing in and out Europe, Opéra Bastille, Palais Garnier, Luxemburg, Bordeaux, Nantes, Strasbourg, Versailles, Opéra de Montréal, Concertgebouw, Versailles, Salle Pleyel, Milwaukee, Trieste, Parma, Montpellier, Lima, Israel and in Spain she sang in Liceu, Real, Valladolid, Malaga, Ibiza, Teatro de la Zarzuela, National Auditorium, Euskalduna, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Coruña and Majorca.

She has performed several times Rosina, Cenerentola, Charlotte, Dorabella, Carmen, Selinda (Il Farnace), Concepcion (L'Heure Spagnole), Donna Elvira, La musica, Esperanza and Messaggera in L'Orfeo (Monteverdi), Adonella, Javotte, Stéphan, Piacere (Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno), Jean in Le Portrait de Manon, Martirio (La Casa de Bernarda Alba), Dario (Benamor), Paloma (El barberillo de Lavapiés), Maya (Don Gil de Alcalá). In oratorio she has sung El Amor Brujo (Falla), alto solo in Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and in Mozart's Requiem, alto solo in Bach's St Matthew Passion, Les Madrigaux de Philippe Fénelon, the Spanische Liebeslieder (Schumann), Rossini's Stabat Mater and Canteloube's Songs of the Auvergne.

She has worked with international renowned conductors, such as Bruno Campanella, Philippe Jordan, Daniel Oren, Evelino Pidò, Christoph Alstaedt, Christoph Rousset, Thibault Noally, Oliver Díaz, Miquel Ortega, Andrea Marcon, Lucas Macías, José Miguel Pérez-Sierra, Emmanuel Villaume, Anthony Hermus, Riccardo Frizza, Christopher Franklin, Christoph Campestrini, Alessandro D'Agostini, Diego Fasolis, George Petrou, Antonello Allemandi, Sergio Alapont, Giancarlo del Monaco, Coline Serreau, Emilio Sagi, David McVicar, Claus Guth, Clarac-Deloeuil, Ted Huffmann, Giulio Ciabatti, Laurent Pelly, amongst others.

Carol has recorded in Auditorio Nacional de Madrid in a concert with music of Manuel García with Christoph Rousset, and 2 records with IBS label, one with an integral of Granados's songs and Falla's "El corregidor y la Molinera".



JOSÉ GARCÍA GUTIÉRREZ

Horn

José García Gutiérrez is an accomplished French-horn professor and performer from Alicante, Spain. He has held several distinguished posts, such as co-principal horn of the Orquesta Filarmonica de Gran Canaria (1997-1999), and principal horn (2000-2001); co-principal horn of the Orquesta de Galicia (2001-2002), principal horn of the Orquesta Sinfonica de Navarra (2002-2003), and principal horn of the Orquesta Sinfonica de Extremadura (2004-2007). Since November 2007 he has been principal horn with Spain's prestigious Orquesta de Radio Television Española (ORTVE) and in 2018 was appointed principal horn of the ADDA Sinfonica, Alicante. As guest performer he has had concert engagements as soloist or principal horn with several orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Teatro alla Scala, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Radio Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Sichuan Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta de Cadaques, Orquesta Sinfonica de Tenerife, Orquesta de Granada, Orquesta Sinfonica de Bilbao, Orquesta Sinfonica de Elche and Orquesta Sinfonica de Murcia.

He has recorded Mozart's Wind Octet with the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester Octet; "Soliloquies" for solo horn and "Trio Concertante" by Maltese composer Joseph Vella; and the Horn Concerto and "Eclogue" by Maurice Blower together with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as a CD of chamber music released in 2019 with Argotti Ensemble featuring works by Schumann and Glière amongst others. He is also active as a teacher, particularly with the prestigious Brass Academy in Alicante, and since September 2019 is Artistic Director of the Malta Youth Orchestra.



BRITT AREND

Harp

Belgian-Danish harpist Britt Arend studied with Susanna Mildonian at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels, obtaining her Master's degree in 2001.

She furthered her musical education with Maria Graf at the Hochschule Hanns Eisler in Berlin, then at the Accademia del Teatro alla Scala in Milan, and at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where she was awarded the Diploma di Perfezionamento in 2006.

In addition, she attended summer courses at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, at the Festival des Arcs and Festival of Gargillesse, as well as masterclasses with Isabelle Moretti, Susann MacDonald, Marie-Claire Jamet and Germaine Lorenzini.

Britt won the first prize of the Berlingske Tidende National Music Contest in Copenhagen in 1995, and in 2004 obtained the Dronning Ingrid's Romeske Fond's scholarship to stay at the Danish Institute in Rome.

Before being appointed Principal Harp of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in 2008, Britt has appeared with other European orchestras, including Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, Dresdner Sinfoniker, Radio-Sinfonie Orchester Frankfurt, Philharmonische Orchester Kiel, RTE Concert Orchestra Dublin, Opera Royal de Wallonie, and Orchestre Philharmonique de Liège.

She has performed as soloist with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and with the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra.

Britt has also performed extensively in Malta and Europe as a chamber musician, and has recorded three CDs - Harmonie in 2021 with Moldavian soprano Tatiana Lisnic; Cantilena in 2019 with Maltese soprano Gillian Zammit and cellist Frank Camilleri, and Aprile in 2015 with Gillian Zammit and mezzo-soprano Clare Ghigo.

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

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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
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