



MALTA
SUMMER
FESTIVAL
REIMAGINING OPERA

Songs of Chamber



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Amihai Grosz

Viola

Alma Sadé Moshonov

Soprano

Nadia Debono

Viola

Christine Zerafa

Piano

14 July 2022

Malta Society of Arts, 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

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Programme

Frank Bridge (1879 – 1941)

Lament for Two Violas (c. 1911–12)

Johannes Brahms (1833 – 3 April 1897)

Two Songs for Voice, Viola and Piano, Op. 91 (c. 1884)

I. Gestillte Sehnsucht

II. Geistliches Wiegenlied

Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)

Sonata for Arpeggione and Piano in A minor, D. 821 (1824)

I. Allegro moderato

II. Adagio

III. Allegretto



AMIHAI GROSZ

Viola

Amihai Grosz, born in 1979 in Jerusalem, initially learned violin at the age of five, before switching to viola at eleven. He was taught by David Chen, later by Tabea Zimmermann and Haim Taub. In 1996, he won 1st prize in the Braun Roger Siegel Competition of the University of Jerusalem, and received the renowned Gottesman Prize for Viola in the Aviv Competition in 2007.

In 1995, Amihai Grosz, together with the other section leaders from the university orchestra of Jerusalem Music Centre, founded the Jerusalem String Quartet. The ensemble gives concerts at major international venues as Tonhalle Zürich, Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Concertgebouw and Sydney Opera House, amongst others. The Quartet has an exclusive contract with the label Harmonia Mundi.

Amihai Grosz works in solo and chamber music projects, with artists such as Yefim Bronfman, Emmanuel Pahud, Mitsuko Uchida, Oleg Maisenberg, Janine Jansen, Julian Rachlin and David Geringas. He performs in concert houses and at festivals all over the world, including Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival, Delft Festival, Salon Festival and BBC Proms, amongst many others.

Grosz was appointed Principal Violist with the Berliner Philharmoniker in 2010, with which he has worked on various projects in recent years. Additionally, Amihai Grosz intends to devote more of his time to his solo career, having performed as soloist with renowned orchestras such as West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. Amihai Grosz plays a 16th-century instrument by Gasparo da Salò, on loan to him for life from a private collection.



ALMA SADÉ MOSHONOV

Soprano

Soprano Alma Sadé Moshonov was born in Tel Aviv Israel and comes from a family of actors and opera singers. She studied music in New York and since 2009 has been singing in major opera houses in Europe. Ms Sadé was part of the renowned Ensemble of Deutsche Oper am Rhein and since 2014 has been part of Ensemble Mitglied of the Komische Oper Berlin, singing principal roles such as Susanna in The Marriage of Figaro, Pamina in Die Zauberflöte and Maria in West Side Story.

This season she can be seen as Jenny in the new Barrie Kosky production of Mahagonny, Hadel in Anatevka and Princess Laya in Paul Abraham's Die Blumen von Hawaii.



NADIA DEBONO

Viola

Nadia Debono has been Viola Principal of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) since 2013. As a member of the MPO she has performed concerts in prestigious halls around the world, such as Germany, Vienna, Prague, Russia, USA and Dubai.

Her orchestral experience began in 1996 as a violinist of the Manoel Theatre Orchestra which later became the National Orchestra, then MPO. In 2001 she became co-leader of the MPO, and has performed a number of times as a soloist with the orchestra. During her professional years, she has been asked as guest viola with various orchestras, namely the European Union Orchestra and Italia International Orchestra. In 2003 she began specialising in Baroque violin performance in London, later on following an audition course and masterclass with the European Union Baroque Orchestra, after which she was chosen to play in various concert tours across Europe. As a member of the New Century Baroque Orchestra, Nadia toured for concerts and played in CD recordings. Nadia is also a member of the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble (VIBE), where she works with renowned directors, participating in international festivals. As a viola player with the MPO String Quartet, she has given concerts in Tunisia, Italy, Germany and Belgium.

Nadia is also a member of the Goldberg Ensemble, with which she participates in chamber music and Baroque choral and instrumental music. Nadia is also very active as a teacher of violin and viola, teaching privately and at the Malta School of Music.



CHRISTINE ZERAFI

Piano

Maltese pianist Christine Zerafa has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in distinguished venues and festivals, including the Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oxford Lieder Festival, and Cheltenham Festival, and has also performed on BBC TV and BBC Radio 3. She has been recipient of various awards including the Bice Mizzi National Competition, the Royal Northern College of Music Clifton Helliwell Prize, the Royal Academy of Music Scott Huxley prize for piano accompaniment and the Schumann Lieder pianist prize. Christine was twice selected as a Park Lane Group Artist and she was also an award winner on the Tunnell Trust Artist Chamber Music Scheme.

Christine gained a Master of Music in solo performance from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester where she studied with Norma Fisher and Paul Janes, after which she moved on to study with Andrea Lucchesini at the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole in Florence. Having a great passion for chamber music and song repertoire, she then read for a Master of Music degree in piano accompaniment, which she completed with distinction at the Royal Academy of Music in London under the tuition of Michael Dussek, Malcolm Martineau and Ian Brown. She has also worked as a staff pianist at the Royal College of Music in London, most notably within the vocal, strings and woodwind faculties. Christine recently completed a PhD at the Royal Academy of Music, and is now enjoying a busy career as a performer, researcher and piano tutor.

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

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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



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www.maltaorchestra.com