

# MPO CHAMBER SERIES #3

Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

Sunday, 03 December 2023, 11am

Robert Samut Hall, Floriana



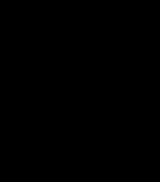
## PROGRAMME

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
Divertimento in D Major, K. 136

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Presto

**Antonín Dvořák**  
String Quintet No. 2 in G major, Op. 77

- I. Allegro con fuoco
- II. Scherzo. Allegro vivace
- III. Poco andante
- IV. Finale. Allegro assai



## PROGRAMME NOTES

by Dr Joseph Camilleri

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**  
(Austria 1756 – Austria 1791)

**Divertimento in D Major, K.136 (1784)**

- I. Allegro
- II. Andante
- III. Presto

This work is the first of a group of three divertimenti, also collectively referred to as the “*Salzburg Symphonies*”, which Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote at the young age of sixteen. According to the musical conventions of the period, “divertimento” was generally used to indicate a light work in several movements, meant to be performed outdoors or as background music at social occasions. At the time, however, Mozart, was just back from a tour of Italy, and rather than following the “expected” structure, this divertimento follows more closely the form of an Italian sinfonia in three movements, with a central slow movement flanked by two faster ones. One can also feel the influence of two older composers and teachers – namely Joseph Haydn and Johann Christian Bach (known as the “English Bach”).

The *Divertimento* is scored for string quartet, that is, two violins, viola and cello, although in some performances these parts are doubled such that the work is performed by a string orchestra. The opening Allegro is characterised by a falling motif, on which most of the movement is based. It features sparkling passages of dialogue between the two violins. There follows a serene Andante in which the violins once again take centre stage, albeit with more lyrical material. The finale is a playful affair. Following a quiet introduction, it takes off cheerfully, with plenty of fast virtuosic passages for each of the instruments, and subtle hints of the descending motif from the first movement, before the work comes to a jubilant close.

---

**Antonín Dvořák**

(1875 rev. 1888)

**String Quintet No.2 in G Major, Op. 77**

- I. Allegro con fuoco
- II. Scherzo. Allegro Vivace
- III. Poco Andante
- IV. Finale. Allegro assai

*The String Quartet No. 2* was published in its final, definitive version by music publishers Simrock in 1888, as Dvořák’s Opus 77. However, it was originally composed in early March 1875 for a chamber music competition sponsored by a Prague organization called the “Artistic Circle”. This was a happy time for the 33-year old composer, who had just got married and had a young son, and who had enticing new prospects for advancement in his late-blooming career as a composer. The praise received for the work reflected the wider acclaim he had started receiving, with the jury lauding its “distinction of theme, technical skill in polyphonic composition, and mastery of form”.

The work is scored for two violins, viola, cello and double bass – in other words, the traditional string quartet set up, with an added double bass providing a deeper sonority. The original version contained five movements, but Dvořák eventually withdrew the second movement, which had been entitled “Intermezzo” to avoid having two slow movements in the work. The result is a work which follows the typical structure of a Romantic symphony or sonata with two outer fast movements flanking a lyrical slow movement and a scherzo. Throughout, the composer shows his skill at building a unified work out of relatively brief, simple motifs.







**Sun, 14 Jan 2024**

Robert Samut Hall, Floriana | 11:00am

For more information visit: [maltaorchestra.com](http://maltaorchestra.com)

## MPO BOARD & ADMINISTRATION

### Board

Chairman: **Alfred Camilleri**

Members: **Ruth Vella Micallef  
Jesmond Cutajar  
George Curmi  
Mary Anne Camilleri  
Katia Ancilleri  
Elizabeth Cassar  
Joseph Chircop  
Noel Camilleri**

Secretary to:  
the Board: **Carmen Zammit Farrugia**

Resident Conductor: **Michael Laus**

### Administration

Acting Chief  
Executive Officer: **Christopher Muscat**

Director - Finance  
& Administration: **Reuben Sammut**

Orchestra Manager: **Aurelio Belli**

Manager - Finance  
& Administration: **Sarah Debono**

Manager - Events  
& Procurement: **Christopher Spiteri Blanco**

Manager - Logistics,  
Health & Safety: **Adrian Bartolo**

Senior Officer  
(Office of the CEO): **Shirley Farrugia**

Project Administrator: **Claire Briffa**

Media Coordinator: **Joe Julian Farrugia**

Senior Officer -  
Marketing & Events: **Michael Cutajar**

Support Officer: **Jennifer Scicluna**

Librarian: **Matthew Fenech**

Administrative  
Assistant: **Maria Spiteri Zahra**

Development &  
Education Officer: **Hilda Curmi**



## CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA CONCERT

WAYNE MARSHALL Conductor

**23 December 2023**

The Malta Fairs & Conventions Centre

Ta' Qali, at 8:00pm

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

BOOKING: [www.showshappening.com](http://www.showshappening.com)



## MARCELLINE AGIUS

Violin

Marcelline started studying violin under her uncle Joseph Galea, sub-principal of the Manoel Theatre Orchestra. She furthered her studies under Guido Mamo, Mario Bisazza, Joachim Atanassov, and participated in masterclasses with Ursula Gorniak and Richard Deacon (UK).

In 1984, Marcelline joined the Orchestra under Mro J. Sammut, and in 1993 was appointed Concertmaster, a position she still presently holds. In 2006, she performed in Paris, with the World Philharmonic Orchestra. She toured leading the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, performing in Europe, Russia, China, and the United States of America. Marcelline is also a member of the Valletta Baroque Ensemble and attended Baroque masterclasses in Malta and Marnaves (France).

Apart from performing and recording orchestral repertoire, both in Malta and abroad, Marcelline is a very active chamber musician and soloist. Marcelline is also the leader of the MPO.



## ROBERTA ATTARD

Violin

Roberta Attard started her violin studies at the age of seven, obtaining her performance diplomas under the tutelage of Mario Bisazza. After graduating with honours in Music from the University of Malta she furthered her studies in the UK, participating in violin courses and masterclasses.

Roberta was chosen twice to represent Malta with the Orchestre des Jeunes de la Méditerranée (France). An active chamber and orchestral musician, Roberta has performed extensively both locally and around the world.

She currently holds the post of violinist with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and violin tutor at the Malta School of Music. In 2012 and 2015, she featured as soloist with the MPO.





## **ORINETTA BEAUMER**

**Viola**

Orietta Beaumer started her musical studies on the violin at an early age. She formed part of the Manoel Theatre Orchestra and concurrently she was attending intensive Masterclasses with international tutors at the Conservatoire Regional de Lyon. Eventually, Orietta moved to South of France where she read a degree in Viola Performance at the same Conservatoire de Lyon where she graduated with full honours and won the coveted price, “Medaille d’Or a’ l’Uninamite’ avec Felicitations du Jury”, in both Viola and Chamber Music Performance

For many years, Orietta forms part of the Orchestra National de Montpellier, the Orchestra National Avignon-Provence and for these last 10 years, she is also a member of the Orchestra de Chamber des Cevennes. Orietta has been joining the MPO on tours and playing with the viola section on special concerts as a guest artist.



## **FRANK CAMILLERI**

**Cello**

Frank Camilleri started studying cello under the tutorship of Mro Valeriu Popovici, later continuing his studies with cellist Simon Abdilla Joslin. He attended several masterclasses both locally and abroad, including classes with distinguished cellist Enrico Dindo. He has performed with several orchestras in Malta and abroad, including the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, European Union Chamber Orchestra, and Mediterranean Orchestra, amongst others. Frank also performs with the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble (VIBE) and has also performed as soloist in various recitals and also forms part of the Cordia String Quartet.

In 2006 Frank joined the Orchestra as full-time cellist and currently he also forms part of the MPO String Quartet. In 2020, together with MPO Harpist Britt Arend and Soprano Gillian Zammit, he recorded “Kantilena” for Parma Recordings.



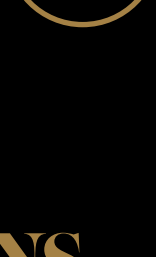
## **MICHELLE AGIUS**

**Double Bass**

Michelle Agius is currently the Sub-Leader Double Bass of the MPO. She started her music studies aged 8 with pianoforte and cello lessons, eventually taking up the double bass at the Johann Strauss School of Music. She continued her studies at the University of Malta where she read for a Bachelor’s in Music Studies and then obtained a Masters in Music Performance on the Double Bass.

Michelle played and performed with many local and international ensembles both in Malta and abroad and took part in numerous masterclasses with internationally renowned double bass players.

Michelle is the managing director and co-founder of Malta International Double Bass Festival. Being a fully qualified teacher of Music, she also organises and coordinates educational music appreciation projects for young children in primary schools.



## **MPO MUSICIANS**

Marcelline Agius

Roberta Attard

Orietta Beaumer

Frank Camilleri

Michelle Agius

*Violin*

*Violin*

*Viola*

*Cello*

*Double Bass*



# MPO CHAMBER SERIES #1

MPO MUSICIANS

Sunday, 07 January 2024

Robert Samut Hall, Floriana at 11.00am

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

BOOKING: [www.showshappening.com](http://www.showshappening.com)

## THANK YOU

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.



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
MINISTRY FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE,  
THE ARTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



We are grateful for the support of the following cultural entities, corporate sponsors and individual supporters, which help us reach further and touch more lives than we ever could on our own.

### MPO Principal Partner



### MPO Corporate Sponsors



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

Follow us on

