



Riccardo Bianchi

Artistic Director & Chorus Master



Welcome to the new season of KorMalta - Malta National Choir

It is an immense pleasure to present this season, which flourishes after a challenging period for everyone.

I would like to briefly underline the most characteristic features of this season, and mark some important news.

This year we have organised choir artist auditions, receiving 63 applications from Malta and abroad, a truly encouraging response.

On the local level, we are proud to have received renewed trust from the choir artists who have worked with us over the years and agreed to audition again, a process that marks the will to grow with ever greater professional involvement.

On the international level, we have selected some choristers from abroad, a testament to the fact that KorMalta is seen with interest even overseas.

In general, through its National Choir, Malta is professionally recognising its talents, a process which is still in its embryonic phase, but which must absolutely grow in the future. There are great professionals in the musical field that with the further growth offered by KorMalta could find a fair recognition of their acquired skills.

Another important reality in this regard is the introduction of a Program of Voice Leaders in

our choir. We are proud that the choir works with professionals in the field in the most technical aspects of vocality, so as to be able to work with specificity of sound on each type of repertoire.

The season we present is the result of an intense activity of the artistic team and the working committee. The most important result achieved for the choir is that every concert for this season will be a collaboration with another body or artistic institution. On this point, I would like to put a strong emphasis, since it is the practical demonstration that the choir is a cultural infrastructure that meets the interest of different partners and therefore of different sectors of society.

This is what a choir must be: an organism of cultural representation and an artistic infrastructure that is useful for everyone. Given these premises, our program is naturally based on three fundamental pillars: Education, Internationalisation, and Community. The ground on which these pillars rest is the professional and professionalising approach that leads the choir to be able to sustain a varied season in which all types of choral repertoire are faced.

With all our strength we wish to contribute to nourishing the cultural and spiritual progress of the nation.

Eniov the Music.



"Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest." (G. Faure)

KorMalta, in collaboration with the Malta International Organ Festival, presents this choral masterpiece in its string orchestra version, without violin, organ and harp.



DATE 20 NOVEMBER 2021

TIME 8.00PM

VENUE ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH, VALLETTA

Genre & year of composition

Romantic period, 1889

Formation

Version for Chamber Orchestra, Choir (SATB)

Soloists

Soprano, Baritone, Organ

Conductor

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

Malta International Organ Festival





On the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the death of the "Divine Poet", KorMalta presents an allegorical musical journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise.

The Choir will sing from the choral repertoire pieces that directly use Dante's lyrics while declaiming the original verses of the comedy. An experimental project, the Dante Project is a crossover of musical genres and art forms.



DATE 26 NOVEMBER 2021

TIME 8.00PM

VENUE SPAZJU KREATTIV, STUDIO B,

VALLETTA

Genre

A Cappella, from renaissance to contemporary

Formation

A Cappella

Soloists

Baroque Guitar & Baritone: Albert Buttigieg

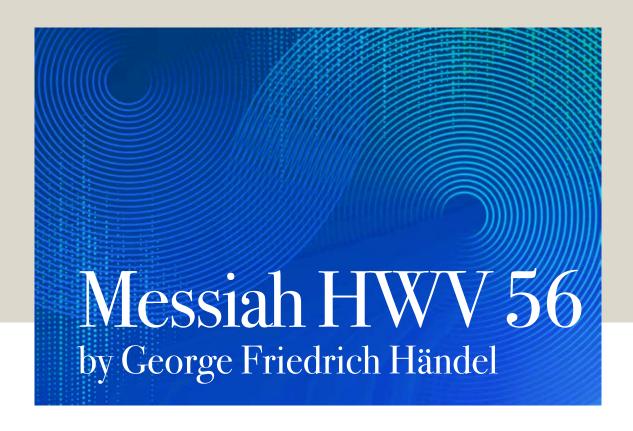
Conductor

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

Spazju Kreattiv





KorMalta is proud to return to the prestigious Valletta International Baroque Festival. At the direction of the orchestral and choral team, we will have one of the most renowned experts of the English Baroque repertoire, for a production that promises to deliver an accurate and exciting performance.



DATE 18 JANUARY 2022

TIME To be confirmed

VENUE ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL, VALLETTA

Genre & year of composition

Baroque, 1741

Formation

Orchestra, Choir (SATB) and continuo

Soloists

Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass

Conductor

Christian Curnyn

In collaboration with

Valletta International Baroque Festival, Valletta International Baroque Ensemble







The Birthday of King Oberon A Musical Fantasy based on THE FAIRY QUEEN by Henry Purcell

KorMalta will embark on an interesting collaboration that marks the Choir's first steps in the world of motion picture industry, through The Musical Fantasy, with the working title The Birth of King Oberon, written by Lydia Steier.



DATE & TIME

FEBRUARY & MARCH: To be confirmed

VARIOUS VENUES

To be confirmed

Genre

Movie Soundtrack

Formation

Choir (SATB)

Music Consultant

Jorn Andersen

Chorus Master

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

LyRa Production Limited

Membra Jesu Nostri Bux W V 75 by Dieterich Buxtehude

KorMalta will perform Dietrich Buxtehude's Membra Jesu Nostri Patientis Sanctissima ("The Most Holy Limbs of Our Suffering Jesus") accompanied by the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble. The piece is a contemplation of seven parts of Christ's crucified body: his pierced feet, bent knees, bleeding hands, wounded side, revered breast, loving heart, and thorn crowned face. Combining vivid texts with intensely expressive music, they were, according to the title page, a personal act of piety where pain is felt through sounds, moments of total peace and abandonment.



DATE 25 MARCH 2022

TIME 8.00PM

VENUE SPAZJU KREATTIV, VALLETTA

Genre & year of composition

Early Baroque, 1680

Formation

Orchestral Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble (SSATB) and continuo

Soloists

Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto, Tenor, Bass

Conductor

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

Spazju Kreattiv,

Valletta International Baroque Ensemble





Membra Jesu Nostri BuxWV 75 by Dieterich Buxtehude

On the occasion of the second performance of the famous oratorio of Buxtehude, KorMalta proposes a complete performance with a choral team of 15 elements, 5 soloists, and a complete baroque orchestra. At the end of the performance will be available to the public as an exhibition, the works of seven artists who have worked on the seven corresponding parts of the body, for a crossover and a synergy between different forms of art.



DATE 2 APRIL 2022

TIME 8.00PM

VENUE MDINA CATHEDRAL

Genre & year of composition

Early Baroque, 1680

Formation

Chamber Orchestra: 2 Violins, Violas, "Viole da gamba", Lute, Chamber Choir (SSATB) and continuo

Soloists

Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto, Tenor, Bass

Conductor

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

Mdina Cathedral, Valletta International Baroque Ensemble







A refined programme of 20th century vocal music from the Mediterranean basin; Italy, Spain, Greece and Malta.

Half the repertoire is based on poetry by Gabriele D'Annunzio, Saffo and Federico Garcia Lorca set by Pizetti, Castelnuovo Tesco and Clausetti, while the second consists of adaptations from Luciano Berio's acclaimed Folk Songs and rearrangements from Andrew Alamango's Malta's Lost Voices project by Karl Fiorini.



DATE 19 APRIL 2022

TIME 8.00PM

VENUE ST PAUL'S PRO CATHEDRAL

ANGLICAN CHURCH, VALLETTA

Genre & year of composition

A Cappella, Historical twentieth century

Formation

Mixed Choir (SATTBB)

Soloists

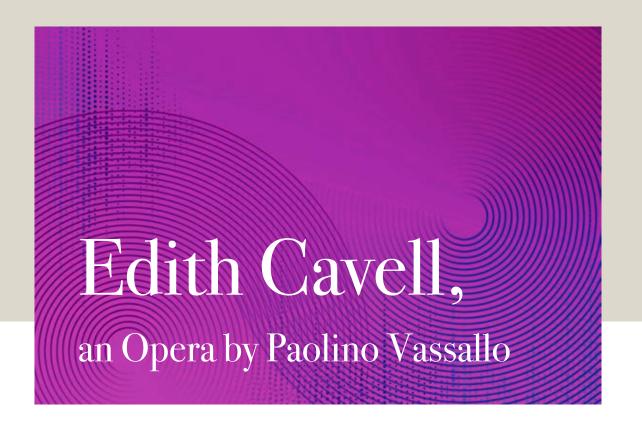
Flamenco Guitar, Soprano, Tenor

Conductor

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

International Spring Orchestra Festival



KorMalta is proudly involved in this local high quality opera production of Paolino Vassallo's "Edith Cavell". This is a masterpiece featuring the choir as an important dramaturgical character in the participative collaboration of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.



DATE 14 MAY 2022

TIME To be confirmed

VENUE PJAZZA TEATRU RJAL, VALLETTA

Genre & year of composition

Opera, first performance 1927

Formation

Symphonic Orchestra, Soloists, Choir

Soloists

Opera Cast

Conductor

Dario Salvi

In collaboration with

Pjazza Teatru Rjal, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra







Music and food have always had a very close relationship, not only for the most obvious association of banquet music, but also for the most refined sense of musical composition that can be compared to the creation of a haute cuisine menu. This double relationship has been investigated over the centuries, and KorMalta would like to recreate this synergy, using historical recipes combined with music of the period, offering the public music and food for a certainly tasty evening.



DATE 27 MAY 2022

TIME To be confirmed

VENUE SPAZJU KREATTIV, VALLETTA

Genre

Multidisciplinary

Formation

Vocal Ensemblle (SAATB)

Conductor

Riccardo Bianchi

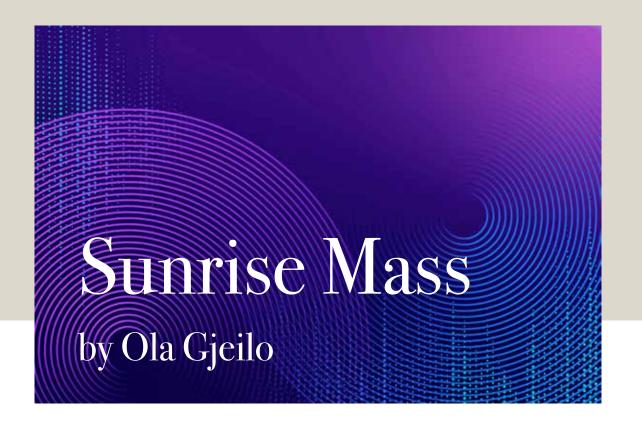
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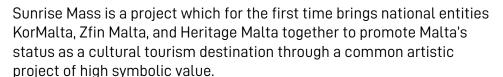
Spazju Kreattiv,

Valletta International Baroque Ensemble









Ola Gjeilo's renowned Sunrise Mass for chorus and string orchestra is an exceptionally light and moving piece; it conveys the composer's modern and original take on the centuries-old tradition of sacred music. The event will take place at dawn at the Mnejdra Temple during the summer solstice.



DATE 18, 19 JUNE 2022

TIME 5.20AM

VENUE MNAJDRA TEMPLES, QRENDI

Genre & year of composition

Symphonic, Multidisciplinary, Contemporary, 2007

Formation

String Orchestra, mixed Choir (SSAATTBB)

Conductor

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with ŻfinMalta, Heritage Malta, Malta International Arts Festival Festivals Malta











Another important initiative on the sides of education and internationalisation, KorMalta will be the workshop choir for young international choir directors for an intense week of study with an international Maestro for a Masterclass of High Specialization.



DATE & TIME

JULY: To be confirmed

VENUE MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI COLLEGE,

MALTA SCHOOL OF MUSIC, HAMRUN

Formation

20 choristers

In collaboration with

ECA - European Choral Association



