



VALLETTA BAROQUE FESTIVAL

11th - 28th January 2024



Since its launch in 2013, the Valletta Baroque Festival has treated audiences to a unique event featuring some of the best soloists and ensembles in the baroque music scene. Spanning over three weeks, the festival offers a quintessential experience of all that is Baroque as it takes place in exquisite venues such as St John's Co-Cathedral, The Verdala Palace, Palazzo Parisio, and Teatru Manoel to name a few. These venues are authentic Baroque spaces adorned with lavish decor, sculptures and paintings that are typical of this period. Organised by Festivals Malta every January, under the artistic direction of Kenneth Zammit Tabona, the festival highlights the enormous versatility of the baroque idiom and its mass appeal. Above all the festival's strength lies in the wonderful baroque settings that one finds in Valletta and the Maltese archipelago; a precious legacy that each and every one of us Maltese treasure.

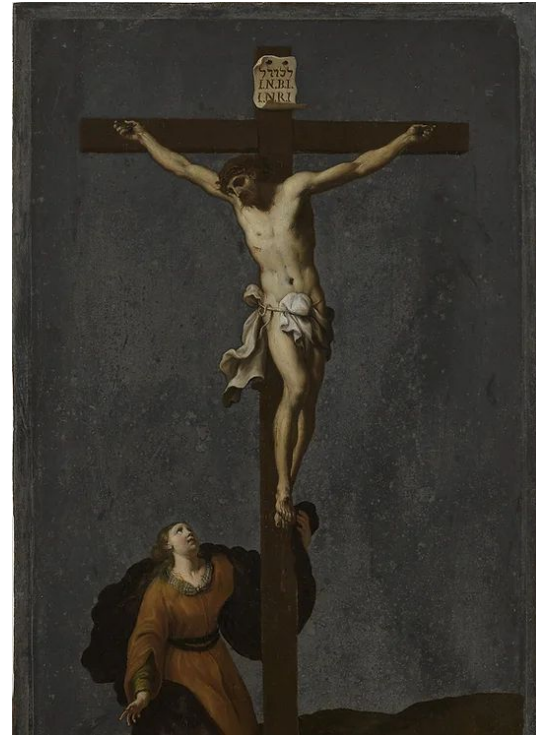
ST JOHN'S PASSION BY JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

To celebrate the tricentennial of Johann Sebastian Bach's St John Passion the festival has commissioned Kor Malta, the Valletta Baroque Ensemble and various top local soloists to perform this iconic work at the sumptuous St John's Co-Cathedral.

Venue: St John's Co-Cathedral

Date: Thursday, 11th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



DREAMS, NIGHTMARES, MADNESS, THE CHARM OF DISORDER IN MUSIC

Experience a range of emotions, from dreams and nightmares to madness, in works by Vivaldi, Mozart, and more. It is known that music from the late baroque period mostly is about human feelings, the so-called “affects”. It often evokes joy, sadness, anger or melancholy, together with many other nuances.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Friday, 12th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



SILK BAROQUE

The programme features a captivating blend of traditional and contemporary pieces, showcasing the ensemble's innovative and surprising approach to Baroque music. With Wu Wei on traditional Chinese sheng and a brilliant lineup of musicians.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Saturday, 13th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



HENRY PURCELL - KING ARTHUR

King Arthur and his associate Merlin have caused much ink to flow, but under the pen of John Dryden and with the music of Henry Purcell their story takes an entirely new turn. The text retraces the chapter in British history in which the Saxons, seeking to reconquer their territory, attack the Britons on St George's Day.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Sunday, 14th January at 18:00

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



SALVE REGINA

Salve Regina is a tribute to the sacred music inspired by the Virgin Mary and includes compositions by some of the greatest composers of the Baroque period: George Frideric Handel, Nicola Porpora, and Leonardo Leo.

Venue: St Catherine's Church

Date: Tuesday, 16th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



TOCCATA AND FANTASIA

The Toccata and Fantasia are ancient musical forms in the keyboard repertoire, originating from the Renaissance and persisting to the present day. Great composers such as Merulo, Gabrieli, Picchi, Byrd, Frescobaldi, Rossi, Froberger and Buxtehude contributed to the development and refinement of these musical forms, which then reached their maximum splendour in the mature Baroque with Johann Sebastian Bach.

Venue: Verdala Palace

Date: Wednesday, 17th January at 12:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



GOLDBERG VARIATIONS ON WIND INSTRUMENTS

Bach's Goldberg's Variations have been transcribed for an enormous variety of instruments, which render the original work even more fascinating. The Valletta Baroque Festival commissioned a transcription of the Goldbergs for eight wind instruments and harp by principal MPO oboist John McDonough.

Venue: Casino Maltese

Date: Wednesday, 17th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



BACK WELL-TEMPERED CLAVIER - BOOK 1

Bach's Well-tempered Clavier is considered a fundamental piece in the keyboard repertoire. Composed throughout Bach's lifetime, the two books each consist of twenty four preludes and fugues. This version will be performed on modern piano.

Venue: San Anton Palace

Date: Thursday, 18th January at 12:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



BACH KEYBOARD CONCERTOS 1

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra joins forces with some of Malta's top concert pianists, performing Bach Keyboard Concertos no. 1 BWV1052, no. 2 BWV1053, and the Double Concerto BWV1062.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Thursday, 18th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



PICKING FLOWERS IN THE RECORDER'S GARDEN OF DELIGHTS

From mediaeval to our modern times, music has become increasingly complex and multi-layered. Nevertheless, throughout the ages there have always been composers and performers who have continued to believe in the power of monophony.

Venue: Maritime Museum

Date: Friday, 19th January at 12:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



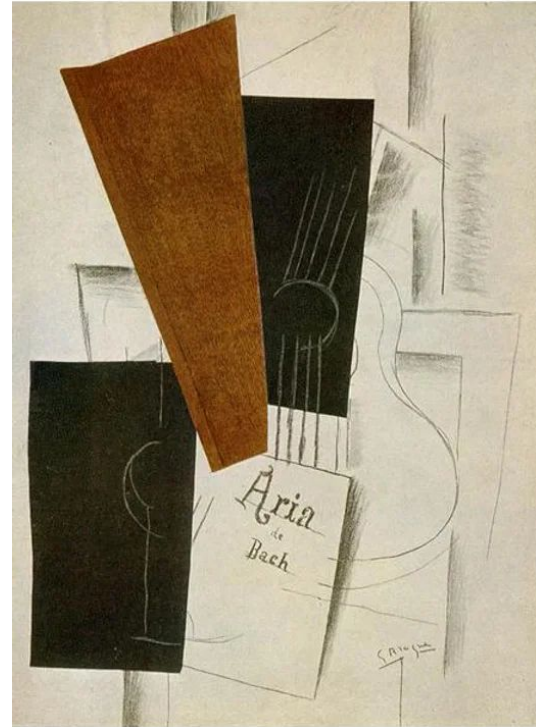
BACH KEYBOARD CONCERTOS 2

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra joins forces with some of Malta's top concert pianists, performing Bach Keyboard Concertos no. 3 BWV1054, no. 4 BWV1055, no. 5 BWV 1056 and Double Concerto BWV1061.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Friday, 19th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



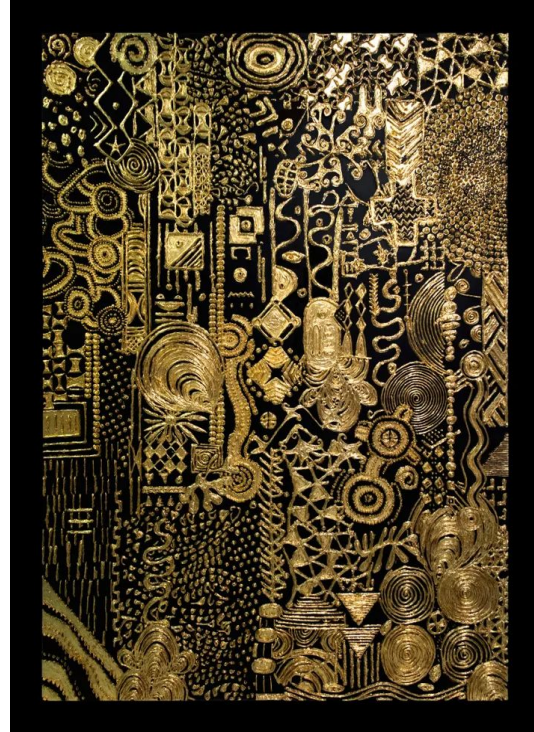
AURUM VARIATIONS - 998

Bach's Goldberg Variations are an immovable force in both the harpsichord and piano canon. This version pays respect to its Baroque roots while unleashing newfangledness upon it with newly-composed variations by composers, Houtkamp, Armitage, and Bosgraaf.

Venue: Maritime Museum

Date: Saturday, 20th January at 12:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



BACH KEYBOARD CONCERTOS 3

The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra joins forces with some of Malta's top concert pianists, performing Bach Keyboard Concertos no. 6 BWV1057, no. 7 BWV1058, and Double Concert BWV1060.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Saturday, 20th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



ROMA 1635 - 1716

Local organist John Aquilina will be performing a solo recital on the 17th century Santucci Organ featuring Girolamo Frescobaldi's "Fiori Musicali," Op. 12 (1635) and Domenico Zipoli's "Sonate d'Intavolatura per Organo e Cimbalo," Op. 1 (1716).

Venue: Our Lady of Victories Church

Date: Sunday, 21st January at 12:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



THE ART OF SONG - WHEN BAROQUE MEETS JAZZ

The Art of Song project explores an eclectic repertoire of erudite and popular composers of different generations and backgrounds through a collection of albums. The first volume, *The Art of Song - When Baroque Meets Jazz*, synthesises the confluence of musical genres, exploring the link between Baroque and Jazz.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Tuesday, 23rd January at 12:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



SAN GIOVANNI BATTISTA 1

The Valletta Baroque Ensemble and Malta's national choir Kor Malta perform Alessandro Stradella's oratorio San Giovanni Battista in the oratory of St John's Co-Cathedral under Caravaggio's iconic Beheading of St. John the Baptist, which is the artist's largest and only signed masterpiece.

Venue: St John's Co-Cathedral

Date: Monday, 22nd January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



SAN GIOVANNI BATTISTA 2

The Valletta Baroque Ensemble and Malta's national choir Kor Malta perform Alessandro Stradella's oratorio San Giovanni Battista in the oratory of St John's Co-Cathedral under Caravaggio's iconic Beheading of St. John the Baptist, which is the artist's largest and only signed masterpiece.

Venue: St John's Co-Cathedral

Date: Tuesday, 23rd January at 17:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



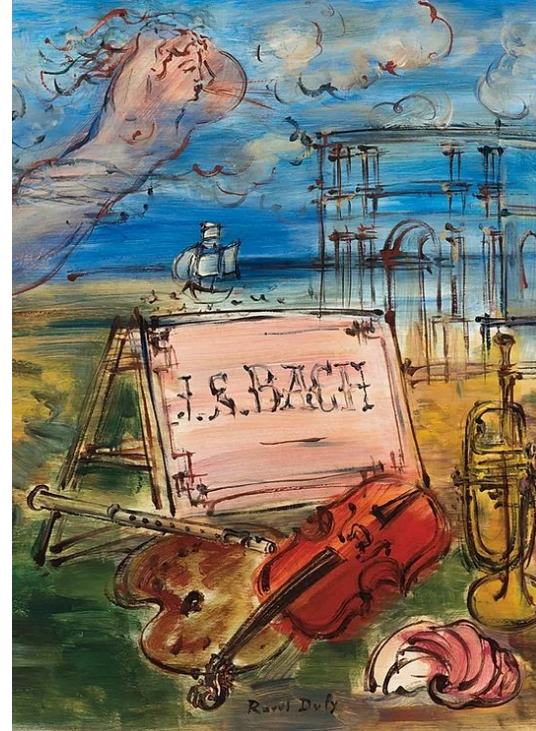
BACH CELLO SUITES & MORE 1

The first of this two-part concert features French cellist Sébastien Hurtaud, performing Bach 1st, 3rd and 4th Cello suites along with arrangements that he has created : . Bach's Goldberg Variation no. 25 and the Lute Partita in C minor.

Venue: Verdala Palace

Date: Wednesday, 24th January at 12:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



FERANDULA CASTIZA

Forma Antiqua, an ensemble made up of a trio of brothers, Daniel, Aaron and Pablo Zapico is set to perform a concert featuring a variety of music from the mid-18th century in Madrid. The programme will include works by renowned composers such as José de Nebra, Bernardo Álvarez Acero, and Santiago de Murcia, among others.

Venue: The Malta Chamber

Date: Wednesday, 24th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



GOLDBERG VARIATIONS ON VIOLIN

Join Jorge Jiménez as he reimagines Bach's Goldberg Variations for solo violin in this groundbreaking arrangement. The complexity of the original piece is such that Jiménez had to recompose it to fit the violin. This unique transcription is the culmination of a two-year long project that has toured Poland, Spain, and the UK.

Venue: National Library

Date: Thursday, 25th January at 12:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



SOUS LE SOLIEL EXACTEMENT

Les Contre-Sujets present an eclectic programme featuring works by Lully, Ravel, Couperin, Boismortier and Philidor. This programme was designed as a quest to find and feel this French music spirit through the ages. From folk songs to flute sonatas, this performance promises to be a captivating musical experience.

Venue: Chamber of Commerce

Date: Thursday, 25th January at 19:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



BACH CELLO SUITES & MORE 2

The second of this two-part concert features French cellist Sébastien Hurtaud, performing the Bach 2nd, 5th and 6th cello suites along with arrangements that he has created including arrangements of St Matthew Passion - Aria; Erbarme Dich, Flute Sarabande from Partita in A minor and Violin Partita No. 3 in E major.

Venue: Verdala Palace

Date: Friday, 26th January at 11:00

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



REDISCOVERING ABOS

The Abos Project and Consort will be performing Music by Girolamo Abos. Abos was a Maltese-Italian composer of operas and church music, and studied under Leonardo Leo and Francesco Durante in Naples.

Venue: Tarxien Parish Church

Date: Friday, 26th January at 19:00

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



MUSIC BY BACH, VIVALDI, PIAZZOLLA AND HARB

"The Unlimited Guitar" is the title of a programme of classical arrangements by Tariq Harb consisting of music by Bach, Vivaldi, Piazzolla, and even his own original compositions. In this programme, Harb displays the guitar's versatility, polyphonic capabilities, and its adaptive musical nature.

Venue: Jesuits Church

Date: Saturday, 27th January at 12:30

Duration: Approximately 1 hour



LE TRIOMPHE DE L'AMOUR - FRENCH LOVE SONGS

A captivating musical journey with 'Le triomphe de l'amour,' a harmonious blend of Lully, Rameau, Lambert, Debussy, and Poulenc. Explore the essence of love through enchanting sung poetry accompanied by mesmerising piano.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Saturday, 27th January at 17:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours



BAROCK

The Valletta Baroque Festival will see the return of The Rock Troupers, accompanied by ProMuzika Ensemble, with a fusion of rock and baroque classics. Their performance will include re-works of iconic pieces from Bach to Jon Lord and from Vivaldi to Pink Floyd, promising an explosive and innovative musical experience.

Venue: Manoel Theatre

Date: Saturday, 27th January at 20:30

Duration: Approximately 2 hours

