

Beirut Chants Festival

The Music Despite



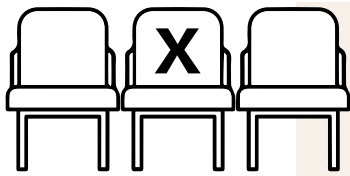
Season 14

1 — 23 DECEMBER, 2021

FREE ENTRANCE / LIVE STREAM

SAFETY MEASURES

Beirut Chants Festival's audience safety is our top priority. Exceptional times call for exceptional measures.



We are asking our audience to get their free tickets from ticketingboxoffice.com to ensure proper social distancing in the venues. Seats are limited and tickets can be obtained 3 days prior to each concert



Masks are mandatory and a proof of vaccination is required to attend the concerts



To limit contact, no brochures or daily programs will be printed this year, we ask our audience to refer to our website for detailed information about Beirut Chants Season 14.

All concerts will be broadcasted on facebook live for people to enjoy the music from their homes

Wednesday 1**Grand Opening**

Giorgio Berruggi, Tenor

Fabio Centanni, Piano

St. Joseph Church | Monot | 20:00

In collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the Italian Cultural Institute

Thursday 2**Abeer Nehmé**

Beirut Souks | Downtown | 20:00

Friday 3

Micaela Mingheras, Soprano

Michel Bou Rjeili, Countertenor

Antonel Boldan, Tenor

Denis Dubois, Piano

Ondin Brezeanu, Violin

St. Maron Church | Gemmayze | 20:00

Saturday 4**Opera Gala Concert**

Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra

Jack Swanson, Tenor

Richard Tucker Career Grant Winner 2018

Toufic Maatouk, Conductor

Assembly Hall | AUB | 20:00

In collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America

Sunday 5**The Jazz Groove**

Arthur Satyan Trio

Arthur Satyan, Piano

Khachatur Savzyan, Double bass

Fouad Afra, Drums

Beirut Souks | Downtown | 20:00

Monday 6**Armenian Chords**

Kevork Kechichian, Flute, Duduk and Shvi

Aren Donerian, Piano

Kousan Chamber Choir

Krikor Alozian, Conductor

Shoghig Torossian, Soprano

Hasmik Kasbarian, Piano

Henry Ishkhanian, Piano

St. Elias & St. Gregory the Illuminator

(Armenian Catholic Cathedral) | 20:00

Tuesday 7**The Love of Beauty**

Philokalia Choir

Lena Farah, Solo artist

Fadi Khalil, Organ

S. Marana Saad, Conductor

St. George Maronite Cathedral | Downtown

20:00

Wednesday 8**Of Love and War**

Beatriz Blanco, Cello

First Prize at the Association Suisse des Musiciens

Federico Bosco, Piano

St. Joseph Church | Monot | 20:00

In collaboration with the Spanish Embassy

Thursday 9**Telemann and the Italians****Baroque Sonatas for Cello and Basso Continuo**

Jana Semaan, Baroque Cello

Anna Scholl, Harpsichord

St. Maron Church | Gemmayze | 20:00

In collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the Italian Cultural Institute

Friday 10**Beethoven's Second Symphony**

Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra

Ion Iosif Prunner, Conductor

Florin Estefan, Baritone

St. Joseph Church | Monot | 20:00

In collaboration with the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music and the Swedish Embassy

Saturday 11**Road Trip****Opera Oriental Fusion**

Bechara Moufarrej, Tenor

Beirut Souks | Downtown | 20:00

Sunday 12**Nativity**

St. Romanos the Melodist Choir of Beirut

Fr. Romanos Joubran, Conductor

St. George Orthodox Cathedral | Downtown

18:00

Clarinet Fantasies

Heidy Huwiler, Clarinet

Tomas Dratva, Piano

St. Elie Church | Kantari | 20:00

In collaboration with the Swiss Embassy

Monday 13**Goldberg Variations for Strings Trio | J.S.Bach**

Enrico Filippo Maligno, Violin

Riccardo Savinelli, Viola

Jacopo di Tonno, Cello
St. Maron Church | Gemmayze | 20:00
In collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the Italian Cultural Institute

Tuesday 14

Allahū Maāna

Ghada Shbeir
Elie Hardan, Piano
Naji Azar, Violin
Afif Merhej, Oud
Maria Makhoul, Qanoun
Maroun Abou Samra, Douff & Percussion
St. Elie Church | Kantari | 20:00

Wednesday 15

Les Divas de la Méditerranée

Farrah El Dibany, Mezzo-soprano
Prix lyrique de l'AROP
Mina Nabil Hanna, Piano
Beirut Souks | Downtown | 20:00

Thursday 16

The Traditional Byzantine Christmas

St. Stephanos the Melode Choir
Fr. Romanos Al Osta, Conductor
St. Sauveur Catholic Cathedral | 20:00

Friday 17

Great Mass in C minor | W. A. Mozart

Anna Maria Labin, Soprano
Caterina di Tonno, Soprano
Anicio Zorzi Giustiniani, Tenor
Cesar Naassy, Bass-baritone
Antonine University Choir
Notre-Dame University Choir
Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra
Toufic Maatouk, Conductor
St. Joseph Church | Monot | 20:00
In collaboration with the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music

Saturday 18

Sacred and Profane

Mira Akiki, Soprano
Olga El Kik, Soprano
Natasha Nassar, Mezzo-soprano
Charles Eid, Tenor
Fady Jeanbart, Baritone
Cesar Naassy, Bass-baritone
Vartan Agopian, Piano
St. Maron Church | Gemmayze | 20:00

Sunday 19

A Countertenor Christmas

Matteo El Khodr, Countertenor
Ensemble Barocca
Mario Rahi, Violin
Beirut Souks | Downtown | 20:00

Monday 20

Roy Hage, Tenor

59th Annual Grammy Awards 2017
First Prize in the WRTI 2017

Hélio Vida, Piano

St. Elie Church | Kantari | 20:00
In collaboration with the Brazilian Embassy

Tuesday 21

A Moving Brahms!

Jonathan Fournel, Piano
First Prize Queen Elisabeth Competition 2021
Assembly Hall | AUB | 20:00
En collaboration avec l'ambassade de France et l'Institut Français au Liban

Wednesday 22

Notre-Dame University Choir

Khalil Rahme, Conductor
St. George Maronite Cathedral | Downtown
20:00

Thursday 23

Closing

Guy Manoukian

Beirut Souks | Downtown | 20:00

GRAND OPENING

WEDNESDAY

01
DEC

GIORGIO BERRUGGI, Tenor
FABIO CENTANNI, Piano

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH | MONOT
8:00 PM

*In collaboration with the Italian Embassy
and the Italian Cultural Institute.*



GIORGIO BERRUGGI

Nominated by Placido Domingo as one of his heirs, Giorgio Berrugi is one of the most appreciated tenors of today for his unmistakable, warm Italian sound, his exceptional musicality and the expressive nuances of his interpretations.

Berrugi has performed in the most important opera houses, auditoriums and music festivals such as the Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera House in London, Lincoln Center in New York, Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Opéra Bastille, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Deutsche Oper in Berlin, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Gewandhaus in Leipzig, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Wigmore Hall in London, Parco della Musica in Rome and Arena di Verona. He has worked with great conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Christian Thielemann, Fabio Luisi, Andriss Nelsons, Gustavo Dudamel, Daniel Oren, Gianandrea Noseda, Pinchas Steinberg, Nicola Luisotti,



Myung-Whun Chung, Manfred Honeck, Roberto Abbado and Jaap van Zweden.

Recent engagements have included Macbeth at Festival Verdi in Parma, the house debut at Gran Teatre del Liceu in La Bohème, Ernani at Teatro Massimo in Palermo, Madama Butterfly at Opéra National de Paris, La Traviata at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, La Damnation de Faust at Oper Frankfurt, Tosca at Opera di Roma, Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with the Wiener Philharmoniker, L'Elisir d'Amore and La Bohème of the 120th Anniversary at Teatro Regio in Turin, La Bohème in Naples, at the Royal Opera House in Muscat in tour with

Opéra de Monte-Carlo and in concert in Seoul with the KBS Symphony Orchestra, Simon Boccanegra at Teatro alla Scala in Milan and at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Roméo et Juliette at Arena di Verona, Un Ballo in Maschera at Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari and at the Bolshoi in Moscow, Der Rosenkavalier at the Royal Opera House in London and performances as a soloist in Verdi's Requiem at Festival Verdi in Parma, in New York with the London Symphony Orchestra, in Milan with Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala, at Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, in Rome for Accademia di Santa Cecilia, in Lucerne, Hong Kong, Manchester, Dallas, Valencia and Riga. Before becoming a singer, Berrugi graduated with honors in clarinet. He won major international awards both as a soloist and in chamber music and was the first clarinet of the Orchestra Sinfonica di Roma for five years. He began his vocal studies in 2007 and after a few months he debuted as Rodolfo in La Bohème at Teatro La Fenice in Venice. From 2010 to 2013 he was a member of the ensemble of Dresden Semperoper, where he performed many important roles such as Don José in Carmen, Riccardo in Un Ballo in Maschera, Mario Cavaradossi in Tosca, Nemorino in L'Elisir d'Amore, the Duke of Mantua in



Rigoletto and Gennarino in the world première of Gisela, the last opera written by Hans Werner Henze.

His plans in the 2020/21 season include Il Corsaro at Opéra de Monte-Carlo, Eine florentinische Tragödie at ABAO Olbe Bilbao, Lucia di Lammermoor at Teatro Pavarotti in Modena, Madama Butterfly at Staatsoper Stuttgart, Tosca at Teatro Regio di Torino and at Greek National Opera.

FABIO CENTANNI

Fabio Centanni is one of the internationally most sought after collaborative pianists in Italian Opera and Instrumental music.

Since 2006 he has closely collaborated alongside with Renata Scotto at the Opera Studio of Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia where he has performed in numerous concerts at the Auditorium Parco della Musica as well as internationally supported by the Italian Embassy. Mr. Centanni served as Korrepetitor for the International Opernstudio in Zurich, Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Dusseldorf, Orchestra Sinfonica di Savona, Grand Théâtre de Genève. For Radio3 Programm "La Barcaccia" he accompanied Raina Kabaivanska, Katia Ricciarelli, Daniela Dessì, Fabio Armiliato, Amarilli Nizza, and Roberto de Candia. In 2008 he served as accompanist for Natalie Dessay while preparing La Traviata with Renata Scotto. He held Masterclasses at the "Estudio Voce" School in Rio de Janeiro (5 times, 2011-2013), at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Beyrouth, Lebanon (November 2013, February 2014) and at the Conservatorio of Verona organized by the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

From January 2013 he is the pianist of Bernadette Manca di Nissa at the Conservatorio "G. P. da Palestrina" in Cagliari.

His expertise is not limited to opera but encompasses a wide-variety of instrumental and chamber music. Mr. Centanni regularly works with leading performers and experts in instrumental music at Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia including Jacques Mauger (trombone), Carlo Tamponi (flute), Gabriele Cassone

(trumpet), Guido Corti (horn), Andrea Lucchi (trumpet), Giovanni Bossone (fagott), Andrea Oliva (flute) and once at the Museum of Musical Instruments in Rome with Illya Grubert (violin).

Mr. Centanni received his Bachelor of Music with full honors from Santa Cecilia Conservatorio and both Specialization in Chamber Music and Piano from Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome. His Post-Graduate Studies include the course of musical interpretation at Accademia Chigiana, Accademia "Incontri col Maestro" in Imola, Sommerakademie "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, and participation in the Master Class with Pavel Gliliov at Accademia Musicale Pescarese.

Recognition and honors include the First Prize Winner the 2nd Concorso di Terzo d' Acqui (Alessandria) and 10th Concorso pianistico "Città di Velletri", Third Prize winner of Città di Sulmona" and the Critics' Prize in the 38th Concorso pianistico "A.Speranza".

Recent engagements as a collaborative pianist include the International Festival in Verbier (CH) from July 2009 until July 2012 where he accompanied Opera Masterclasses held by Claudio Desderi (2009), and Nelly Miricioiu (2010), the International Violin Competition "Città di Brescia" in October 2010, the International Violin Competition "A. Postacchini" in May 2012, in May 2013 and in June 2014 .

2011-2012 he was the pianist of Sonig Tchakerian in her Master Course in Violin held at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia.

ABEER NEHME

THURSDAY

02
DEC

BEIRUT SOUKS | DOWNTOWN
8:00 PM

Special thanks to Camile and Rhona Saba

Abeer Nehme is a Lebanese renowned International Crossover Singer and composer possessing one of the most influential voices in the Arab world with exceptional vocal talents. She is known for her ability to perform a diversity of music genres and dialogues. Abeer is considered the first Arabic singer and one of the few worldwide to perform in more than twenty-nine languages. That makes her the emissary of cultural and musical dialogue in the region.

Over the past few years, Abeer Nehme has performed at the most prestigious music venues worldwide and the most prominent international festivals. She's also the creator, researcher, television presenter, and producer of music documentaries, such as *Ethnopholia Mousiqat-I-Shou'oub* -a series of forty documentaries featuring Abeer's unique capacity to sing in various languages. She traveled for many years around the globe looking for the roots of folk and ethnic music by observing and participating in the cultural traditions of different groups, which positions her as a messenger of a civilizational, cultural, and artistic dialogue that transcends all boundaries. Abeer played the leading role in many musicals in Lebanon and abroad. She has been honored with several international awards and recognitions. Abeer Nehme is the first artist from the Middle East to sign up for a record deal with Universal Music MENA since February 2018.



FRIDAY

03
DEC

MICAELA MINGHERAS

Soprano

MICHEL BOU RJEILI, Countertenor

ANTONEL BOLDAN, Tenor

DENIS DUBOIS, Piano

ONDIN BREZEAU, Violin

ST. MARON CHURCH

GEMMAYZE

8:00 PM

MICAELA MINGHERAS

Née en Roumanie dans une famille de musiciens, Micaela Mingheras se consacre d'abord à l'étude du piano, avant d'entrer au Conservatoire National Supérieur de Bucarest dans la classe de chant de Madame Arta Floresco.

Après avoir obtenu le premier prix, Micaela Mingheras est engagée comme soliste à l'Opéra de Galati où elle débute dans le rôle de Gilda dans Rigoletto. Elle y chante aussi les rôles de Despina dans *Così fan tutte*, de Lauretta dans *Gianni Schicchi*, de Musetta dans *La Bohème*. Elle continue avec Pamina dans *La Flûte Enchantée*, Xenia dans *Boris Godounov* et Adèle dans *La Chauve-Souris*. Elle est également invitée à Timisoara, à Cluj et à l'Opéra de Bucarest avec Sophie dans *Werther* et Gilda dans *Rigoletto*.

Finaliste au Concours International de Chant de Toulouse (France) et du Belvédère (Vienne – Autriche), Micaela Mingheras a bénéficié d'une bourse de perfectionnement de la Fondation France Telecom à Londres auprès de Mesdames Vera Rozsa et Ileana Cotrubas.

Installée en France, elle passe le concours de l'Opéra de Paris et est engagée comme première soprano dans les chœurs, qu'elle quitte au bout de quatre ans pour continuer sa

carrière lyrique. Elle chante notamment à l'Opéra-Comique, au théâtre du Châtelet, à l'Opéra de Bordeaux, Montpellier, Avignon, Rouen, Dijon, Nantes, Compiègne sous la direction de Richard Bradshaw, Guy Condette, Cyril Diederich, Laurence Foster, Alain Lombard, Friedrich Pleyer, Michelangelo Veltri aux côtés de Paata Burchuladze, Giovanna Casolla, Margarita Castro-Alberty, Gregory Kunde, Leontina Vaduva et Giogo Zancanaro. Elle interprète en particulier Susanna dans *Les Noces de Figaro*, Zerlina dans *Don Giovanni*, Papagena et Pamina dans *La Flûte Enchantée*,



Poussette et Javotte dans Manon, l'Amour dans Orphée et Eurydice, Susanna dans Khovantchina, Siebel et Marguerite dans Faust, Tebaldo dans Don Carlo, la quatrième servante dans Elektra, Nelly dans Le Songe d'une Nuit d'Été, et, Micaela dans Carmen.

Micaela Mingheras poursuit une intense activité de concertiste, se produisant régulièrement en Europe: Requiem, Messe du Couronnement et Messe en Ut de Mozart, Magnificat, Messe en si et Passion selon Saint Jean de Bach, Magnificat et Gloria de Vivaldi, Le Messie de Haendel, Stabat Mater de Pergolesi, Te Deum de Dvorak, Il Tramonto de Respighi, Requiem de Rutter, Requiem allemand de Brahms, Les Saisons de Haydn, La Dame de Monte Carlo de Poulenc, Egmont de Beethoven, Les Poèmes pour Mi de Messiaen, Stabat Mater de Poulenc, La Demoiselle Elue de Debussy, ...

En parallèle elle enseigne comme Vocal Coach et Conseiller Artistique, avec un focus particulier sur la préparation de concerts et l'enregistrement en studio.

Elle est régulièrement invitée à Paris (France), à Beirut (Liban), et à New-York (Etats-Unis) pour donner des Master Classes de chant et des Ateliers de Chant Lyrique.

MICHEL BOU RJEILI

Michel-Roger Bou-Rjeily (contre ténor) has a BA in international affairs from the Saint Joseph university of Beirut (USJ) as well as a Master's degree in History in addition to the aforementioned. He has been passionate about music since the age of the 13, studying it on



and off professionally until 2017 when he travelled abroad to study lyrical and chamber music in the Chateauxroux conservatory of music in France.

Michel has studied with Arax Chekidjian, Marry Mahfoud, Viviane Durand, Anne Jeanjaques and has done master classes with Michaela Mingheras Couture, Denis Dubois, Diana Damrau as well as Catherine Radlo and many other big names in the Opera world. Having worked under the baton of conductors such as Jean Michel Ferran, he has performed in the Operas of Tour (2017), Avignon (2016) and Chateauroux (2017).

He also took part in the F. Chopin festival in 2018. He sang in the chamber of commerce of Loire region in France last April 2019.

He believes in the promotion of classical music and encourages organising local, individualised concerts in Lebanon, most notably inside Beirut.

ANTONEL BOLDAN

A French-Romanian tenor, first completed a Master in psychology at the University of Babes-Bolyai in Cluj Napoca (Romania), before deciding to fully dedicate himself to his passion of song and performance.

He won a song and lyric art award in 2007 for his interpretation of Don Ottavio in a production of Don Giovanni at the National Opera House in Cluj Napoca.

Boldan was most notably winning the Arte Concert Audience Award in the Armel Opera

Competition in Budapest 2018.

In France, these last few years, he performed: Tamino (The Magic Flute) in Lille and Marseille (La Fabrique Opéra production, in co-production with the Opera of Marseille), Nemorino (L'Elisir d'Amore) in Paris, Don José (Carmen) in Toulouse and Lyon with the Lyon Villeurbanne Symphony Orchestra, Romeo (Roméo et Juliette) at the Montmorillon Festival in France, Alfredo (La Traviata) at the Théâtre des Variétés in Paris, under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture and Communication and the Paris City Council.

Lately, we saw him on the stage of Opera Bastille with the role of Parpignol, in La Bohème (Gustavo Dudamel conducting and directed by Claus Guth), he also played the role of Don José (Carmen) in Besançon Festival.

Abroad: in 2015 he sang Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni) at the National Theater of Algiers, with the Algerian National Symphonic Orchestra, conducted by Amine Kouider, in 2017, he started with Tamino (The Magic Flute) at the Jersey Opera House, with the Szeged Symphony Orchestra (Production Armel Opera Festival) and then in juin 2018 he sang Pera Tocilov in a modern opera creation in Serbia and at MÜPA - Budapest part of Armel Opera Festival. This production won the Arte Concert Audience Award.

In January 2019, he made his debut as Pinkerton (Madama Butterfly) with the Opera of Clermont-Ferrand. In 2019 also he performed Canio (I Pagliacci) in Paris and he debuted in Les Contes d'Hoffmann singing the main role (Hoffmann) in Aix-les-Bains Festival. In 2021 he sang Vincent (Mireille) by Gounod in Arles/France.

In the vocal-symphonic repertoire he was invited by conductor Michel Piquemal and the Marseille Philharmonic Orchestra to sing the tenor part in Mozart Requiem, the Gounod's Saint François d'Assise Oratorio and Saint-Saens Requiem with Padeloup Orchestra and he had a collaboration with Cannes Regional Orchestra under the direction of Victorien Vanoosten for a series of Mozart Concerts.

Among his projects: he will make his debut in Werther at the Tours Opera House in France, he will sing Tybalt (Roméo et Juliette by Gounod) in Grenoble and Alfredo in The



Opera Locos (a comic opera show) in Paris at Bobino Theater and in a tour in France and Switzerland.

DENIS DUBOIS

CHEF DE CHANT à L'OPERA NATIONAL DE PARIS. (CHEF DE CHOEUR de 1992 à 1997)

Denis Dubois est né le 02 Février 1960 à Nancy où il étudie le piano et la trompette et le chant.

Passionné par la musique de chambre, puis l'accompagnement de chanteurs, il est engagé en 1980 comme pianiste chef de chant, puis assistant du chef de chœur à l'Opéra de Nancy.

En 1983 il décide d'approfondir ses connaissances du répertoire lyrique à l'école de l'Opéra du 'Royal College of music' de Londres. Après une saison au Cnival de Strasbourg, il réussit en 1985 le concours de Chef de Chant à l'Opéra National de Paris.

Après avoir participé à quelques productions lyriques en tant qu'assistant musical, il est nommé Chef de Chœur en 1992 toujours à l'Opéra National de Paris, fonction qu'il exercera pendant 5 saisons.

Depuis 1997, il occupe à nouveau la fonction de Chef de Chant. Assistant musical de productions lyriques chaque saison.

ONDIN BREZEANU

Born in 1974 in Ploiești-Romania to family of musicians. His father -Leonida Brezeanu is

orchestra conductor, composer, ethnomusicologist and his brother- Zefir Brezeanu is clarinetist, soloist ,composer and music arranger.

Mr Brezeanu made his solo debut as a violinist at the age of 14 with the " Paul Constantinescu" State Symphny Orchestra in Ploiesti (Romania), where he performed -with great success - Max Bruch's Concerto in g- moll- for Violin and Orchestra. Ondin has been awarded First Prize in several National Violin Competitions. He graduated and obtained his Diploma in Music in Solo Performance and Teaching from National University of Music in Bucharest (Romania) in the violin class of Paul Ratz, Stefan Gheorghiu and many others.

He often appears as concert master and soloist of orchestras in Lebanon and Europe (Romania, Italy, South Korea, Spain). Mr Brezeanu is also active in chamber music. Public can see him performs with many various ensembles, with his Quartet he performed ,among the others, in "Beirut Chant Festival", "Fete de la Musique", "Deir al Qamar Festival" and also giving recitals in "Abukhatter Amphitheatre" in Beirut. As a violinist- soloist he is engaged in concerts in Europe and as well as in Lebanon where he performs with great Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra.

His repertoire is extensive and includes works from Classical to Modern Era. Press reviews have taken a special notice on Mr. Brezeanu's ability in producing a beautiful and rich sound. Since he joined the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra (in 2000) Mr. Brezeanu is also a violin teacher at the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music in Beirut-Lebanon.



OPERA GALA CONCERT

Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra

SATURDAY

04
DEC

JACK SWANSON, Tenor

RICHARD TUCKER CAREER GRANT WINNER 2018

TOUFIC MAATOUK, Conductor

ASSEMBLY HALL | AUB

8:00 PM

*In collaboration with the Embassy of the
United States of America*



JACK SWANSON

Tenor

2021-2022 Season

Stillwater, Minnesota native Jack Swanson is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after young tenors in the opera world. His distinctive high lyric voice is known for singing the acrobatic arias of Rossini and the legato melodies of Donizetti.

This season, Jack Swanson will debut with a

number of European companies: first with the Teatro Regio in Torino as Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, then with the Opéra National de Lorraine in Nancy as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* (a role debut) and finally at the Opéra National du Rhin in Strasbourg as Ferrando in *Così Fan Tutte* (a role he will have just debuted for his return to the Oper Frankfurt). He will also sing a concert of Mozart, Bel Canto and Romantic Italian songs in Beirut, Lebanon. Future engagements include a stage debut with the Houston Grand Opera and returns to the Santa Fe and the Minnesota Operas.

Last season Jack Swanson returned to the Norwegian Opera for Almaviva in a new production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* before returning to the Garsington Opera for the title-role in Rossini's *Le Comte Ory*. He then finished the season by making his Rossini Opera Festival debut as Florville in *Il Signor Bruschino*. In concert he was heard as the tenor soloist in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome and Myung Whun Chung. He also appeared in solo recitals in Frankfurt and in Pesaro.

Previously, Mr. Swanson debuted with new companies in new roles: first in Frankfurt as Rodrigo in a new production of Rossini's *Otello*, then as Belmonte in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* with Opera Omaha. In concert, the tenor was heard in Paris in Rossini's *Messa di Gloria* and at New York's Alice Tully Hall for a concert of pieces by sons of J.S. Bach.



The previous season Jack Swanson made several role and company debuts, first as Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* with the Norwegian Opera, later as Sam Kaplan in *Street Scene* with Oper Köln. He returned to the title-role in *Candide* for concert performances in Paris and Marseille and to his celebrated portrayal of Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Portland Opera. In concert, he performed music by Leonard Bernstein at the Moab Music Festival and by John Musto (his Bastianello) with Festival Napa Valley. Prior to that Mr. Swanson made notable debuts with Glyndebourne Opera as Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, the Los Angeles Opera in the title role of *Candide*, the Lyric Opera of Kansas City as Almaviva, and his mainstage

debut with the Santa Fe Opera as Lindoro in *L'italiana* in Algeri. On the concert stage, Mr. Swanson was heard in Bernstein on Broadway concerts with the Orchestre National de Lille and in Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with the Choral Arts Society of Washington.

In 2016-2017, Mr. Swanson was heard as Camille in *The Merry Widow* with Winter Opera St. Louis, Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* with Opera Memphis, Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* with Opera Delaware, and Albarzar in *Il Turco in Italia* with Garsington Opera. In concert he sang *Messiah* with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, *Bruckner's Te Deum*, with the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and *Mozart's Requiem* with the Oregon Symphony Orchestra. Other appearances included Washington Concert Opera's 2017 gala, the Rising Stars of Opera concert series with the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, and on a recital program at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts.

In the 2015-2016 season, Mr. Swanson made his Des Moines Metro Opera debut singing the role of Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff* and performed the role of Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* with Opera Fort Collins. Mr. Swanson earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Oklahoma, where he performed the roles of Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* and Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore*. In May of 2016 he received his Masters of Music in Vocal Performance at Rice University. While at Rice, Mr. Swanson performed the roles of Almaviva in *il Barbiere di Siviglia* and Eurimaco in Monteverdi's *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria*.

Additional opera roles include Tonio in *La Fille du Régiment* and Count Belfiore in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera*, and two years as an apprentice at the Santa Fe Opera. Mr. Swanson spent two summers as a young artist with The Seagle Music Colony, where he performed the roles of Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd* and the title role in Britten's comedic opera *Albert Herring*. Also known for his concert work, Mr. Swanson's credits include Handel's *Messiah*, Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, Mozart's *Requiem* and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Other engagements include *Holiday Favorites* with the Arizona Opera and Birmingham Opera, and the Houston Grand Opera's 60th anniversary gala where Mr. Swanson performed alongside HGO's studio artists and

world-renowned mezzo-soprano, Joyce DiDonato. Swanson made his Kennedy Center debut singing selections from Schumann's *Dichterliebe*.

Mr. Swanson is the competition winner and recipient of several prestigious awards including first place in Florida Grand Opera's Young Patroness Competition, The San Antonio Music Club Competition, The National Opera Association Competition and The Hal Leonard Art Song Competition. He twice received the Richard Tucker Memorial award from the Santa Fe Opera. He was a finalist in both Houston Grand Opera's Eleanor McCollum competition and Fort Worth Opera's McCammon Competition. Recently, Mr. Swanson was featured on National Public Radio's Young Artist in Residence program, *Performance Today*.

TOUFIC MAATOUK

Toufic Maatouk, is one of the most compelling conductors of his generation. In the 2012 season, Maatouk began his tenure as Artistic Director of Beirut Chants Festival in Lebanon. He is also Guest Conductor of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra since 2013 and a Guest Conductor of the Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra since 2017. Maatouk was appointed Artistic Director and Choir Master of the Antonine University Choir, in August 2005 and Head of the vocal department in the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music since October 2015. He holds a Ph.D. in Musicology from the Istituto Pontificio di Musica Sacra (Pims) in Rome where he conducted and published different studies on the syro-maronite chants. He has been honoured as a knight of the Order of the Star of Italy "Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia" by the President of the Italian Republic in 2021.

As chief conductor, Toufic Maatouk has led the Antonine University choir for more than 14 years. He collaborated with several orchestras and festivals including Orchestra di San Carlo (Napoli), Orchestra Giovanile Mediterranea (Palermo), Orchestra Roma sinfonietta (Rome), New England symphonic ensemble (New York), Orchestra Los Angeles sinfonietta (Los Angeles), Saint Petersburg Symphony Orchestra (Russia), Kiev symphony orchestra (Ukraine)...Al-Bustan International Festival, Baalbeck International Festival, Byblos Interna-



tional Festival (Lebanon), Festival d'île de France (Paris), Carnegie hall (New York), Teatro dell'Opera di Roma (Roma), Teatro di San Carlo (Napoli), Académie de l'Opéra de Paris, Festival d'Aix en provence (France), Romanian Radio (Bucharest), Al-Ain International music festival (UEA), Bahrain International Music Festival (Bahrain). He has been invited as a jury member to several prestigious competition as the Ottavio Ziino competition, Voce Verdiane international competition, and the Biennale des cordes.

While he pursued his studies, Maatouk worked as a vocal coach and at the National Conservatory of Beirut (Lebanon), he was musical assistant conductor at Teatro di San Carlo (Napoli) for different productions. As Founder of the Opera Studio of the Antonine University and the Lebanese National Conservatory, he conducted different productions such as Donizetti's *Elisir d'amore*, Rossini's *Barbiere di Siviglia*, Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*.

He collaborates with different Orchestras such as the: Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra (Lebanon), Orchestra di San Carlo (Napoli), Orchestra Giovanile Mediterranea (Palermo), Orchestra Roma sinfonietta (Rome), New England symphonic ensemble (New York), Orchestra Los Angeles sinfonietta (Los Angeles), Saint Petersburg Symphony Orchestra (Russia), Kiev symphony orchestra (Ukraine), Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra (Bucharest)... He collaborated with different world-renowned artists such: Maria Agresta, Jessica Pratt, Joyce El Khoury, Daniela Barcellona, Carmen Giannatasio, Laura Giordano, Maria Grazia Schiavo, Paolo Fanale, Giorgio Berrugi, Krzysztof Baczyk, Mirco Palazzi, Seong-Jin Cho, Dmitry Masleev, Eric Le Sage, Xavier De Maistres, Faycal Karaoui, Gabriele Ferro, Francesca Dego, Modigliani Quartet, Kodaly Quartet, Boris Andrianov, Alexander Ghindin, Caterina Di Tonno, Rosa Bove, Leonardo Cortellazzi, and others...

Maatouk published his different articles and books with Geuthner's edition in Paris (France) and in international musicology journals. He recorded 13 CD with the Antonine University chorus.

LEBANESE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Lebanese National Symphony Orchestra was founded in November 1998 by the former President of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music Dr. Walid Gholmieh. The status of the Orchestra was completed by summer 1999 and the first rehearsals started in January 2000. In October 2009, upon the suggestion of the former President of the LNHCM and with the agreement of its Board of Directors the LNSO became The Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra.

Appointed, Director of the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory, Dr. Walid Moussallem, has committed himself to continue and progress the work of his predecessor Mr. Hanna El Amil by fastening the LPO's aim of spreading Classical Music in Lebanon by not only giving orchestral performances in the capital Beirut, but also in all the main cities across Lebanon. Great importance has been given to include in LPO's concerts, repertoire of Lebanese Classical Composers.

Harout Fazlian is the Principal Conductor of the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra. Lubnan Baalbaki is a permanent conductor, Jordi Mora is a regular guest conductor. The LPO is also conducted by Walid Moussallem, Fouad Fakhouri, Michel Kheirallah, Garo Avessian and Toufic Maatouk. and numerous international guest conductors. The LPO performs more than 30 concerts per season.

Since its establishment, the LPO has performed in all the major festivals in Lebanon including the Baalbeck International Festival, Byblos International Festival, Beiteddine Art Festival, Zouk Mikael International Festival, Al Bustan Festival among others.

THE JAZZ GROOVE

Arthur Satyan Trio

THURSDAY

05
DEC

ARTHUR SATYAN, Piano
KHATCHATUR SAVZYAN, Double bass
FOUAD AFRA, Drums

BEIRUT SOUKS | DOWNTOWN
8:00 PM



Nehme & Therese
TOHME FOUNDATION

ARTHUR SATYAN

One of the most important and influential jazz musicians in the region. Coming in 1996 to open the biggest in the area 'Casino du Liban' with 'Three Wheel Drive' band, he sets the beginning of serious jazz scene in Lebanon. Multi-Award Winning pianist and composer, Dean of Jazz Department and Professor of Classical Piano at the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music since 1998, he taught, influenced and inspired almost every jazz musician in the region.

Performed and worked with many international stars and jazz giants like Larry Coryell, Charles Davis, Ray Vega, Ed Cherry, Joe Lee Wilson, Deborah Davis ... just to name few.

The quality of Arthur's arrangements, compositions and piano-playing has raised eyebrows among visiting stars Ahmad Jamal, Zakir Hussain, Steve Potts, Arturo Sandoval, Stefano di Battista, etc...

He is first to seriously introduce the authentic jazz language, spread the word and keep alive the teachings of great beboppers Charlie

Parker, Bud Powell, Monk, Barry Harris in the region.

'Arthur Satyan Trio' was starting base/school for many young musicians.

He is the pianist that Jazz stars like Larry Coryell, John Hicks, Charles Davis and Sonny Fortune came to Beirut eager to hear and play with. Recently listening to him were smiling, approving and applauding Ahmad Jamal and Zakir Hussain."



ARMENIAN CHORDS

MONDAY

06
DEC

KEVORK KECHICHIAN
Flute, Duduk & Shvi
AREN DONERIAN, Piano

KOUSAN CHAMBER CHOIR

KRIKOR ALOZIAN, Conductor
SHOGHIG TOROSSIAN, Soprano
HASMIK KASBARIAN, Piano
HENRY ISHKHANIAN, Piano

**ST. ELIAS & ST. GREGORY THE
ILLUMINATOR (ARMENIAN
CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL)**
8:00 PM

KEVORK MANUEL KECHICHIAN

Born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1992, Kevork Kechichian started his musical studies in flute performance in the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory at the age of 11. After studying 9 years in Lebanon with Professor Alin TATARU (former principal flutist of the Lebanese Philharmonic orchestra) he went to Armenia to continue his professional studies in Komitas State Conservatory of Yerevan, from where he got his Bachelor of Arts in Musical art with honors in 2016. During his stay in Armenia, Kevork also studied Duduk and many Armenian folk wind instruments such as Shvi and Zurna (Armenian traditional flutes) in parallel of flute. After graduating from Komitas Conservatory, he returned back to Lebanon and continued his master degree studies in musicology, at Antonine University in Baabda with Professor Nidaa Abou Mrad, researching about the Armenian traditional music of the Lebanese Armenians.

In 2019, K. Kechichian had the opportunity to continue his musical studies in the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in UK, where he studied flute with Professor Jonathan RIMMER, piccolo with Professor Andrew LANE and assisted in many masterclasses with different professional international flutists such as Alena WALENTIN, Kevin GOWLAND and played many concerts with the Students Orchestra of the RBC. Kevork also had many masterclasses with the international Lebanese flutist, Professor Wissam BOUSTANY. Currently, Kevork is a member in the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra where he began his professional musical carrier since 2017, and he is a flute instructor in Antonine Music School and Ecole des arts Ghassan Yammine and Hamazkayin Parsegh Ganatchian College of music.

AREN DONERIAN

Aren Donerian is a Lebanese-Armenian multi-instrumentalist born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1998.

He started playing the piano at the age of 6 and got accepted at the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music (LNHCM) two years later. He also started playing the violin when he was 11 and again got accepted at the LNHCM. Along with piano and violin, the young musician started learning the acoustic guitar at the age of 14, the electric guitar at the age of 15, the bass guitar at the age of 17, and drums/percussions at the age of 18. He was also a bass singer in the Lebanese National Youth Choir in 2018, and the piano accompanist of the Armenian "Pelpoul Children's Choir" and the "Arzivian Choir". Aren is now the lead guitarist of the Armenian classic rock band "Since The 15", the pianist/keyboardist of the Armenian folk band "Mihran", and the pianist of a Trio formed with



his two younger brothers, Alec (violin) and Arno-Moses (cello).

In parallel with music, Aren Donerian studied International Business Management at Notre Dame University (NDU), where he has been the president of "The Music Club of NDU" since 2017. He is currently a piano Baccalaureate student at the LNHCM, and doing his master's degree in Business Strategy at NDU.

KOUSAN CHOIR-SINCE 1910

The "Kousan" Choir of Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society was founded in 1910 in Constantinople , by Father Komitas. The tentative of this choir is to sing classical patriotic and spiritual musical works. The first choir group has around 300 singers. In 1919, student of Komitas Parsegh Ganatchian revived the Choir in Constantinople till 1921. After that, in 1932 the Choir survived by the efforts of Parsegh Ganatchian in Lebanon and they performed in several Armenian communities in Lebanon several regions, Damascus, Aleppo, Baghdad, Constantinople. During 1990's, the Choir turned under the take care of Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society . After Parsegh Ganatchian, Dr.

Emmanuel Elmajian, Kevork Kandaharian, Haroutyoun Topigian and Yervant Yerganian conducted the choir. Later on, the choir was conducted by Barkev Taslakian. At present, Krikor Alozian conducts the choir. It has around 50 members. Its repertoire includes Armenian sacred music and choral music of Armenian renowned composers such as Komitas, Yeghalian, Kara-Murza, Ganatchian, Aznavourian, Mazmanian, Tchoukhadjian, Begoyan and Avetyan.

KRIKOR ALOZIAN

Born in Beirut-Lebanon.
 Studied Music, at Parsegh Ganatchian Music College Higher Musical Education at Lebanese Higher National conservatory.
 Studied Clarinet at Lebanese Higher National conservatory
 Studied Human Resources Management at Haigazian University
 Pursued special choir conducting courses from Maestro Harutyun Topigian.
 Specialized in Medical sciences, at Haigazian

University, and American university of Beirut
1990-1999 Team Leader for Church Groups
and Conductor for Church Choir
1990-2000 Active Member of Hamazkayin
Armenian Cultural and Educational Society in
Lebanon
1995-1997 President of University Students
Association
1995-2000 Member of Hamazkayin Regional
Committee of Lebanon and Organizer of
Hamazkayin Music School
2003-2011 Team Leader for Church Groups
and Conductor for Church Choir
2004-2012 Founder and Conductor of
Arakelotz Chamber choir membered 20 sing-
ers (conservatory students, seminary students
and scholars)
2013-till now Conductor and Leader of
KOUSAN Chamber Choir founded in 1910,
leading 60 singers (sopranos of Lebanon,
scholars, students of Music School, Other
mini-choir's conductors...)
2018-till now Director of Armenian Genocide
Orphans' "Aram Bezikian" Museum in Byblos
near Bird's Nest Orphanage
Collaborative Workshop with Lebanese Philo-
kalia (Ste. Rafqa) Choir
Unique Komitas 140th Anniversary in AUB
Assambly Hall with Groong Choir
Unique Concert with UNESCO declared Komi-
tas 150th Anniversary which is the founder of
KOUSAN Chamber choir in 1910 at Evangelical
National Church- Beirut DownTown
Participation of Choral Day with worldwide
conductors for several years
Participation in World Choral Festival held in
Lebanon in 2016, with several other choirs
organized by Dar El Fan.
Making several videoclips in covid19 crisis

SHOGHIG TOROSSIAN

Lebanese Armenian Soprano singer Shoghig
Torossian was born in Beirut, Lebanon. Her
vocal talents and love towards music were
manifested in the early days of her childhood.
Shoghig Torossian has followed the Lebanese
Hamazkayin Parsegh Ganachian Conservatory
specializing in the vocalization domain and has
completed the specified courses in high
distinction and according to the agreement
reached, her diploma was certified from Yere-
van State Conservatory after Gomidas.

In addition to her solo recitals that took place
in 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015 she has had a
number of other appearances in Armenian and
other foreign stages during cultural events in
cooperation with renowned musicians and
performers. She has always been the principal
soloist in the "Shnorhali" choir of the Catholi-
cosate of Cilicia and the "Kousan" choir of
Hamazkayine .On September 2014, upon the
invitation of the Armenian Ministry of Diaspo-
ra, shoghig Torossian has a series of perfor-
mances in different location of Armenia where
she was greatly applauded and on this occa-
sion , awarded the "My Armenia" appreciation
note.

In November 2017 she was awarded a certifi-
cate from International Academy of Culture
and performing Arts acknowledging her head
of the academy in Lebanon.

Continuing her subsequent concerts, she had a
concert in Canada in 2017 and her recent and
most prominent concert took place in February
2018 in Yerevan with STATE ARMENIAN SYM-
PHONIC ORCHESTRA conducted by Sergey
Smpadian.

Another great achievement was her concert in
Nagorni Garapagh-shoushi under the auspices
of the Minister of Culture in Artsakh on August
13,2019.

On 7th of July 2020 Shoghig Torossian won the
"National prize" of Lebanon during 28th Music
World Competition held in Vienna represent-
ing Lebanon and On 31th of July 2021 she
won the second prize of MEDICI International
music competition.

Shoghig Torossian has recorded two CD-s "A
Compilation of Liturgical Music" and "Tunes,
Odes and Treasures" .The latter was recorded
under the high auspices of His Holiness Aram
Catholicos of Cilicia. She also recorded new
songs composed by famous Armenian com-
posers.

Shoghig Torossian is a music instructor in
solfeggio and vocalization at the Hamazkayin
Parsegh Ganachian Conservatory and choir
conductor at Armenian Evangelical Central
High School.

THE LOVE OF BEAUTY

Philokalia Choir

TUESDAY

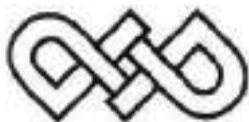
07
DEC



LENA FARAH, Solo artist
FADI KHALIL, Organ
S. MARANA SAAD, Conductor

**ST. GEORGE MARONITE
CATHEDRAL | DOWNTOWN
8:00 PM**

Special thanks to Mr. Akram Safa



PRIVINVEST



PHILOKALIA CHOIR

Under the direction of Sr. Marana Saad, Philokalia Choir, known till 2018 as Saint Rafqa Institute Choir, has established its reputation as one of the leading choirs in Lebanon. Since its foundation in 2010, several masses, concerts, festivals and occasions conducted each year have allowed our choir to showcase their work technically, vocally and musically.

The Choir provides education in the field of sacred music specifically Maronite music, Oriental and Lebanese classical music, for both choral and solo. Philokalia Choir has participated in concerts alongside prominent orchestras, received many invitations to festivals, and has also collaborated with other leading choirs. The Choir has participated in concerts with

orchestras and has received invitations to international festivals and big celebrations and events, such as: Crossroad Festival in Cyprus (2018/2013), Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church festivities in Virginia – U.S.A. (2016/2018), Celebrations of Saint Maron's feast in Germany (2018) and Italy (2016), World Youth Day with The Pope Francis in Poland (2016) and Lebanese International Choir Festival (2018/2015).

Philokalia Choir has also presented an operetta with live orchestra in Rafqa's musical theatre written and directed by Georges Khabbaz (2014), and participated in big events with different orchestras in concerts with prominent artists such as Magida El Roumi, Charbel Rouhana in "Let Your Light Shine"/ "Salami Ma'ik" at the Casino Du Liban (2016), Marcel Khalife at Amchit Festival (2017) and Khaled Mouzanar at Baalback Festival Lebanon (2018). The Choir has also collaborated with the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music - the Lebanese National Orchestra for Oriental Music conducted by Maestro Lubnan Baalbaki, with "Mazeej by Lucas Sakr" (2019) and Oussama Rahbani and Hiba Tawaji (2020).

Philokalia Choir built strong friendships with Lena Farah Ghaoui and Rafca Fares Rahbani, who participated as soloists in Philokalia's various concerts and musical events. Moreover, the Choir has recorded seven albums of Lebanese, oriental and sacred music, and performed many soundtracks for TV and movies, in which it had special appearances.

S. MARANA SAAD

Founder and President of Philokalia Institute and Organization, Music Instructor at Philokalia Institute (previously known under the name of Saint Rafqa Music Institute), she also delivers courses at Notre Dame University- Louaize (NDU), The Holy Family University- Batroun (USF), Antonine University (UA), and at the Holy Spirit University- Kaslik (USEK).

Holder of a Doctorate in Monastic Theology from St. Anselm University- Rome and a doctorate in Sacred Music from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), she also pursued her studies in Choral Conducting at the Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra in Rome (PIMS). Under the direction of Sr. Marana Saad, Philokalia Choir has acquired its repute as one of

the most renowned choirs in Lebanon. The chorus was also able to create many soundtracks for television and music for numerous movies. She also presents concerts and operettas and takes part in a variety of festivals and musical events such as France, Cyprus, Italy, Poland, Germany, and the United States of America.

Sr. Marana Saad has participated in several conferences and workshops all around the world (Croatia, Italy, Estonia, Cyprus, United States of America, etc.) and published articles related to sacred music and choir management and leadership. She also has several theological and musical texts, six albums and numerous partitions on religious chants.

LENA FARAH GHAOUI

A professional Lebanese singer and musicologist, Lena Farah has been immersed in the music field and culture for over 20 years.

As holder of a master's degree in musicology and a diploma in Arabic singing from the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik- Lebanon; Lena is a coordinator at the Arabic Singing department, and instructor in both oriental and occidental music at Philokalia Institute.

She currently delivers online sessions on theoretical and practical Arabic singing for students abroad.

With the aspiration of elevating and preserving the heritage and beauty of Arabic singing, Lena's own experience and contribution to research seeks to explore the richness and complex elements of Arabic singing, which demands dexterity and mastery.

In addition to that, Lena ran several workshops on introducing vocal forms, rhythms and maqams specific to Arabic music; as well as controlling the emission of the voice, pronunciation, interpretation, ornamentation, improvisation, etc.

Also within this perspective, she's now working on a practical manual to teach foreigners ways to practice Arabic singing and highlight it as a multidisciplinary field.

OF LOVE AND WAR

WEDNESDAY

08
DEC

BEATRIZ BLANCO, Cello

*FIRST PRIZE AT THE ASSOCIATION SUISSE DES
MUSICIENS*

FEDERICO BOSCO, Piano

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH | MONOT
8:00 PM

In collaboration with the Spanish Embassy



BEATRIZ BLANCO

Awarded at the "Asociación Suisse des Musiciens", as well as with the Würdigungspreis of the Austrian Government 2013, Antonio Janigro Competition in Zagreb 2016 and the Rahn Musikpreis in Switzerland, her solo career includes performances with the Symphonieorchester Basel, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Argovia Philharmonic, Radio and Television Spanish Orchestra (ORTVE), Málaga Philharmonic Orchestra, Castilla y León Symphonic Orchestra (OSCyL), Orquesta Sinfónica del Vallés (OSV), among others.

She has performed in major European concert halls including the Theatre des Champs Elysees (Paris), Victoria Hall (Geneva), Stadt Casino (Basel), Solitär (Salzburg), Tonhalle (Zürich), Lingotto (Torino), Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, Palau de la Música and L'Auditori in Barcelona and Palau de las Arts in Valencia.

Since 2008, she has been delving into the cello



and piano duo repertoire together with Italian pianist Federico Bosco. They received the first prize at the Salieri-Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition 2015, in Verona, Italy, with engagements across Europe for the upcoming seasons, including their debut at the Menuhin Festival Gstaad Switzerland.

Her discography includes "A mon Ami", cello and piano pieces by F. Chopin and A. Francomme and "Baroque Portrait", dedicated to J. S. Bach cello suites and J. Barrière Sonates and "Of Love and War", her newest album, was released in 2021 dedicated to music around the I World War.

Combining her concert activity with her love for teaching, she was appointed cello teacher at the Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid before joining the Cello Faculty at the Vorarlberger Landeskonservatorium in

Feldkirch, Austria. She is regularly invited to give masterclasses in different Festivals and Academies around most European countries. In 2021 Beatriz was appointed Cello Professor at the Hochschule für Musik Trossingen (Germany).

Founder and artistic director of the Festival Academia Ribeira Sacra in Galicia, Spain, bringing musicians all over the world together to perform chamber music in very unique places and to teach young talented musicians from Spain and abroad.

She studied with Asier Polo in Spain, Ivan Monighetti at the Hochschule für Musik Basel, Clemens Hagen at the Universität Mozarteum Salzburg and with Thomas Grossenbacher at the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste.

She plays a C.Pierray cello (Paris, 1720), on her property thanks to the help of Fr. Dr. Anne Budde.

FEDERICO BOSCO

Awarded for his "always excellent results" and his "great and uninterrupted commitment to the service of students and the university" by the Hochschule Basel in 2018, first prize at the Salieri-Zinetti chamber music competition in Verona, the Sandro Fuga competition in Turin and the Orpheus competition in Bern, Federico Bosco has always dedicated himself to chamber music, his discipline of choice. He is very requested as a musical partner and accompanist.

Regularly invited to festivals, masterclasses and competitions, he performs with musicians such as Nora Chastain, Daniel Gaede, Silvia Simionescu, Troels Svane, Conradin Brotbek, Adelina Oprean, Igor Keller, Beatriz Blanco, Lisa Rieder. He has lent his expertise in master classes with musicians such as Leonidas Kavakos, Steven Isserlis, Philippe Griffin, Jean-Jacques Kantorow and singers such as Margreet Honig, Thomas Allen, Christine Schäfer, Michaela Schuster, Elena Mosuc.

He has appeared on renowned stages such as the Lucerne Festival, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, the Salzburg Chamber Music Festival, the Auditorium and Palau de la Música in Barcelona, the Auditorium Nacional in Madrid, the Fondazione Lingotto Musica in Turin, the Rossini Theatre in Pesaro, the Teatro Calderón in Valladolid, the Granada Festival, the Swiss Chamber Music Festival in Adelboden, the

Malta International Arts Festival and others. In 2016 he released his first CD with cellist Beatriz Blanco, which includes the complete works for Cello and Piano by Chopin and unpublished pieces by his friend Franck. He has given recitals in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, Spain, Great Britain and Austria. In 2006 he made his debut with the Swiss Youth Symphony Orchestra in the Paul Klee Auditorium in Bern (Mozart's Jeunehomme) and a year later with the Basel Symphony Orchestra (Bartók 1); he has performed with the orchestra of the Conservatory of Turin and the Philharmonic of the Theater für Niedersachsen Hildesheim/Hannover.

He studied conducting at the Hochschule für Musik Basel with Rodolfo Fischer, who invited him as an assistant for Buenos Aires Lirica. He worked for two seasons at the Theater für Niedersachsen Hannover as assistant and conductor and for opera productions at the Theater St. Gallen and with the Basel Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Giovanni Antonini.

He graduated with distinction from the Conservatory of Turin under Claudio Voghera and continued his studies with Andrea Lucchesini in Pinerolo, Filippo Gamba in Padua and Adrian Oetiker in Basel.

Since September 2018 he is also supervisor of keyboard instruments at the Basel Academy of Music.



TELEMANN AND THE ITALIANS

THURSDAY
09
DEC

Baroque Sonatas for Cello and Basso Continuo

JANA SEMAAN, Baroque Cello
ANNA SCHOLL, Harpsichord

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZE
8:00 PM

*In collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the
Italian Cultural Institute*



JANA SEMAAN

Jana Semaan started learning cello at the age of eight at the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music with Prof. Sarkis Kochkarian. After graduating from high school, Jana moved to Berlin where she was granted a scholarship to pursue cello studies. One year later, she auditioned to the State University of Music and Performing Arts (HMDK) in Stuttgart. She graduated 2014 from HMDK with top grades (class of Elena Cheah and Joachim Hess). Meanwhile Jana was touring regularly as an orchestra and chamber musician under the baton of Daniel Barenboim and others. She participated in several international festivals in

Europe, Asia, the Americas and Lebanon (BBC Proms, Salzburger Festspiele, Bayreuth Festival, Lucerne Festival, Edinburgh International Festival etc.). In 2009, She was invited by the Teatro alla Scala Orchestra in Milan for a three-month project. In 2016, Jana received her Master's degree in Early Music/Baroque Cello from the HMDK in Stuttgart with distinction (class of Jonathan Pešek). She was appointed board member and advisor at the early music university department. Jana partici-



pated in many master classes with renowned musicians such as Yo-Yo Ma, Lluís Claret, Conradin Brotbek, Jesper Christensen, Dame Emma Kirkby, Eric Mentzel, Malcolm Bilson among others, and is always active as a chamber musician through academies, festivals and regular ensembles. As a baroque cellist, living in Europe exposed her to big influences. Since 2017, Jana teaches music at several universities in Lebanon. In September 2018, she founded the Center for Early Music at the Antonine University-Lebanon, the first of its kind in the region, where also guest teachers from Germany visited regularly, until September 2021. With her premiere recording project of the complete toccatas of Francesco Paolo Scipriani / Supriano (1678-1753) in 2019, she introduced herself as a solo baroque cellist to a large audience, while also pursuing the pedagogical approach of spreading this work to cello students and providing a historically informed performance practice of lesser-known compositions of the cello repertoire. Since, she has become a recording artist at Redbooth Studios in Lebanon, with whom she also recorded and released Naji Hakim's premiere 'Aria' for four cellos in 2021. Jana is currently a member of the Café International Baroque Orchestra in Germany, the Etihad Chamber Orchestra in Jordan and co-founder of the newly founded German-Lebanese Artists Society.

ANNA SCHOLL

Anna Scholl works as a harpsichordist, organist and conductor in the field of baroque music. She is the director of the Café International Baroque Orchestra, specialized in historical performance practice.

Since the beginning of 2017, she has been appointed organist at two churches with historical musical instruments in Altenbruch (1498/1730) and Lüdingworth (1598/1682) as well as artistic director of the internationally renowned concert series and the local organ foundation and the new festival **stadtKLANG Cuxhaven**.

She studied organ, harpsichord, basso continuo / ensemble direction, conducting and church music in Basel, Stuttgart, Hamburg and Berlin with Wolfgang Zerer, Jörg Halubek, Andrea Marcon and Jörg-Andreas Bötticher to name a few.

Anna has been awarded top grades and distinction with every master's degree at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. She also won the Hans Balmer Prize Basel twice.

Since 2018, she has been appointed guest teacher of harpsichord and basso continuo at the newly established Center for Early Music at the Université Antonine (Beirut, Lebanon), alongside her colleagues Jana Semaan and Veit-Jacob Walter.

From next semester on, she will be teaching organ at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg.

As a lecturer, she regularly gives master classes in Germany and abroad in the fields of historical performance practice, basso continuo and organ music from the Baroque period.

Anna is a part of several CD recordings. Her CD recorded last year on the Lüdingworther Wilde-Schnitger organ was listed under the "Favorite Pieces" series, in addition to another recording she made earlier this year on the Klapmeyer organ in Altenbruch.

In 2021, Anna founded the German-Lebanese Artists Society, a foundation that aims to build artistic bridges between both countries.



BEETHOVEN'S SECOND SYMPHONY

Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra

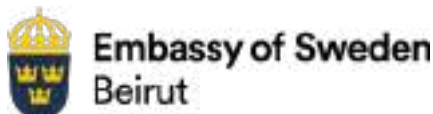
FRIDAY

10 DEC

ION IOSIF PRUNNER, Conductor
FLORIN ESTEFAN, Baritone

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH | MONOT
8:00 PM

*In collaboration with the Lebanese National
Conservatory of Music and the Swedish Embassy*



ION IOSIF PRUNNER

Congratulated by the famous pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim, who expressed his "admiration and affection" for the conductor and the ensemble he led during the "George Enescu" Festival, awarded the Cultural Order Merit in rank of Knight (2003), conductor Ion Prunner was born in Bucharest, part of a family fond of music and with deep cultural roots.

"The heritage of a family of musicians, but also that of a well-established family whose mem-

bers founded churches and monasteries, one of intellectuals with fine preoccupations in philosophy, law, theater or writing: the Pîrîianu family, on my mother's side", said Ion Prunner in an interview for the magazine *Observator cultural*.

He made his debut when he was 6 years old and he played on the scene of the Romanian Athenaeum at 14. He studied at "Dinu Lipatti" Music College and at the Music University in Bucharest. He took piano and conducting classes with Zoe Popescu, Ana Pitiș, Maria Fotino, Constantin Bugeanu and Sergiu Comissiona. After graduation he became part of the orchestra at the "George Enescu" Philharmonic. In 1991 he founded the Foundation and Chamber Music Orchestra "Constantin Silvestri" and in 1996 he was the director of the eponymous International Conducting Competition. In 1997, maestro Cristian Mandeal assigned him with conducting the Philharmonic Choir, while also being asked to conduct the concerts of the Symphonic and Chamber Music Orchestra of the Philharmonic. Also, in 1997 he conducted the semi-professional doctors' orchestra in Bucharest, following a long tradition of the "George Enescu" Philharmonic. In December 2007 he was invited, together with the Capitole Toulouse Orchestra and the Orfeu – San Sebastian Choir, to present a production of the Requiem by Verdi in San Sebastian, Toulouse and Paris – Salle Pleyel. In Romania he collaborated with the most important orchestras in the country, the



National Radio Orchestra and the Chamber Radio Orchestra and he was also invited to give concerts at the National Romanian Opera. He gave concerts in important music centres in Europe and Asia (Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Japan, Russia, Greece, Hungary, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Korea etc.) and he took part in important festivals in Romania, Czechoslovakia, Italy etc. He collaborated with prestigious music personalities such as Cristian Mandeal, Sergiu Comissiona, Lawrence Craig, Valentin Gheorghiu, Ludovic Spiess, Eugenia Moldoveanu, Michel Plasson, Krzysztof Penderecki, Ion Marin, Adrian Eröd, Neil Stuart, Tatiana Serjan, Dolora Zajick, Carlo Colombara and with distinguished orchestras such as Orchestre national de France, Münchner Philharmoniker, "Arturo Toscanini" Philharmonic, the Orchestra of Warsaw's Festival, Philharmonia Orchestra in London, Catalonia National Orchestra, Ostrava's Janacek Philharmonic, Capitole Toulouse Orchestra.

FLORIN ESTEFAN

Originating from Oradea, Romania, baritone Florin Estefan has graduated the University of Music in his hometown, becoming a soloist with the Romanian National Opera in Cluj, since his second university year. In December 2007 he graduates the Artistic Mastery of Cardiff International Academy of Voice, having as singing professor the famous tenor Dennis O'Neill. In 2012 he returns as a baritone soloist of the Cluj-Napoca Romanian National Opera House, becoming February 2015 General Manager of this prestigious Opera House, distinguishing himself as the youngest manager in the institution's history. The year of 2016 brought Mr. Estefan the wonderful recognition of Doctor of Music, at "Gheorghe Dima" National Music Academy in Cluj-Napoca, as well as the highly appreciated title of "Best lyric soloist of the year" at the National Operas' Prize Gala in Bucharest, for the role of Evgheni Oneghin sung on the stage of the Romanian National Opera in Cluj-Napoca. Since October 2018, Mr. Florin Estefan became an Associate Profesor with Faculty of Musical Performance of "Gheorghe Dima" National Music Academy in Cluj-Napoca. Florin Estefan has also won numerous competitions, and has performed on prestigious stages, both in

Romania and abroad (Greece, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland, Japan, United States, Australia and the UK), performing in an important series of roles, such as: Oneghin (Evgheni Oneghin, P. I. Ceaikovski), Amonasro (Aida, G. Verdi), Germont (La Traviata, G. Verdi), Rigoletto (Rigoletto, G. Verdi), Marcello (La Boheme, G. Puccini), Don Giovanni (Don Giovanni, W.A. Mozart), Figaro and Conte Almaviva (Le Nozze di Figaro — W.A. Mozart), Conte Robinson (Il matrimonio segreto, D. Cimarosa), Agamemnon (Iphigenie en Aulide, C.W. Gluck), Enrico (Lucia di Lammermoor, G. Donizetti), Malatesta (Don Pasquale, G. Donizetti), Belcore (L'Elisir d'Amore, G. Donizetti), Sharpless (Madama Butterfly, G. Puccini), Guglielmo (Cosi fan tutte, W.A. Mozart), Nick Shadow (The Rake's Progress, I. Stravinsky). His vocal symphonic repertoire includes: L. van Beethoven (9th Symphony), J. Haydn (Cecilien Messe), W.A. Mozart (Requiem), G. Rossini (Petite Messe Solenne), C. Orff (Carmina Burana), G. Faure (Requiem), M. Mussorgsky (Songs and Dances of Death). As General Manager of the Romanian National Opera in Cluj-Napoca, Florin Estefan managed to increase with 70% the number of young public in the past two years, bringing to stage numerous opera and ballet premieres, as well as new projects and programs, such as OPERA APERTA, a largely addressed program that offers the artistic performances to the general public, in unconventional spaces, free of charge



ROAD TRIP

Opera

Oriental Fusion

SATURDAY

11
DEC

BECHARA MOUFARREJ, Tenor

BEIRUT SOUKS | DOWNTOWN
8:00 PM

BECHARA MOUFARREJ

Born in Lebanon Bechara Moufarrej is one of the few singers to pursue an operatic career outside the country. Following his Master degree in Music he undertook further study in Italy and then joined the opera studio in his native Beirut and completed his training at the National Opera Studio in London.

Bechara has collaborated with the Royal philharmonic Orchestra in London, Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, the Filarmonica Romana and the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana, Novi Sad orchestra, under the baton of conductors Gianluca Marciànò, Toufik Maatouk, Alberto Maniaci, Toby Purser, Marc Shanaha and Nicola Pascovski. His most recent appearances include opera houses and festivals in Qatar, Dubai, Canada, Italy, UK as well as the Opéra de Paris.

Bechara has sung Don Jose Carmen at the Cirque d'Hiver in Paris, Rodolfo La Bohème with the Qatar Philharmonic, Alfredo La Traviata and Il Duca Rigoletto with WNO / as well as Ferrando Così fan tutte and Conte d'Almaviva Il Barbiere di Siviglia in a collaboration with Al Bustan Festival, Abu Dhabi Festival, Suoni Dal Golfo Festival.

He has sung Almaviva at the Teatro Giulio di Lucca, Teatro Goldoni, Livorno, Teatro Verdi in Pisa and Teatro Coccia in Novara.

Concert performances include Rossini Stabat Mater and Petite Messe Solennelle, Mozart's Requiem and Masses, Verdi Requiem. Messa di Gloria-Puccini, Requiem Donizetti etc... His recent engagements include a recital with Deborah Voigt at the Abu Dhabi Festival,

Nessun Dorma for Classic FM's Classics You Know series with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra /James Morgan and Rodolfo La Bohème for Clonter Opera, Lebanese Philharmonic Gounod St Cecilia Mass under Toufik Maatouk and recently La Traviata and Rigoletto in Serbia, Novi Sad Theatre under Gianluca Marciànò, Cleopatra world premiere opera at The Royal Albert Hall in London Currently residing in The United Kingdom London City and Serbia for his future engagements



NATIVITY

St. Romanos the Melodist Choir of Beirut

SUNDAY

12
DEC



FR. ROMANOS JOUBRAN, Conductor

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL | DOWNTOWN
6:00 PM**

Special thanks to Mr. Abdallah Tamari

SAINT ROMANOS THE MELODIST CHOIR OF BEIRUT

By the blessings of His Eminence Elias Audi, Metropolitan of Beirut, the "Saint Romanos Choir of Beirut" was founded in the year 2000. It all started with a concert held in the Saint George Church, Souk El Gharb. The choir, then, contained 30 chanters, both male and female. Members of the choir are essentially graduates of "The Saint Romanos School of Ecclesiastical Music" in Beirut where they study, for 5 years, everything related to Byzantine Ecclesiastical music starting from the basics. On the 5th year, the students prepare their diploma in Ecclesiastical music, then

travel to Greece to sit an exam before a jury led by the Protopsaltis Spyridon Pavlakis. After finishing all the necessary studies, the students may be members of the choir led by the very reverend father Romanos Joubran.

Our choir's purpose is to perform well known chants, especially those composed by the late Antiochian Protopsaltis Mitri Al Murr, and those composed by the late Protopsaltis of the Saint George Cathedral of Beirut Andraos Mouaikel. In addition, there are always some new compositions written by the choir's leader Fr. Romanos.

The choir performed many services in Arabic, Greek and English. Also, it has many published works performed by itself or in collaboration with other Orthodox choirs

Currently, the choir contains around 50 members, both males and females. They performed on several stages and in many churches, inside Beirut and throughout Lebanon, as well as in Syria, Greece, the United States of America, and lately in Romania.

CLARINET FANTASIES

SUNDAY

12
DEC

HEIDY HUWILER, Clarinet
TOMAS DRATVA, Piano

ST. ELIE CHURCH | KANTARI
8:00 PM

In collaboration with the Swiss Embassy



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Lebanon

HEIDY HUWILER

Heidy Huwiler is a freelance musician and instrumental teacher for clarinet. She studied at the Zurich University of Music and Theater with Elmar Schmid (teaching diploma) and then in Heinrich Mätzeer's concert class at the Lucerne University of Music, where she received her Master of Arts in Music with distinction. In her postgraduate degree she expanded her studies with Prof. Paolo Beltrami (clarinet) and the professors Ivan Klansky and Florian Hoelscher (chamber music). In addition, she attended various master classes in Switzerland, Germany and Italy.

With the variant instruments bass and Eb clarinet as well as basset horn and double bass clarinet, she participates in orchestras and chamber music groups, such as the Aargau wind soloists or 'La Stüa', a crossover production by clarinetist Marco Santilli, which is between jazz and classical music and folk music moves. She appears regularly as a soloist and gives concerts in a duo with the pianist Andrea Isch (www.duo-voltage.ch) and the Swiss-German Klezmerformation Freilach Trio.



Her enthusiasm for chamber music and folkloric music such as Bossanova and Klezmer lead her at home and abroad: to Brazil, Israel or the Netherlands and regularly to Germany. She is currently devoting herself to klezmer music and improvisation, as well as literary writing. In 2019 she completed a 'CAS in music, creation and scenario' with Charlotte Hug and in 2020/21 she is cohort of the 'Global Leaders Program', a one-year 'Art Entrepreneur' study program.

In 2018 the first CD 'rhapsodic' was created with the pianist Andrea Isch and works by George Gershwin, York Bowen and Marc Eychenne. Available upon request. The CD 'Überall & Nirgendwo von Freilach Trio' contains exclusively original compositions and will be released in winter 2020.

Heidy Huwiler plays instruments from Schwenk & Seggelke, a master workshop for innovative clarinet making, in Bamberg.

TOMAS DRATVA

Swiss pianist Tomas Dratva studied piano in Basel, Lucerne and London and gave his Début already during his studies with the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich in 1992. Since then, he has been performing regularly as a soloist and chamber musician in many countries around the world. He gave performances in concert

series and festivals in Lisbon, Buenos Aires, Dallas, San Francisco, London, Paris, Berlin, Bonn, Basel, Lugano, New York City, Washington DC, Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, Weimar, Bayreuth, Stockholm, Minsk, Krakow and solo concerts with numerous orchestras: Sinfoniorchester Luzern, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Argovia Philharmonic, Kammerorchester Basel, Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra Košice, Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra Bratislava, Praga Sinfonietta, Russian State Philharmonic Orchestra Tomsk, Slovak Sinfonietta et al.

Tomas Dratva is known to master a broad repertoire. The most important imperatives in his artistic activity are the search for new discoveries and rediscoveries, the study of contemporary music, and an in-depth occupation with historical pianos.

In the years 1993-2010 Tomas Dratva was the pianist of the Trio Animæ. With this ensemble, he performed more than 100 piano trio compositions.

Tomas Dratva has been recording regularly for 20 years. In 2017 Tomas Dratva founded the music label PIANOVERSAL - the world's first purely digital music label for classical and contemporary piano music.

Tomas Dratva is an enthusiastic piano teacher and mentor. He is president of the EPTA Switzerland (European Piano Teachers Association).



GOLDBERG VARIATIONS FOR STRINGS TRIO J.S.BACH

MONDAY

13
DEC

ENRICO FILIPPO MALIGNO, Violin
RICCARDO SAVINELLI, Viola
JACOPO DI TONNO, Cello

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZE
8:00 PM

In collaboration with the Italian Embassy and the Italian Cultural Institute



ENRICO FILIPPO MALIGNO

Born in Rome in 1986, He graduated with honors in 2008 at Conservatorio di Vicenza. He continued his studies with C. Horak, K. Sahatci and with N. Chastain.

After winning the position for first violin section in Berner Symphonieorchester in 2016, he became a member of the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich in 2017. He additionally works in Italy as Konzertmeister of the Colibrì Ensemble and as guest leader in other different Orchestras.

He has collaborated in orchestra and in chamber music ensembles with internationally renowned musicians and conductors including Paavo Jarvi, Bernard Haitink, Semion Bychkov, Herbert Bloomstedt, Giovanni Antonini, Franz Welser-Möst, Enrico Dindo, Klaidi Sahatci, Christophe Horak, Alexander Lonquich, Bruno

Giuranna, Monika Leskovar, Sergio Azzolini, Giovanni Sollima, Calogero Palermo, Bruno Delepelaire performing for important festivals and associations in Italy and abroad.

His orchestral work has always been accompanied by chamber music, taking part in courses with Heime Müller, Hatto Bayerle, C.

Giovaninetti, C.C. Schuster, J. Meissl, V. Erben, E. Feltz, L.Coppola and V. Ghielmi. He currently follows the Graduate Course in Basel in the class of Rainer Schmid (Hagen Quartett) with the zArt Quartett.

From July 2021 He became Artistic Director of his own chamber music "Festival Sette Parole". Enrico Filippo plays one of the most beautiful instrument made by Ansaldo Poggi in 1929.

RICCARDO SAVINELLI

Riccardo Savinelli is a passionate and fine chamber musician.

He regularly collaborates as Principal Viola with Enrico Dindo and his Solisti di Pavia, Orchestra Filarmonica di Torino, Orchestra da Camera di Perugia, Solisti Aquilani, Orchestra da Camera di Pescara Colibrì Ensemble. He plays in orchestras such as the Orchestra Mozart of Claudio Abbado, Spira Mirabilis, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia di Roma, Orchestra Leonore di Pistoia, Orchestra delle Settimane Musicali di Stresa, conducted among others by Gatti, Maga, Barshai, Penderecki, Noseda, Maazel, Pappano, Haitink. He won the competition for the First Viola of the Orchestra Sinfonica di Roma, a position he held for 10 years.

He has played in the most prestigious halls in the world such as the Philharmonie (Berlin),

Cadogan Hall (London), National Theater (Beijing), Auditorium Nacional (Madrid), Basf-Festival (Ludwigshafen), Mozarteum (Salzburg), Musikverein (Vienna), Carnegie Hall (New York), Kennedy Center (Washington), KKL of Lucerne.

His particular predilection for chamber music led him to collaborate with musicians such as Enrico Dindo, Francesca Dego, Mario Brunello, Pavel Vernikov, Andrea Oliva, Enrico Pace, Giovanni Sollima playing for Guggenheim Foundation, Accademia dei Cameristi of Bari, Settimane Musicali di Stresa, Spoleto Festival, Festival di Portogruaro, Amici della Musica di Modena, Fondazione Teatri Reggio Emilia, Unione Musicale di Torino, GOG di Genova, Concerti del Quirinale, Mecklenburg-Festival, Ravello Festival, Accademia Filarmonica Romana.

He has intense activity with the String Quartet Quartetto Mirus of which he is a permanent member, an ensemble that performs for the most important Italian and European festivals. In its ten-year career the Mirus Quartet has collaborated with guest musicians such as Mario Brunello (Antiruggine), Cristina Zavalloni (Unione Musicale di Torino), Belcea Quartet (GOG di Genova).

He is also interested in contemporary music and explores new musical languages playing many projects for the Accademia Filarmonica; with the Black Mountain String Quartet he played for the Swiss Institute of Rome the monumental Second Quartet by Morton Feldman, a piece performed only about ten times from the date of composition due to the complexity of the piece and the duration (6 continuous hours).

With the Quartetto Mirus, he performed live on Radio Rai3 the last chamber work by the great contemporary composer Thomas Ades, "The four Quarters" for the Concerti del Quirinale, that has been the first performance in Italy after its Premiere.

Has recorded for Labels such as Decca, Sony, Brilliant, Tactus. For Naxos, he has recorded as a soloist the Triple Concerto by Ghedini and recently with the Quartetto Mirus a CD of unpublished compositions by Felice Giardini. He graduates in Viola at the Conservatory of Novara, later he obtains the Master Degree at the university Hogeschool of Ghent (Belgium) under the guidance of Michael Kugel. He

specializes with Danusha Waskiewicz (Mozart Orchestra and formerly Principal Viola of the Berliner Philharmoniker), Simonide Braconi (Principal Viola of the Teatro alla Scala), Simone Briatore (Principal Viola of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia), Gilad Karni (Principal Viola of the Tonhalle of Zurich).

He also graduates in Philosophy with a thesis on Philosophy of Music with Livio Bottani.

He collaborates for 10 years with the magazine "Allegro con Brio" directed by Luigi Fait for which he writes articles on philosophy and music.

He is the creator, together with the actor and director Alessandro Rubinetti, of the musical theatrical visits organized at the Museum of Musical Instruments in Rome.

He is co-founder and artistic director of Avos Project - International School of Music in Rome.

A great book lover, he attends creative writing courses at the Holden School and publishes a book of novels and short stories for Giulio Perrone Editore.

JACOPO DI TONNO

Born in Naples in 1977, Jacopo Di Tonno begins to study the cello at the age of nine and graduates with full marks (10/10 cum laude) from the "L. D'Annunzio" Conservatory in Pescara. He refines his skills with Radu Aldulescu in Spain and E. Dindo and improves his skills in the field of chamber music with P. Farulli of the Alban Berg Quartet. He becomes the first cello of the "Orchestra Giovanile Italiana". He completes the two-year course with full marks (60/60 with honours). He boasts collaborations with conductors, such as R. Muti, G. Sinopoli, N. Marriner, C. Hogwood, G. Nosedà, L. Berio, L. Pfaff, C. M. Giulini, M. Honeck, N. Luisotti and more.

When he is only twenty-one years old, he is appointed as the first cello at the "Teatro Regio" in Turin and from that moment on he starts working with the most renowned orchestras in Italy and abroad. He is the first cello of I Solisti di Pavia, with which he performs during the most prestigious international concert seasons.

He collaborates with E. Dindo in chamber music concerts and record projects.

He is a member of the arts commission and the first cello of new Italian music excellence, the "Colibrì Ensemble"



He performs in many concerts, including solo concerts, and features in recordings for Decca Italia, Harmonia Mundi, Brilliant Classics, Trito', Velut Luna, Radio3, Sky Italia, Sky Arte and Rai Radiotelevisione Italiana.

He collaborates as tutor with the most young Orchetra like: "Orchestra Giovanile Italiana" in Fiesole and the "Orchestra del Teatro Olimpico" in Vicenza.

Jacopo Di Tonno is founder and artistic director of the "Gravedona Chamber Music Festival" a festival that he see him as protagonist together to: Francesca Dego, Alexander

Lonquich, Lorenza Borrani, Roman Simovic, Alessandro Carbonare and many others. He is a cello teacher at the "G. Nicolini" Music Conservatory in Piacenza and in the "Pavia Cello Academy" the first Italian academy dedicated to the cello.

ALLAHŪ MAĀNA

TUESDAY

14
DEC

GHADA SHBEIR

ELIE HARDAN, Piano

NAJI AZAR, Violin

AFIF MERHEJ, Oud

MARIA MAKHOUL, Qanoun

MAROUN ABOU SAMRA

Douff & Percussion

ST. ELIE CHURCH | KANTARI

8:00 PM



GHADA SHBEIR

Ghada Shbeir holds a PHD in Musical Sciences as well as a diploma in Arabic singing from the Holy Spirit University- Kaslik.

Today, she teaches oriental Arabic singing and its theories as well as the history of Arabic music at the same university. She is also the director of the Oriental Arabic choir at the Holy Spirit University- Kaslik.

In 1997, she was awarded the first prize at the Best Arabic Song Competition in Egypt. She was also awarded the BBC World Music Award for both the Middle East and North Africa for her CD entitled "Mouachahat" in 2007. In addition to that, she won the first international award prize for the interpretation of Andalu-

sian chants (Mouachahat).

Later on, Ghada Shbeir released several Arabic CDs entitled "Qawaleb", "Al Qasida", "Andalusia", and numerous Syriac Chants CDs; « Syriac Chants », « Passion », « Chants Syriaques- Noel » and « Chants Syriaques- Vol 4 ». She has recently launched a book entitled "Al Mouashahat"; an academic curriculum for oriental singing students distributed over five years.

Her second book will be released soon as well and it's entitled "Al Maqamat Al Arabiya"; an academic curriculum for oriental singing students distributed over four years.

Furthermore, Shbeir has executed lots of researches about Arabic music such as Mouashahat and about Syriac music. As a result, she was able to note more than 700 melodies of Maronite and Catholic Syriac chants between 2004 and 2007.

Ghada Shbeir has traveled to many countries performing a lot of concerts and participating in international music congresses by giving conference talks and lectures. She has also participated in international festivals in Europe and many the countries around the world including Lebanon, Egypt, Greece, Slovakia, France, London, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Canada, Bologna, Qatar, Germany, Spain, China, America, Sarajevo, Switzerland, Jordan, Turkey, Oman, Bahrain, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Muscat, and others. Ghada Shbeir's achievements and artistic career include:

- Composing many poems and mouashahats and performing them in many concerts in Lebanon and abroad. Shbeir composed poems for "Wallada", "Ya telak riqqi", "Yom l doja", "Yakoutat al ghaymat" and a bouquet of poems for Abdul Aziz Saoud Al Babtain.
- Participating in "Beirut Chants Festival" for thirteen consecutive years starting 2007.
- Participating in five television programs such

as "The Voice" during its first season in 2012, in which she participated as a coach for the participants.

– Giving lectures about Arabic singing in several countries including Lebanon, Oman, Bahrain, Algeria, Egypt and Greece.

– Participating in several musical plays including: "The Land of Immortality," in Bahrain in 2014, and "Ibn Battuta" in Muscat and Milan in 2015.

– Participating in "Al Bustan" Festival for three consecutive years: 2002, 2003 and 2004

performing Syriac chants concerts.

– Publishing many educational articles such as an article about Wadih El Safi published in Al-Nahar newspaper in December 2013. In addition, she published an article about F. Youssef Al-Ashkar in 2012, another about F. Youssef El Khoury in 2011 and an article about The Rahbani Brothers in 2014.



WEDNESDAY

15
DEC

LES DIVAS DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE

FARRAH EL DIBANY, Mezzo-soprano

PRIX LYRIQUE DE L'AROP

MINA NABIL HANNA, Piano

BEIRUT SOUKS | DOWNTOWN
8:00 PM

Special thanks to Mr. Raji Challita

IST BML
Istisharat

FARRAH EL DIBANY

Born in Alexandria, Egypt in February 1989, Farrah started piano lessons at the age of 10 .

Started voice lessons with Dr. Neveen Allouba in 2003 in Egypt, which she pursued at the Hanns- Eisler Music Academy in Berlin. There she joined the class of Prof. Renate Faltin , then Prof. Janet Williams. In 2014 she obtained the Bachelor of Arts in Opera from the Hanns-Eisler. Simultaneously she pursued her studies of Architecture at the Technische Universität of Berlin, graduating with a Bachelor of Science. In 2016 Farrah obtained her Master of Arts from the Universität der Künste Berlin, studying with KS Markus Brück. She is a frequent student of Opera star Elina Garanca.

Student of the German School in Alexandria, graduated in 2007, she was able to participate in all musical activities of the school

and to join the "Jugend Musiziert" competitions in Athens, Rome, Thessaloniki, Istanbul and Germany, where she has won various first and second prizes.

In 2007, she received the first prize of the Singing Competition of the Egyptian Supreme Council of Culture.

October 2013 she received the 3rd prize at the international Singing Competition of "Guilio Perotti" in Germany.

Award.

July 2019 Farrah performed another Carmen at the Opera Festival of Glatt accompanied by the southwest german philharmonic Orchestra of Konstanz.

Farrah has been recently honored at the National Youth Forum by the Egyptian president Abd El Fattah Al Sisi and was the first ever to receive the prestigious Hassan Kamy Award at the Manial Palace Festival, given by Prince Abbas Helmy and renowned Pianist Ramzy Yassa.

Farrah gives regular concerts in Europe and the Middle East, in addition to opera arias and songs, she sings a number of Dalida songs until recently she has performed 2 successful concerts with only Dalida songs, accompanied by les chordes croisées, at the Hall de la chanson in Paris. She is mentioned in a newly released book about Dalida as a unique Dalida successor.

Farrah works tightly with UNHCR, UNICEF, Savethechildren and the UN foundation by giving charity concerts and by participating, in their diverse campaigns, as a leading Artist in her domain, especially in the Middle East, in support of their missions.

France musique released a portrait about Farrah as part of their Interview series with upcoming Arists.

Farrah participated at this year's Sochi Winter International Festival in collaboration with Opera for Peace in an orchestral Gala concert. She is also the face and voice in a collaborative Ad between the Paris Opera house and Devialet, being released this month. Farrah just collaborated with the Institut du Monde Arabe on their acclaimed Exhibition "Les Divas arabes" by filming and recording songs by 3 of the Arab world's most famous divas, Dalida, Fayrouz and Asmahan. And she was chosen by Jack Lang to sing in front of the French President Emmanuel Macron, Hillary Clinton, Audrey Azoulay and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterrez at the opening evening of the forum "generation equality". Upcoming concerts includes recitals at the Dubai Opera, the Beirut chants festival, the UNISSON concert solidaire at the Opera Comique in Paris, Salle du Senechal in Toulouse, Institut Giacometti in collaboration with the Academie de l'opera de Paris and a concert collaboration with Bechstein company in Berlin. She was also part of the Fête de la chanson orientale TV concert presented on France 2 and TV5 Monde this September. Director Carole Grigy is currently writing a semi fiction movie about the cultural relation between Egypt and France titled "Farrah l'Egyptienne" starring Farrah and to be shown on the French Tv.



MINA NABIL HANNA

Studied piano at age seven with Mr. Nabil Agaybi and Mme. Ingy Badawi. He got a Diploma of Piano performance from ABRSM in 2012. Participated in many Piano Masterclasses and courses like Sherborne music school, studying with renowned artists like Johanna Horny-Neumann, Julian Jacobson and Nigel Hutchison. He is currently studying with Michael Pandya. As a collaborative pianist, Mina performs nationally as well as internationally in Greece, Italy, Turkey and Germany and Bahrain, working with Singers like Amira Selim, Nouresta El Merghany and Farrah El Dibany. He accompanies regularly Professor Dr. Sobhi Bidair's Opera training course at Cairo Opera House, Amira Selim Masterclasses in Egypt, the American University in Cairo vocal studios, Fabrica Musical Theater, and Bibliotheca Alexandrina Choir.

THURSDAY

16
DEC

THE TRADITIONAL BYZANTINE CHRISTMAS

St. Stephanos the Melode Choir



FR. ROMANOS AL OSTA, Conductor

**ST. SAUVEUR CATHOLIC
CATHEDRAL
8:00 PM**

ST. STEPHANOS THE MELODE CHOIR

The Saint Stephanos Choir was founded in 2009 by Father Romanos (Bachir) Osta, head of the Saint Stephanos Patriarchal School of byzantine Music.

Fr. Romanos is also the first chanter of the See

of Antioch. He gathered a large number of skilled chanters in the Eparchy of Beirut, Jbeil, then extended to South and reached all the Lebanese Eparchies.

Moreover, he founded the Saint Stephanos female choir in 2012 that is currently under the direction of Miss Josiane El Hindi.

The Choir presented many recitals, served many masses and prayers (Parochial masses and prayers, ordination of priests and bishops, joint recitals with other choirs...)

All members of the Choir are experienced chanters of Byzantine music, as well as students of the Saint Stephanos Patriarchal School, who gradually enter the Choir upon acquiring all required skills and knowledge.

GREAT MASS IN C MINOR W. A. MOZART

FRIDAY

17
DEC

ANNA MARIA LABIN, Soprano
CATERINA DI TONNO, Soprano
ANICIO ZORZI GIUSTINIANI, Tenor
CESAR NAASSY, Bass-baritone
**ANTONINE UNIVERSITY & NOTRE-DAME
UNIVERSITY CHOIRS**
**LEBANESE PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**
TOUFIC MAATOUK, Conductor

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH | MONOT
8:00 PM

Special thanks to Mr. André Wardé



*In collaboration with the Lebanese National
Conservatory of Music*



ANA MARIA LABIN

Romanian born soprano Ana Maria Labin was raised in Switzerland. While still a student in Zurich, she won the First Prize at the inaugural Concours Ernst Haefliger and had her debut as Valencienne in Pier Luigi Pizzi's Die lustige Witwe under the baton of Asher Fish at La Scala di Milano and Opéra Garnier. Ana Maria Labin established herself as an acclaimed Mozart singer as Contessa in Le Nozze di

Figaro, Donna Anna in Don Giovanni and Fiordiligi in Così fan tutte at the Drottningholm Festival, Opéra de Versailles, Mozart Festspiele Würzburg and at the Enescu Festival. She star in Don Giovanni as Donna Anna at Glyndebourne on tour and in Le Nozze di Figaro as Contessa at the Estate Theatre Prague, Opera North and at Oper Köln with Ruben Dobrovsky. Other Mozart roles include Arminida in La Finta giardiniera at the Festival Aix-en-Provence and Celia in Mozart's Lucio Silla, staged by Günter Krämer at the Mannheimer Mozartsommer under the baton of Dennis Russel Davies/Adam Fischer. In 2019 she made her debut as Pamina in Die Zauberflöte at the Opernfestspiele St. Margarethen (Austria). Her vast Baroque repertoire includes Armida in Händel's Rinaldo (Robert Carsen/Glyndebourne OT) under Laurence Cummings, with whom she also performed Brockespassion at the Händelfestspiele Göttingen. She sang Vagaus in Vivaldi's Juditha Triumphans under Jean-Christophe Spinosi at Théâtre Champs Elysées, Manto in Agostino Steffani's Niobe under Thomas Hengelbrock at the Schwetzingen Festival. At the Festival Baroque de Beaune, she appeared as Romilda in Händel's Xerxes and as Leocasta in Vivaldi's Giustino with Ottavio Dantone and the Accademia Bizantina, as well as singing Esilena in Händel's Rodrigo under Thibault Noally (Les Accents) and giving a Mozart solo recital with Pianist Antoine Palloc at the Hospices Salle des pauvres. She appeared at the Eisenstadt Haydnfestival in the title role of Haydn's Armida and Euridice in Orfeo et Euridice under Enrico Onofri and Alessio Pizzzech, toured with Mozart's Great c minor Mass as well as singing



Ginevra in Händel's *Ariodante* with Les Musiciens du Louvre and Marc Minkowski, *La Baronessa Irene* in Haydn's *La vera costanza* under Andreas Spering at the Brühler Schlosskonzerte and Mozart's *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* under Claus Peter Flor with the Orchestra Santa Cecilia in Rome. With Ruben Jais and the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi she performed Bach Cantatas, *Galatea in Acis* and *Galatea* with Raymond Leppard (English Chamber Orchestra) and has appeared with David Zinman (Tonhalle Orchestra), Alain Altinoglu (Orchestre National de Montpellier), Daniel Kawka (Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI) and at the Festival *Les moments Lyriques* in Chartres presented by Eve Ruggieri.

Ana Maria Labin's concert engagements have taken her on tour performing Haydn's *Il ritorno*

di Tobia, *Die Schöpfung* and *Die Jahreszeiten* with the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonie under Adam Fischer, Haydn's *Scena di Berenice* and Beethoven's concert aria "Ah, perfido" with Boston Baroque, Beethoven's *Missa C* and *Chorfantasie* with Phillipe Herrewege (Collegium Vocale Gent), Vivaldi's motet "In furore iustissimae irae" with the English Concert under Harry Bickett, Pergolesi's *La Maddalena al sepolcro* and *Stabat Mater* at the Festival *La Chaise-Dieu* under Giulio Prandi (Ghislieri Consort) and *Ino* in Telemann's *Ino Kantate* under Michael Schneider and *La Stagione* at the Kasseler Musiktage und Magdeburger Telemann Festspiele; a work that she has recently recorded for the Sony label *Deutsche harmonia mundi*.

Plans include: *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* (Bellezza) in Paris and Moscow with Thibault Noally and Les Accents; *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Contessa), *Così fan tutte* (Fiordiligi) and *Don Giovanni* (Donna Anna) in Bordeaux, Versailles and Barcelona; Beethoven's 9th Symphony in Wupperthal, Bern and Koeln; *Missa Solemnis* in Thessaloniki; Mozart's *Requiem* in The Hague and in Steiermark.

CATERINA DI TONNO

Born in Naples but raised in Rome, Caterina Di Tonno began her musical studies at a very young age as a pianist and violinist. Later on, she took up voice studies with Maria Luisa Carboni and graduated from the Conservatorio of Pescara. She perfected her education under the guidance of Shirley Verrett and Alfonso Antoniozzi. The private coaching of Mariella Devia had a profound influence on her technique.



Di Tonno has won prizes at many competitions in Italy ("Di Stefano", "Bellini", "Duchi d'Acquaviva", As.Li.Co. among them). In 2007 she won the "Toti Dal Monte" Competition as Despina in *Così fan tutte*, launching her operatic career. Thanks to her intuitive sense of theatre, she excels in comedic and brilliant roles, especially those of Mozart. Highlights in recent seasons include the Mozart/Da Ponte trilogy produced by Teatro La Fenice in Venice starting from 2011 and frequently revived in the following years, directed by Damiano Michieletto and conducted by Antonello Manacorda, in the three roles of Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. With the same creative team, she was Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* in 2015. In 2010 she portrayed Giovanna in the TV production of *Rigoletto* with Plácido Domingo conducted by Zubin Mehta. She worked with Mehta again in 2011 as Sacerdotessa in *Aida* at Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Her operatic repertoire includes Adina in *L'elisir d'amore* (Mantova, 2006), Nannetta in *Falstaff* (Circuito Lombardo, 2008), Berta in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Napoli, 2008), Berenice in *L'occasione fa il ladro* (Lugo, 2009), Serpina in *La serva padrona* (Treviso, 2010), Olimpia in *La fuga in maschera* by Spontini (Festival Jesi e Napoli, 2012-13), Clorinda in *Cenerentola* (San Carlo di Napoli, 2014), Valenciennes in *La vedova allegra* (Cagliari, 2015). Upcoming performances include *La grotta di Trofonio* by Paisiello at Festival della Valle d'Itria and Teatro San Carlo in Naples. Her versatility led her often to experiment with-non-strictly classical vocal techniques in projects such as the soundtrack by Carlo Crivelli for the tv movie *Virginia la monaca di Monza* directed by Alberto Sironi and Gershwin songs with the famous jazz pianist Giorgio Gaslini.

Her extensive baroque, chamber, oratorio and concert experience include Mendelssohn's *Ein Sommernachtstraum* (in Naples conducted by Jeffrey Tate and in Milan conducted by Antonello Manacorda), Bach's *Magnificat* (MiTo Festival, conducted by Manacorda), Rossini's *Stabat mater* (Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra in Beirut), Beethoven's *Egmont* (Pomeriggi Musicali), Spohr's *Des Heilands letzte Stunden* (Coro e Orchestra dell'Opera di Roma), Mercadante's *Le ultime sette parole* (Coro e

Orchestra del San Carlo di Napoli) and, in 2016, Mozart's and Donizetti's *Requiems* with the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra.

ANICIO ZORZI GIUSTINIANI

Anicio Zorzi Giustiniani was born in Florence, Italy. A violinist for many years from a very young age, his focus shifted to singing shortly thereafter.

His vocal studies began at Conservatorio Luigi Cherubini in Florence and after under the guidance of Fernando Cordeiro Opa and Silvia Bossa. His singing debuted occurred at Teatro della Pergola in Florence in 2001 as a soloist in Charpentier's *Te Deum*. He has been recognized in numerous competitions, including the 6th Sacred Music International Competition in Rome and at the 39th International Singing Competition Toti Dal Monte in Treviso for the main male role in *La Vera Costanza* by Haydn. He subsequently debuted this opera in theaters of Madrid, Treviso, Reggio Emilia and Liège. He has performed many lead roles throughout major international opera houses, including: Mozart's *Così fan tutte*- Ferrando, and *Don Giovanni*-Don Ottavio, and Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*- Conte Almaviva, at Teatro La Fenice, Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*-Romeo (tenor version) at the Royal Opera House of Muscat, Mozart's *Betulia Liberata* Ozia, under Riccardo Muti at the Salzburg Festival and the Ravenna Festival, Mercadante's *I Due Figaro*- Il Conte Almaviva and *Torribio*, under Riccardo Muti at the Teatro Real de Madrid, the Salzburg Festival, the Ravenna Festival and the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires, Lehar's *Die lustige Witwe*-Camille de Rossillon, at the Teatro Filarmonico di Verona and at the Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari, Handel's *Alcina*-Oronte, in the *Opéra des Nations* in Geneva, *Die Zauberflöte*- Tamino, in the *Opéra Royal de Wallonie* in Liège and at Teatro La Fenice and Teatro Verdi in Salerno; Handel's *Giove in Argo*, title role, at the Theater an der Wien in Vienna; Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*- Ernesto, at La Monnaie in Bruxelles, Gluck's *Alceste*- Evandro, for Ruhrtriennale with René Jacobs, Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in Lausanne in a new production of Robert Carsen, Cimarosa's *Il Matrimonio segreto*, Paolino, in Nancy, *Opéra National Lorraine*, Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*- Ferrando, in Drottningholm, Versailles and Bucarest with Mark Minkowski and in Lille with Emmanuele

Haim, Mozart's Don Giovanni-Don Ottavio, at the Opéra de Lausanne, in La Fenice and at the Opera of Roma, Monteverdi's Il ritorno di Ulisse in Patria-Telemaco and Giove, in european tour with René Jacobs, Falstaff in Chicago with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Riccardo Muti, Handel's Alcina-Oronte, in Montecarlo, Toulouse, Versailles with Philippe Jaroussky and Ottavio Dantone and in Geneva and Glyndebourne Festival, Lucrezia Borgia-Gennaro, in Sankt Gallen staged by Tobias Kratzer, Gluck's Le cinesi at the Palau de les Arts in Valencia with Fabio Biondi, Europa Galante, Don Pasquale- Ernesto, in Bruxelles, La Monnaie and in la Maestranza in Sevilla, Mozart's Idomeneo- Idamante, at the Teatro Real in Madrid, Bach's Matthew's Passion (Evangelist) with Marc Minkowski in European tour, Il flauto magico in Salerno, Les Indes galantes and Les Huguenots in Geneva, Mozart's Così fan tutte at Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Monteverdi's Il ritorno di Ulisse in Patria-Telemaco, at Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, staged by Robert Carsen. He worked with important conductors such as Riccardo Muti, Michele Mariotti, Alessandro De Marchi, Paolo Arrivabeni, Marc Minkowski, Emmanuelle Haim, Alain Altinoglu, Ivor Bolton, Pietro Rizzo, Hubert Soudant, Jeffrey Tate, Stefano Montanari, Ottavio Dantone, René Jacobs, Leonardo Garcia Alarcón, Antonello Manacorda, Jesús López Cobos, Fabrizio Maria Carminati and stage directors such as Robert Carsen, Damiano Michieletto, Laurent Pelly, Emilio Sagi, Gabriele Lavia, Arnaud Bernard,

Tobias Kratzer, David Bösch.

Has has recorded for: Deutsche Grammophon (Haendel's Ezio, conducted by Alan Curtis), Emi Virgin (Haendel's Berenice, Giove in Argo and Ariodante, conducted by Alan Curtis), Glossa (Monteverdi's Il ritorno di Ulisse in patria, title role, conducted by Claudio Cavina and Caldara's Morte e sepoltura di Cristo conducted by Fabio Biondi), Bongiovanni (Moneta's Il conte Policronio), Hyperion (Cesti's Le disgrazie d'amore), Ducale music (Mercadante's I due Figaro, conducted by Riccardo Muti), Naxos (Morlacchi's Tebaldo e Isolina, conducted by Antonino Fogliani), Dynamic (Hasse's Artaserse).

CESAR NAASSY

Known for his striking stage presence and deep warm voice, Cesar finds himself particularly well in the works of Mozart. His notable vocal agility and cantabile voice, also allowed him to tackle the Belcanto repertoire of Rossini, Bellini and Donizetti. Some of the roles he performed on stage include Raimondo in "Lucia di Lammermoor", Dulcamara in "Elisir d'amore", Don Alfonso in "Così fan tutte", Bartolo in "Le nozze di Figaro, Sarastro in "Die Zauberflöte", The king of Scotland in "Ariodante" and Superintendent Bud in "Albert Herring" to name a few...

Since the start of his singing career, he has performed on the international stage in renowned theatres, such as "Teatro San Carlo" in Naples, "Teatro Pergolesi" in Jesi, "Teatro



Flavio Vespasiano" in Rieti, "Auditorium della Concigliazione" in Rome, all the way to "Théâtre de l'Opéra de Montreal" in Montreal and "Théâtre Monument National".

He has had the privilege to work with world-renowned directors such as Charles Binamé, and has studied with international artists such as Caterina Ditunno. He also holds two Masters degrees in Music, one of which is from the prestigious McGill University in Montreal.

Cesar has been under the tutelage of maestro Toufic Maatouk since the beginning of his singing career in 2015.

ANTONINE UNIVERSITY CHOIR

One of the leading choirs in Lebanon, Antonine University Choir was founded in 1978. It has contributed since the eighties in the cultural enrichment of the Lebanese musical life with its repertoire.

UA choir has performed in Rome, Milan, Nice, Lyon, Monaco, St. Étienne, Doha, Dubai, Al Ain in United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Tbilisi, Paris, New York, Los Angeles, Muscat, Naples, Venice, Helsinki and Manaus Brazil. It has participated in the Classical Music Festival of Al Ain (United Arab Emirates 2008-2009), Al Bustan International Festival (2009 to 2019), Byblos International Festival (2010-2011-2013-2014), Baalbeck International Festival (2011-2018-2020), Beirut Chants Festival-Lebanon (2008 to 2020), Ehdeniyat (2016), Tbilisi Opera Festival (2012), Festival d'Ile de France (2012-2013), and Bahrain International Music Festival (2013). In May 2010, April 2013 and May 2015, the choir performed at the legendary Carnegie Hall in New York. It made its Los Angeles debut in April 2014, performing at the LA City Hall. In November 2016, the choir also made its debut at the San Carlo opera house. In addition, the choir has represented Lebanon in the opening of the Lebanese Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale in May 2017. In October 2019, Antonine University Choir performed at the Manaus Opera House in Brazil.

NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY CHOIR BIOGRAPHY

With more than a dozen concerts per season, numerous recordings and publications, as well as many international awards, the Notre Dame University Choir is one of Lebanon and the region's outstanding choirs. A broad repertoire, a richly warm sound, an unmistakable interpretation all contribute to make it a permanent partner of the international festivals, and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra and its conductors, where it functions as a musical ambassador for Beirut in the great concert halls around the world.

Along with the symphonic choral central repertoire, the annual season programming of the choir includes a wide range of Lebanese music, in close cooperation with celebrated composers, such as Iyad Kanaan, Gabriel Yared and Valentino Miserachs Grau, with the aim of developing and growing the Lebanese choral repertoire. Furthermore, Notre Dame University Choir is constantly developing new and unusual ways of experiencing choral music.

Since its establishment in 1993, it has been shaped by reverend Khalil Rahme, a Maronite Maronite monk, who returned to Beirut after completing his music studies in Rome, to found the choir and the School of Music at Notre Dame University, in addition to his numerous entrusted tasks at the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music.

TOUFIC MAATOUK

Toufic Maatouk, is one of the most compelling conductors of his generation.



SACRED AND PROFANE

SATURDAY

18
DEC

MIRA AKIKI, Soprano
OLGA EL KIK, Soprano
NATASHA NASSAR, Mezzo-soprano
CHARLES EID, Tenor
FADY JEANBART, Baritone
CESAR NAASSY, Bass-baritone
VARTAN AGOPIAN, Piano

ST. MARON CHURCH
GEMMAYZE
8:00 PM



MIRA AKIKI

Mira Akiki, a Lebanese coloratura Soprano, known for mastering Vocal and Acting techniques with high agility. She discovered her passion for music when she was 5, every time she heard her father playing the piano.

After joining the NDU choir at the age of 11, her piano teacher discovered her vocal power. She joined the Lebanese Higher Conservatory of Music six years later, and graduated in Opera Singing in 2015 with honors, class of Fr. "Toufic Maatouk".

She had the privilege to work with renowned international singers and vocal coaches namely Elizabeth Norberg Schulz, Cinzai Forte, Luciana D'Intino, Caterina Di Tonno, Simone Alaimo, Joyce El Khoury, Shady Torbey, Xenia Preisnerberger and many others, and has collaborated

with international directors as Marco Spada, Alessio Pizzech, Roberto Catalano, Mirana Naim, and Joseph Sassine.

Mira played many roles in different operas. She was Frasquita in Carmen (2012), Marcellina in Mozart's "Nozze di Figaro" (2013), Berta in Rossini's "Barbiere di Siviglia" (2014 & 2017), Despina in Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte" (2015), Adina in Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'amore" (2016), Barbarina in "Nozze di Figaro" (2018).

Mira was spotted performing in different local and international festivals and events including Beirut Chants festival, Al Bustan festival, the Lebanese National Museum, Expo Milan, The Opera house of Muscat, Al Hussein Cultural Center in Jordan.

Mira enjoys ensemble works. She is currently member and soloist in the Antonine Choir since 2016.

OLGA EL KIK KADI

The Lebanese soprano, Olga El Kik Kadi, commenced her singing career in Lebanon, where she studied at the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of music with Gayane Nersessian and earned her Baccalaureate degree with distinction in 2019. She enjoyed performing with Antonine University Choir, Notre Dame University Choir, and Les Cordes Resonnantes Ensemble in Lebanon, Brazil, New York, France, Canada, and Italy. As her early performance, she relished portraying Despina from Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at Al Bustan Hotel and since then her repertoire continued to grow from Vivaldi, Pergolesi, Händel, Bach to Verdi, Puccini, and Mascagni. She worked with renowned international singers and vocal coaches as Nadejna Manoy-



an, Elizabeth Norberg Schulz, Toufic Maatouk, Shadi Torbey, Artemisa Repa, Cinzia Forte, Micaella Mingheras and has collaborated with international pianists and directors as Denis Dubois, Franck Foncouberte, Alberto Maniaci, Salvatore Scinaldi, Fabio Centanni, and Toufic Maatouk. In 2018, she participated in the Voice Arab, the reality television singing competition program, to spread lyrical singing across mainly the Arab world and she succeeded by being a finalist due to surprisingly high number of votes from Arabic countries.

Aside from her singing career, Olga is a civil and environmental engineer graduated with honor from the American University of Beirut.

NATASHA NASSAR

Natasha Nassar is a rising Lebanese-American mezzo soprano whose career has taken her across the globe. Known for her rich and

velvety tone, she has continued to captivate audiences with her distinct voice. Born in London and raised in Dubai, she later moved to the United States of America. Ms. Nassar is a graduate of Northwestern University, where she completed her degree in Opera performance. She has trained with world-renowned vocal teachers and coaches including Gayletha Nichols, Penelope Bitzas, Jane Klaviter, and Roger Malouf. She has won many awards in music and opera, including being one of the winners of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Competition. Ms. Nassar's accomplishments include numerous operas and musical productions, master classes, competitions, awards, opera programs, and concerts. Some of the highlights of her career include her Carnegie Hall debut where she was invited as a solo guest artist, as well as her performance at the Dubai World Cup, where

she was invited to sing at the opening ceremony.

In addition to her career in Opera, Ms. Nassar is also an accomplished composer. She constantly strives to merge her passion with music with her dedication to humanitarian causes. Her most recent projects include a benefit concert for the victims of the 2020 Beirut explosion, as well as other concerts she gave that raised money to help rebuild Sursock Palace in Lebanon. She is currently working on a debut album which will be released in 2022. Ms. Nassar is currently based between Beirut and New York City.

FADY JEANBART

Winner of the third prize of Leopold Bellan's competition, and vocal coach at Notre Dame University-Louaize, Elias Rahbani Music Academy and Philokalia Institute, Fady Jeanbart started his vocal studies with Garo Jaderian and Penny Pavlakis, before moving to France and graduating from E.N.M. de Pantin then E.N.M de Saint Germaine en Laye. He was trained under several acclaimed coaches such as Blandine de Saint Sauveur, Jean-Louis Dumoulin, Günther Leib, Raphael Sikorski, Luciana d'Intino and Agnes de Brunhoff. His roles include Piquillo in Offenbach's *La Périchole*, Un messaggero in Verdi's *Aïda*, officer Blangy and the Khedive representative in Andre Messager's *Coups du Roulis*, Monsieur Loyal and pastor Kimball in Kurt Weill's opera *quat'sous*, the journalist in Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tiresias*, Monostatos in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, to name a few. His cantata/oratorio appearances cover major works such as Bach's cantatas, Schubert Mass in G, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Fauré's *Requiem*, and Brahms *Requiem*. His collaborations include singers like Dominique McCormick, Julie Nesrallah, Lara Jokhadar, Marie Josée Matar, Mona Hallab, Samar Salamé, Stéphane Sénéchal; conductors like André Malouli, Hisham Gabr, Joe Daou, Manfred Müssauer; Henri Ghoraieb, and orchestras like the Lebanese Philharmonic, Beirut *sinfonietta*, and BA chamber orchestra. He most recently is known for having done an extensive research on Wadia Sabra's rediscovered hidden works; editing & publishing two music books on his two french operas and 20 piano pieces.

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VARTAN AGOPIAN

Born in 1985 in Beirut, Vartan Agopian attended the Armenian Evangelical Gertmenian School until 1988 when his family fled to Cyprus because of the Civil War. After 3 years in the Nareg School in Limassol and Nicosia, Vartan returned to Beirut and attended the Armenian Evangelical Central High School until his graduation in 2003 as class valedictorian. At school, Vartan has been the president of his class for 5 years and has led the school choir and band during his Middle School and High School years.

Parallel to his academic life, Vartan Agopian began studying piano (in 1990) with Alina Dakessian in Cyprus and upon returning to Beirut, he joined the Tekelian Conservatory of Music and studied piano with Liza Berberian and Hasmig Baghdjian. In 1998, he began

piano studies at the Lebanese National Conservatory with Prof. Arthur Satyan.

Also, since 1999, Vartan has been a leader for numerous children's summer schools and camps in Lebanon, Cyprus and Syria.

In 2003, Vartan joined the Haigazian University Education Department. Alongside his university studies, Vartan taught music at his Alma Mater for 2 years and directed 2 Christmas programs. Later, in 2005, he moved to CTI (Christian Teaching Institute) where he has been teaching music, and directing the school choir, Christmas and end-year musicals for 6 years and has been the school counselor for 3 years, planning and administering both prevention and intervention programs for students of all ages, as well as organizing the values education and behavioral management of the Elementary school.

In February 2010, Vartan received his MA degree in Counseling Psychology from Haigazian University. Since then, he has been tutoring graduate students and assisting them in their research papers and theses. In March 2010, Vartan Agopian was honored to be chosen judge for 3 different music competitions: The AUB Hagggar solo competition, the IC Middle School and High School solo competition and the Choral Competition of Francophonic Schools in Lebanon. In April 2010, Vartan was the guest speaker at the School Counseling graduate class at LAU where he shared his experiences as a counselor through a lecture titled "What's Going on Behind that Closed Door?"

In July 2010, Vartan Agopian participated in Le Festival de Kfarbedian where he accompanied mezzo soprano Tara Maalouf and her fellow vocalists. Shortly after that, he performed his first solo concert, "A Hymnal Arrangement between Classical and Jazz" at ABTS. In August 2010, Vartan traveled to Prague and recorded the Stronghold's Classical album (piano arrangements by himself) with The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra (conductor, Miriam Nĕmcová). In October 2010, Vartan was asked to write in "The Armenian Educator", a magazine for Armenian teachers and educators in Lebanon and elsewhere. Vartan

provided 2 articles to the magazine, "Five Techniques to Successfully Miseducate Your Students" and "Using Music Classes to Help Children Get Over Stress", which will be published throughout the year 2011. In December 2010, Vartan Agopian conducted the ACS Advanced Choir (conductor, Yara Rubb) as they performed one of his original compositions, Oror (Armenian Lullaby). Two weeks later, Vartan presented his second solo concert, "A Christmas Journey between the Notes" at ABTS, where he also launched his first CD (a live recording of the same program as the concert) and signed copies for fans, friends and family.

Vartan has accompanied many choirs, ensembles and soloists in the past years and has had the honor of performing in Al Bustan Festival with the AUB Choir. Vartan has had many radio and TV appearances both as a musician and a counselor. He was interviewed on Radio Voice of Van and on Future TV in 2007 before and after his performance of Die Winterreise. In May 2008, he was invited to discuss the ups and downs of school counseling on Radio Liban. In November 2009, he was interviewed, once again, on Future TV after having accompanied May Nasr in her concert of releasing her new album "Melh W Succar" (where Vartan had 3 arrangements). In 2010, Vartan was interviewed twice on Radio Voice of Van, before each of his solo concerts. In December of the same year, Vartan appeared on Al Hurra TV, accompanying the famous Lebanese-Canadian jazz singer, Randa Ghossoub.

In February, Vartan accompanied the Selected Group of the ACS Choir in their modern and jazz repertoire, and in April, he conducted the same group as they sang his original composition, Wild Rose. During the same concert, Vartan accompanied the choir, this time on the pipe organ of the Assembly Hall, as they performed "Gloria" by Vivaldi. Recently, Vartan Agopian's choir, CTI Cantores, formed in October 2010, participated in the Zaki Nassif Choral Competition in AUB Assembly Hall. Vartan Agopian continues to work as a music teacher and school counselor, has a group of private piano students and participates in numerous concerts and musical endeavors throughout the year.

SUNDAY

19
DEC

A COUNTERTENOR CHRISTMAS

MATTEO EL KHODR, Countertenor
ENSEMBLE BAROCCA
MARIO RAHI, Violin

BEIRUT SOUKS | DOWNTOWN
8:00 PM

MATTEO EL KHODR

Born in Beirut from greek lebanese origins, raised in Paris. Studied in Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris with baroque singer Agnes Mellon. Winner of many prestigious prizes accross Europe like the Prix du concours de chant baroque de Froville, prix du festival de la Chaise Dieu, the BIAF in Lebanon for introducing the baroque style in his country and the countertenor voice.

In 2008 he released his debut album « Haute-Contre » with Universal Music France then did the closing concert in Festival Beiteddine in Lebanon. He sang « Apollo Und Hyacinthus » by Mozart at la Philharmonie de Paris with Les Folies Francaises as a creation mondiale then released his second album: Live from St Petersburg. In 2015 he is Mandane with Max-Emanuel Cencic in l'Opera de Nancy part of Leonardo Vinci's Artaserse's production along with Philippe Jaroussky, Franco Fagioli, Valer Sabadus and Yuri Minenko under the baton of Diego Fasolis.

He is invited to Katara Opera House in Doha to be the first countertenor in the world to sing there with the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2020 he represented Lebanon in The Voice France then is Ormindo in Francesco Cavalli's forgotten opera. Again a creation mondiale

that got a huge success in Morocco and Berlin Metropol Opera. Starting January 2022, the opera Ormindo is touring Europe on the most prestigious opera houses.

Le Figaro Magazine wrote describing Matteo's voice: « Un castrat non castré, une voix envoûtante allant de la basse-baryton aux hirondelles fleuries d'une mezzo Matteo a su reproduire un XVIIIeme siècle perdu! »



ROY HAGE TENOR

59TH ANNUAL GRAMMY AWARDS 2017
FIRST PRIZE IN THE WRTI 2017

HÉLIO VIDA PIANO

ST. ELIE CHURCH | KANTARI
8:00 PM

In collaboration with the Brazilian Embassy



ROY HAGE

Tenor Roy Hage is humbled to have grown from singing along with opera recordings in his room as a kid in Beirut, Lebanon, to collaborating with the very artists who first inspired that love. Roy has performed over 70 operatic and symphonic works in 8 languages with the world's leading orchestras, music festivals, and opera companies. He has appeared on national and international television and is featured as Georgia Boy on the multi-GRAMMY® nominated recording of Jennifer Higdon's opera *Cold Mountain*.

Roy has performed with premier ensembles including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, Cleveland Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Columbus Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, Teatro Signorelli, Maryland Lyric Opera, Aspen Music Festival, Chautauqua Music Festival, and Miami Music Festival.

Roy has worked with conductors of historic

MONDAY

20
DEC

importance including Maestros Yannick Nezet-Seguin, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Sir Richard Bonyngé, Corrado Rovaris, Christofer Macat-soris, Caren Levine, George Manahan, Rossen Milanov, Xian Zhang, Stephen Lord, James Gaffigan, David Robertson, and Michael Chris-tie.

Roy has worked intimately on the develop-ment of major artistic projects with artists who have been awarded Pulitzer Prizes, Tony Awards, GRAMMY® Awards, MacArthur Fellowships, Kennedy Center Honors, and the National Medal of Arts—including Bill T. Jones, Jennifer Higdon, Steven Stucky, Kevin Putts, and Ann Hamilton.

Works Roy has had the honor of premiering include the Curtis Institute commission of Stucky's "The Stars and the Roses" for Tenor and Chamber Ensemble, the roles of Horus / The Beloved in David Hertzberg's "The Rose Elf" during Opera Philadelphia's 2016 Double Exposure performances, the world premieres of Tony Solitro's "More Beautiful Than Night," Kurt Rohde's "Three Minutes with Ned" for tenor and piano, Jonathan Bailey Holland's "Must All Then Amount to But This," Peter Ash's opera "The Golden Ticket," Jennifer Higdon's opera "Cold Mountain," and the East Coast Premieres of Theodore Morrison's "Oscar" and, also, "Cold Mountain."

Roy appears as Reid (Georgia Boy) and Home Guard Scout on the Pentatone Recording of the Santa Fe World Premier of Jennifer Higdon's *Cold Mountain*. The recording was nominated for two GRAMMYs® in the 59th annual Grammy Awards (2017). Additionally, Roy won First Prize in the WRTI Broadcast of the 2017 Giargiari Bel Canto Operatic Compe-tition, highest score in the 2016 Mario Lanza Competition, and Second Prize in the Grand

Concours de Chant Competition.

Roy is a founding member of the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) Soloist Coalition Young Artist Braintrust, where he and members of this think tank are tackling head-on the biggest issues facing young professional opera singers. His focus has been identifying, addressing, and implementing safeguards and solutions to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable members of the operatic community: young artists. Additionally, he champions industry-wide awareness, reforms, and training for this underrepresented community vis-à-vis sexual harassment & assault, diversity & inclusivity, and body bias & sensitivity.

HÉLIO VIDA

Franco-brazilian pianist Hélió Vida is the Head of OperAvenir - Opera Studio at the Theater Basel, Switzerland. During this season he was musical director of the productions of Gianni Schicchi and Don Pasquale. He was repetiteur and pianist of the Opera Graz (Austria) and member of the Opernstudio at the Opera Zürich (Switzerland).

Hélió Vida performs regularly in recitals of art song and chamber music, notably in the Amphithéâtre of the Opéra Bastille, Les Grands Interprètes in Toulouse, Opéra de Lille, Festival della Valle d'Itria in Italy, Festival Beirut Chants (Lebanon), Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, National Concert Hall in Dublin (Ireland), Festival Classique au Vert in Paris...

He began his studies at the University of Minas Gerais (Brazil), before joining the Conservatoire de Nancy in France. After his diploma, he pursued his education with Michael Uhde and Markus Stange at the Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe, where he obtained masters degrees in piano in 2012 and chamber music in 2015. He also studied Lied and attended several accompanist courses at the Dutch National Opera, the Opera Narodowa in Warsaw, the Aix-en-Provence Festival, the Georg Solti Accademia in Venice and the Latvian National Opera. Hélió Vida won the First Prize at the 23rd Claudio Arrau International Piano Competition in Chile and the Accompanying Pianist Prize at the Felix Mendelssohn Singing Competition in Berlin. In May 2022 he will make his conducting debut in Rossini's Barber of Seville at the Theater Basel.



A MOVING BRAHMS!

THURSDAY

21
DEC

JONATHAN FOURNEL, Piano
*FIRST PRIZE QUEEN ELISABETH
COMPETITION 2021*

ASSEMBLY HALL | AUB
8:00 PM

*En collaboration avec l'ambassade de France et
l'Institut Français au Liban*



JONATHAN FOURNEL

« Fournel is a tiger. He has its power, majesty, flexibility, velocity, ferocity and elegance . »
Bachtrack August 2021

Jonathan Fournel was revealed with brilliance to the top international scene in the spring 2021 as he won the much-coveted International Queen Elisabeth competition Grand Prix-Queen Mathilde Prize at 27. In addition, Jonathan won the Musiq3 Audience prize and the Canvas-Klara prize. «A natural, musical and poetic playing in Mozart's 18th concerto performed with majestic purity and lyricism as well as Brahms' Variations and Fugue on a theme by Haendel led with intensity and an unquestionable sense of story-telling. » Marie-Aude Roux writes in Le Monde. A few years earlier, Jonathan had won First Prizes at the Scottish International Piano Competition in Glasgow and the International Viotti competi-

tion in Vercelli, both at the age of 20.

What strikes most in Fournel's playing besides his stunning technique and extraordinary spectrum of colours is this balanced mix of exquisite refinement and wild instinct, his natural lyricism and the bright clarity of his interpretations shining light on details with a very mature understanding of the work

He is the guest of such venues and festivals as the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Rheingau Musik Festival, Verbier Festival, Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, Klavier Festival Ruhr, La Roque d'Anthéron festival, Luxembourg Philharmonie, the Royal Glasgow Concert Hall, Bozar Brussels, Louisiana Museum in Denmark, Kumho Art Hall Seoul, Tongyeong Concert Hall, Sala São Paulo, Warsaw Philharmonie, Edinburgh's Usher Hall, Sala Verdi Milan or Paris' Louis Vuitton Foundation.

Jonathan is playing under the baton of conductors such as Stéphane Denève, Jonathon Heyward, Rafael Payare, Peter Oundjian, Hugh Wolff, Fan Tao, Jacques Mercier, Frank Braley, Lawrence Foster with such orchestras as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic, Belgian National Orchestra, Orchestre National de Lorraine, the Croatian Radio and Television Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Luxembourg. He started studying the piano at 7 in his hometown of Sarreguemines in the East of France before joining the Strasbourg Conservatoire. At 12, Jonathan was admitted to the Saarbrücken Musikhochschule in Germany in Prof. Robert Leonardy and Jean Micault's studios. At the same time, he started working with pianist

Gisèle Magnan who is still following him as a mentor. He was then admitted to the Paris Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique at 16 working with Brigitte Engerer, Bruno Rigutto, Claire Désert and Michel Dalberto and graduating with honors 5 years later. In September 2016, he joined Louis Lortie's and Avo Kouyoumdjian's studios at the Chapelle Musicale Reine Elisabeth in Brussels for another 5 years.

Although he has already been recognized for his special taste and talent for music by Mozart, Chopin or Brahms, Fournel already has a wide repertoire and a particular interest for today's music. Notable highlights include world premieres of French composer Nicolas Bacri's 3rd piano sonata and several pieces by

the young French composer Pierre-Alain Braye-Weppe. He also often included works by Rory Boyle, Guillaume Connesson or Thomas Ades. in his recital programs. Chamber music has also always been an important part of his music-making, performing with such musicians as Gautier Capuçon, Augustin Dumay, Vassilena Serafimova, Victor Julien-Laferrière or the Hermes and Modigliani Quartets.

Jonathan was « Classical Revelation 2017 » of the Paris-based ADAMI and is supported by several sponsors : the Fondation Colas, the Fondation Goéland and the « Allumeurs d'Etoiles ».

Fournel signed to the multi Gramophone prize winning label Alpha. A Brahms album will be released in October 2021.



WEDNESDAY

22
DEC

NOTRE-DAME UNIVERSITY CHOIR

KHALIL RAHME, Conductor

**ST. GEORGE MARONITE
CATHEDRAL | DOWNTOWN
8:00 PM**

Special thanks to Mr. Nabil Bustros



NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY CHOIR

With more than a dozen concerts per season, numerous recordings and publications, as well as many international awards, the Notre Dame University Choir is one of Lebanon and the region's outstanding choirs. A broad repertoire, a richly warm sound, an unmistakable interpretation all contribute to make it a

permanent partner of the international festivals, and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra and its conductors, where it functions as a musical ambassador for Beirut in the great concert halls around the world.

Along with the symphonic choral central repertoire, the annual season programming of the choir includes a wide range of Lebanese music, in close cooperation with celebrated composers, such as Iyad Kanaan, Gabriel Yared and Valentino Miserachs Grau, with the aim of developing and growing the Lebanese choral repertoire. Furthermore, Notre Dame University Choir is constantly developing new and unusual ways of experiencing choral music.

Since its establishment in 1993, it has been shaped by reverend Khalil Rahme, a Maronite Maronite monk, who returned to Beirut after completing his music studies in Rome, to found the choir and the School of Music at Notre Dame University, in addition to his numerous entrusted tasks at the Lebanese National Conservatory of Music.



THURSDAY

23
DEC

CLOSING

GUY MANOUKIAN

BEIRUT SOUKS | DOWNTOWN
8:00 PM

Special thanks to Camile and Rhona Saba

GUY MANOUKIAN

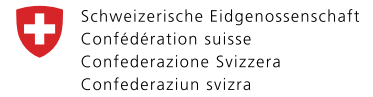
Lebanese musician, composer and pianist, Guy Manoukian has been a key musical player both locally and internationally for the last 20 years. Not only has he worked with the biggest names in the US, but his fusion of oriental melodies with modern arrangements has taken him all over the world, selling out concerts in London, Singapore, Montreal, Cairo, Dubai Opera House, Kuwait, Mexico, Chile, Abu Dhabi, Monaco, Los Angeles, Yerevan the Sydney Opera House, The Beiteddine and Byblos International festivals, The London

Palladium, The Greek National Opera in Athens, and the only artist to be invited twice to Dubai Opera which have Sold out all shows. Guy is the recipient of many awards but the ones he cherishes the most are the Armenian Music Award that he received in Los Angeles for Best Dance Album, and the Best Arabic Tune of the Year Award for "Harem" which he earned in Lebanon in 2002 in addition to the Best Dance Album at the Arabian Music Awards held in Dubai in 2003. Performing all over the globe, from Chile to Sydney, Manoukian still finds time to work with the biggest pop acts: he recorded "On Tour" with Wyclef Jean, worked with 50 Cent, French rapper Diams, Raul Di Blasio and Mario Reyes of the Gipsy Kings family. 2020 looks to be Manoukian's biggest year till date, with scheduled concerts all around the world.

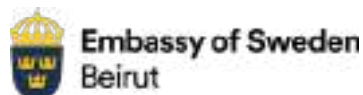




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