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MANOEL THEATRE
CATERINA DESGUANEZ

An Opera in three Acts by
CARMELO PACE

Libretto by
IVO MUSCAT AZZOPARDI

Conductor
Maestro JOSEPH SAMMUT

Directed by
V.M. PELLEGRINI

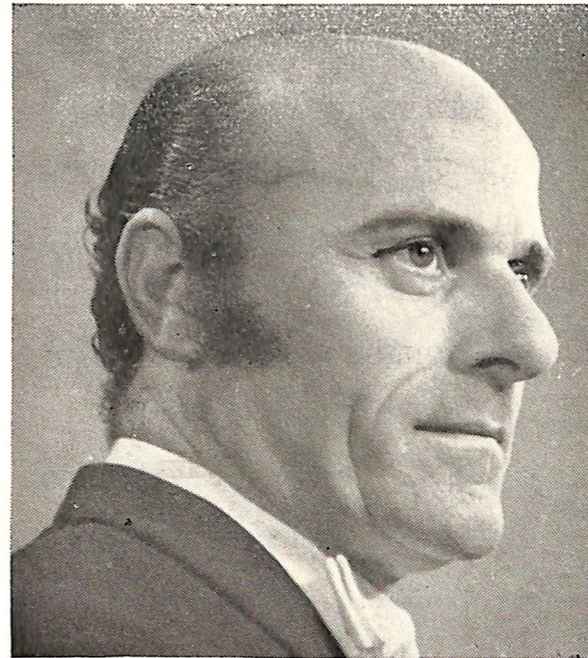
Saturday 24th, Sunday 25th, Saturday 31st October

and Sunday 1st November 1970



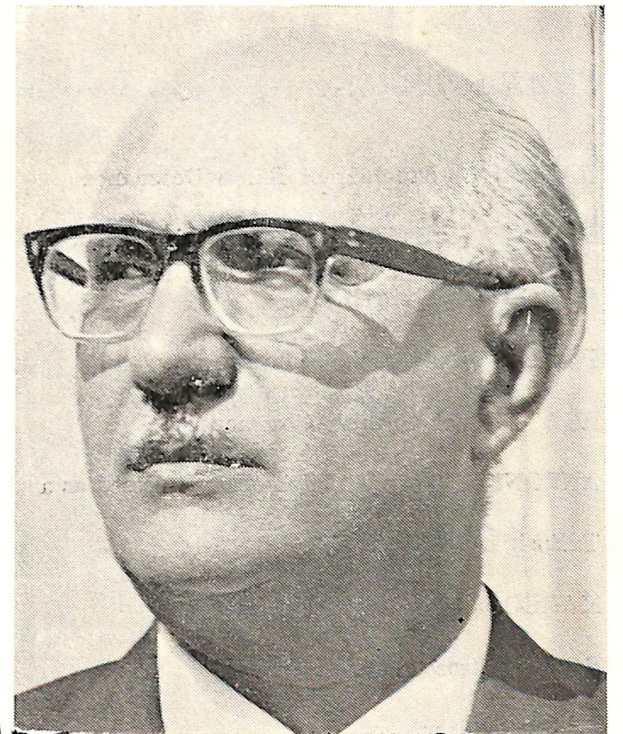
Maestro CARMELO PACE

Carmelo Pace



Maestro JOSEPH SAMMUT

Joseph Sammut



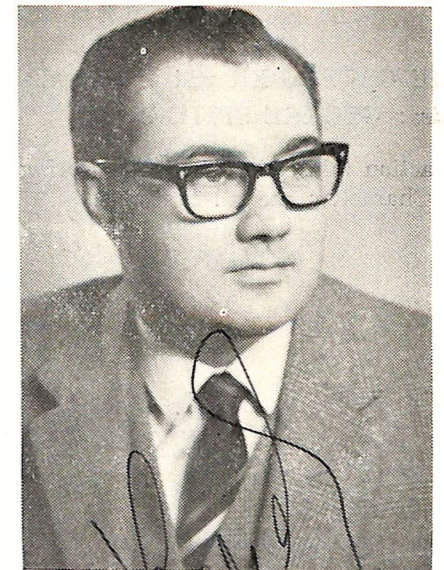
V. M. PELLEGRINI

V. M. Pellegrini



Hilda Mallia Tabone

HILDA MALLIA TABONE



JOE FENECH

Joe Fenech

PROGRAMME

CHARACTERS:-

CATERINA daughter of Baron Desguanez	Soprano HILDA MALLIA TABONE
PAOLO a Christian slave of Turkish origin	Baritone JOE FENECH
BARON DESGUANEZ	Bass JOE VELLA BONDIN
PUBLIO officer of the Maltese Army	Tenor JOE HUBER
AGA' SELIM Turkish Commander	Bass RONALD AZZOPARDI CAFFARI
ANTONIO BAJJADA Maltese spy dressed as a Turkish soldier	Tenor EDWIN RIZZO
MARCO old retainer of the Baron	Bass FRANK GALEA
ROZI Maltese country girl	Contralto RACHEL FLORIDIA
Turkish dancer	MYRIAM MUSCAT MANDUCA

MALTESE SOLDIERS, MALTESE PEASANTS, AND TURKISH SOLDIERS
members of the

JESUS OF NAZARETH CHOIR

ELSIE GATT ABER will play at the piano the harp effects as indicated in the score.
Leader: GEORGE SPITERI

The action takes place in Malta during the Great Siege of 1565.
The Characters are all fictitious.

Conductor
Mro JOSEPH SAMMUT

Our thanks are due to the following for their valuable help in making the production of this Opera possible :-
The Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism — Miss Antoinette Miggiani — Fr. Anselmo Chetcuti O.F.M. — Bro. Charles — St. Michales Training College —
Fr. Carmel Zammit — DePorres Hall, Sliema — Zebbug Dramatic Company: 12th May Social Club — Miss Maria Zammit Gauci — Prof. Gaston Tonna Barthet —
Mr. Paul Avellino — Ditta 'Joseph Aquilina' Qormi — "Edible Oil Refining Co. Ltd" — "Sun Chemicals Ltd." — The Director National Museum — Saccone &
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Company - Zebbug.

<i>Fr. Felso Palao O.F.M.</i> Chorus instructor Fr. SALV. GALEA O.P.	Costume research, selection and Deco MARIA PISANI	<i>Anton Muscat Azzopardi</i> Instructor & Prompter ANTON MUSCAT AZZOPARDI
	Choreography MYRIAM MUSCAT MANDUCA	Scenography R.A. DICKENSON
Stage Manager TONY STRAUD		Assistant Stage Managers PETER PAUL CIANTAR CHARLES STRAUD <i>P.B. Strand</i>
	Light effects VANNI LAUS — V.M. PELLEGRINI	
Wardrobe Mistress MARIA PISANI	Costumes MADAME CAMILLERI	Ass. Wardrobe Mistress MARIE LOURDES BONNICI
	Make up JOHN SCHRANZ	PAUL BUGEJA
	Production Secretary GEORGETTE CAFFARI <i>Georgette Caffari</i>	VANNI LAUS E. DALLI, J. AZZOPARDI, F. MIFSUD.

For the Manoel Theatre:-
Head Electrician
Stage Carpenters

Directed by
V.M. PELLEGRINI
V.M. Pellegrini
C. J. H. H.

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Scene: Drawing room in the Baron's House.

The action centres on an incident during the siege of Malta by the Turks in 1565. The inhabitants are understandably concerned as to how they would be treated by the invaders, and thus, the widowed Baron Alessandro Desguanez, who was on the Staff of the Grand Master of the Hospitallers, is concerned about his only daughter Caterina. The rest of the household consists of Marco, a trusted old servant, and a Turkish slave, Paolo, captured as a child 20 years ago, and who has been brought up in his new Masters' faith as a Christian.

A frequent visitor to the Baron is Publio a young Maltese regimental officer whose duties bring him into contact with the Baron's household, and naturally, seeing much of Caterina, falls in love with her. The Turkish youth Paolo, being brought up in the household was the companion of Caterina and, although he was aware of his infidel birth, nevertheless developed a passion for Caterina which she does not reciprocate, as she is in love with Publio. When Paolo is alone with Caterina he tells her of his love for her, and when she does not respond, he becomes violent. They are interrupted by the old servant Marco. Paolo runs away but threatens to kill Caterina, and so Marco realises he must keep watch over her.

ACT II — (Scene 1)

Scene: In the Turkish Camp.

Agà Selim surrounded by Turkish soldiers, assists to a short national dance performed by the most celebrated ballerina of his "Corps-de-Ballet", the only woman that the Sultan permitted the Aga' to bring over with him to the Island.

Later on, a prisoner (who turns out to be Paolo) is brought before a high Turkish Officer. Paolo always had it in his mind to revert to the Islamic faith, and he now offers his services to the Moslems and promises to tell the Turkish Officer, Agà Selim, where the Baron and his retinue are hiding on condition that he gets Caterina when she and the Baron are captured. Naturally, as in all wars, spies are engaged on both sides, and we see a Maltese named Bajjada who is masquerading as a Turk.

He has been held in chained captivity by the Turks until he escaped and is now seeking to avenge the hardship inflicted on his compatriots, by acting as a spy for the Maltese. He learns of Paolo's teachery and of the plot to capture Caterina.

(Scene 2)

Scene: Rabat Headquarters

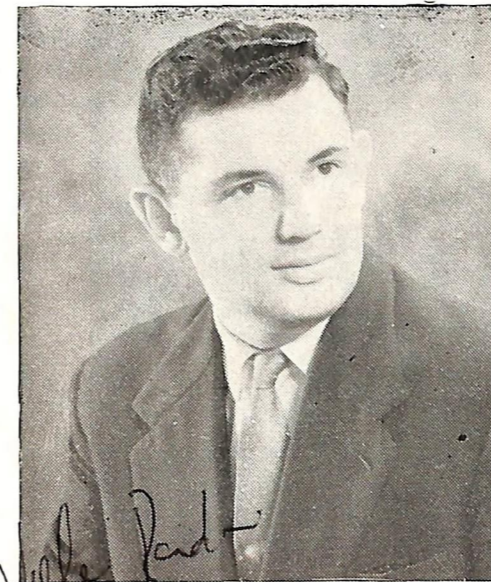
Publio the Maltese Officer is at his Rabat Headquarters and Antonio Bajjada has come to warn him of the danger to the Baron and Caterina and urges him to send a detachment to rescue them.

ACT III

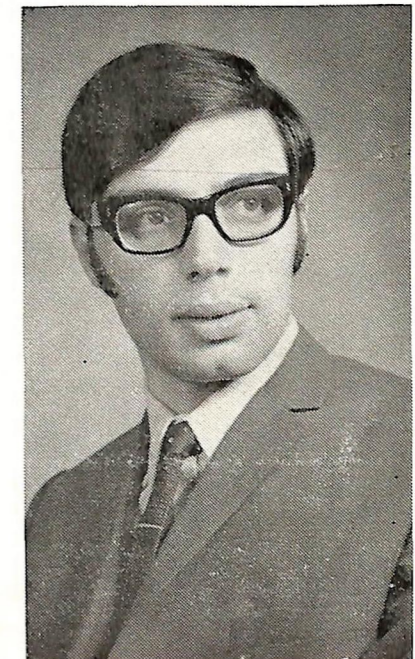
Scene: Maddalena Caves

The Baron and his daughter are now in their hiding place. The Turks arrive together with Paolo for the onslaught, and the Turkish Officer, in the meantime has his own ideas about Caterina. When they eventually capture her she faints, but when, on reviving she finds herself with Paolo, she unwittingly turns to the unknown Officer, Agà Selim for protection. We then see Paolo and the Officer quarrelling about her. In the meantime the Maltese soldiers arrive and Caterina rushes into the arms of Publio. Young Paolo, now frustrated beyond control, falls upon Caterina and stabs her to death.

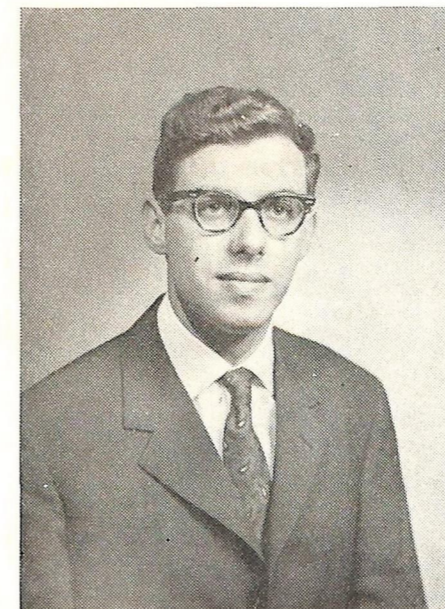
SIDNEY TANNEN



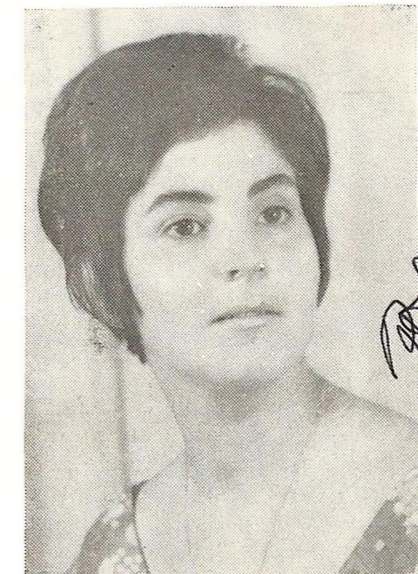
Joseph Vella Bondin
JOE VELLA BONDIN



JOE HUBER
Joseph Huber

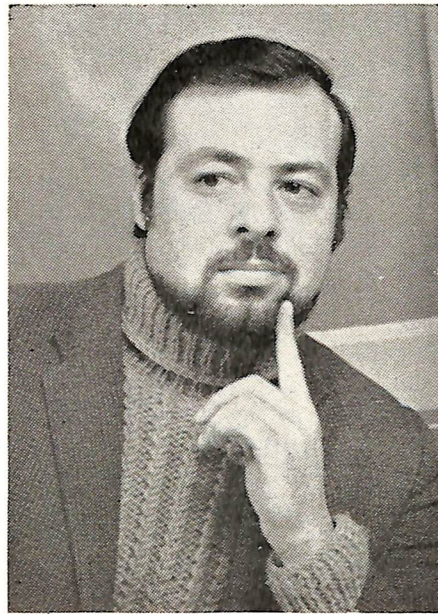


RONALD AZZOPARDI CAFFARI
Ronald Azzopardi Caffari



RACHEL FLORIDIA
Rachida





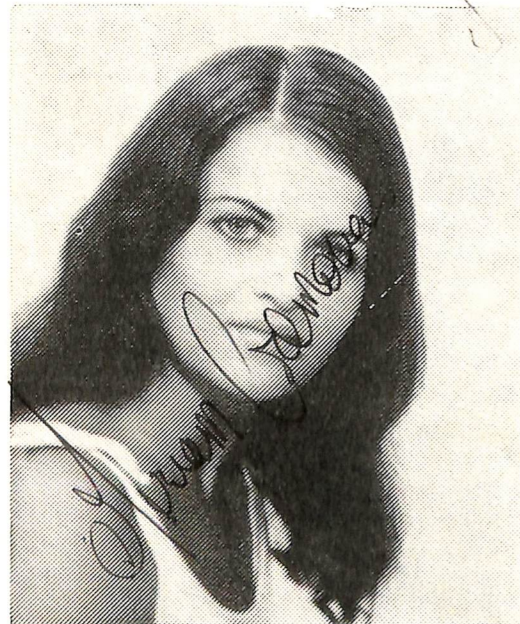
FRANK GALEA

Frank Galea



EDWIN RIZZO

Edwin Rizzo



MYRIAM MUSCAT MANDUCA



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