



MINISTERU TA' L-EDUKAZZJONI U KULTURA

IL-KUMITAT TAT-TEATRU MANOEL

u

R-REDIFFUSION (MALTA) LIMITED

jipprezentaw

SERATA MUSIKO-LETTERARJA

FIL-KASTELL T'GHAWDEX

nhar il-Ħamis, 26 t'Awissu, 1971

350.

L-EWWEL PARTI

Manoel Theatre Resident Orchestra

Overture — La Cenerentola Rossini (1792-1868)

Two Pictures — Love and Imagination Sammut (1926)

Manon Lescaut Puccini (1858-1924)

Ave Maria Schubert (1797-1828)

Soprano — Antoinette Miggiani

Prim Vjolin — G. Spiteri

DIRETTUR TA' L-ORCHESTRA — MRO. J. SAMMUT

IT-TIENI PARTI

**Ballata ta' l-Assedju t'Ghawdex tal-1551
ta' Anton Buttigieg**

Jieħdu sehem:

Joan Azzopardi
Josephine Zammit Cordina

Anton Buttigieg
Charles Coleiro
Joe Delia

Għana u daqq fuq il-Kitarri:

Valerie Navarro

Albert Anastasi

Kwartett Vokali taħt it-tmexxija ta' Antoinette Miggiani:

Catherine Azzopardi
Vivi Azzopardi

Lino Attard
Joe Huber

Dwal — Vanni Laus

Audio — Joe Vella

Dettalji Storiċi — John Bezzina

PRODUZZJONI — CHARLES ABELA MIZZI

THE SIEGE OF GOZO (1551)

Malta experienced its Great Siege in 1565; 14 years earlier, in 1551, Gozo was attacked by the Turkish invaders when almost the entire population was carried away as slaves.

On the 18th July, 1551, the Turkish Fleet appeared off the Maltese islands. Two days later the Turks dropped anchor in Marsamxett Harbour ready to attack Fort St. Angelo from the heights of Mount Scerberras.

Considering Fort St. Angelo, in the Grand Harbour, too strong to be subdued, the Turkish Commanders, Sinam Pasha and Dragut, turned their attention — and their guns — to Mdina. Thinking it was very well defended — the inhabitants had appeared on the bastions to give the impression that the number of defenders was very great — they decided to divert to Gozo their ships which were lying in St. Paul's Bay. Dragut sought to avenge himself on the Gozitans because a few years earlier they had seized his brother's corpse and burnt it.

Grand Master De Homedes left Gozo practically void of means of defence. The Citadel in Gozo had only the service of one gunner, an Englishman, who eventually was killed during the siege.

Without any hope of assistance from Malta, the Gozitans decided to send an envoy to the Turkish Commanders. Father Bonaventura, an Augustinian, was entrusted with the proposals. He was to inform the Turkish Commanders that the doors of the Citadel would be opened to the Turks on condition that a number of elders would not be taken captive.

Sinam Pasha accepted these proposals but as soon as the city gates were opened, the Turkish soldiers entered the narrow streets of the Citadel pillaging and plundering everything before them.

About 6,000 men, women and children were carried off into slavery.