

Orchestral Concert

by

M. Suresh Chari, Director

16th July 1974



To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of

**HIS GRACE MGR. GONZI'S EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION**

The Ministry of Education and Culture

in association with

**THE MANOEL THEATRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

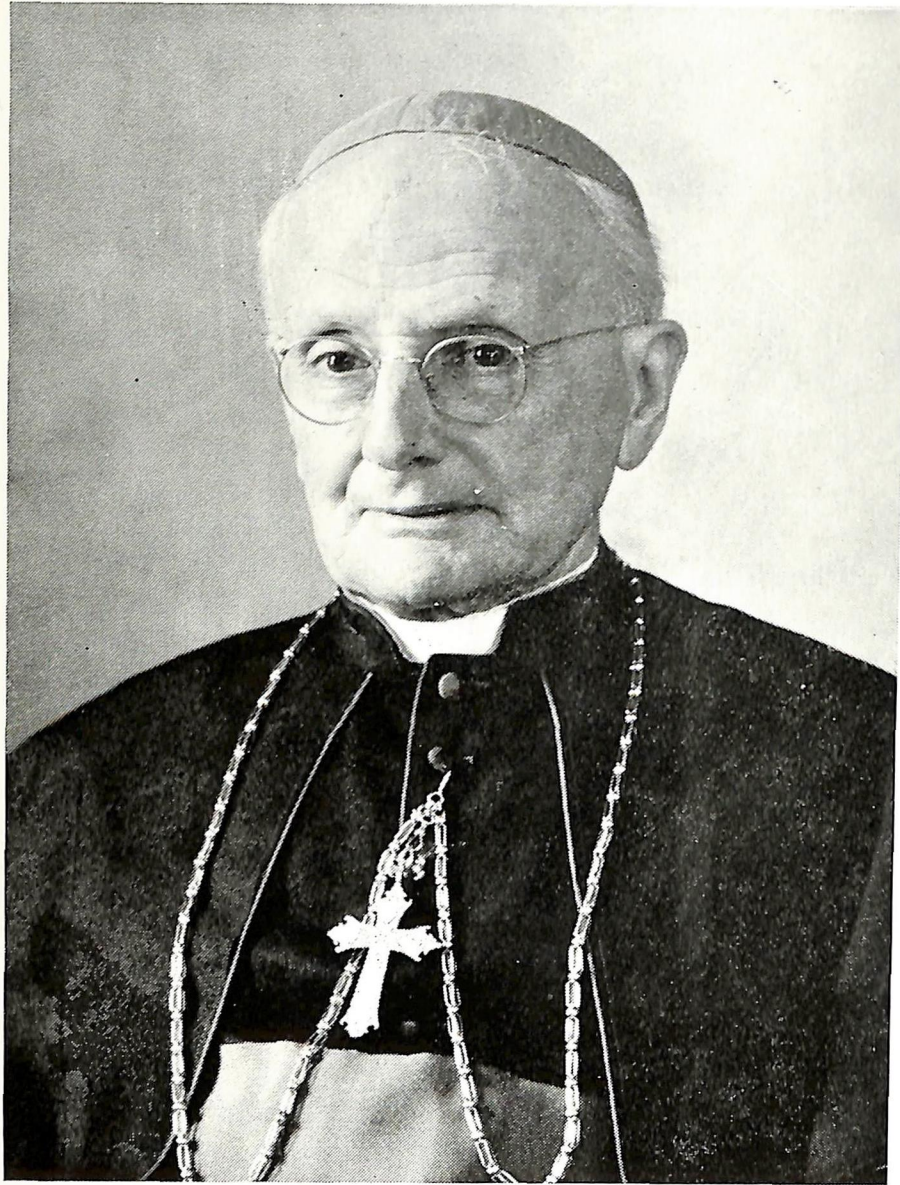
present

an **ORCHESTRAL CONCERT**

at **ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL**

on

**Thursday 18th July 1974**



**His Grace Mgr. Michael Gonzi**

Mgr Gonzi was born at Vittoriosa on the 13th of May, 1885. On completing his studies at the University of Malta he was ordained priest in December, 1908. At the University he was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Divinity and the Government Prize for Theology. In Rome he obtained the Degree of Canon Law and he returned to Malta where he was appointed Professor of Holy Scripture and Hebrew at the Seminary, Director of St. Paul's School, and later Professor of Holy Scripture and of Hebrew at the University. In the first Legislature under Self-Government in 1921, he was elected Senator.

In 1923, after a competitive test, he was selected to be Canon Theologian Coadjutor of the Cathedral Chapter and on the 13th of June, 1924, the Holy See designated him as the successor of His Lordship Mgr. G.M. Camilleri, O.E.S.A., Bishop of Gozo, who had expressed his desire to be allowed to retire from His Episcopal activities. Mgr. Gonzi was consecrated on the 20th of July 1924, at St John's Co-Cathedral at the hands of His Grace Mgr. Maurus Caruana O.S.B., assisted by His Lordship Mgr. G.M. Camilleri, O.E.S.A., Titular Bishop of Modena and by His Lordship Mgr. Angelo Portelli, O.P., Titular Bishop of Selinonte.

Mgr. Gonzi made his Solemn Entry into the Cathedral Church of Gozo on the 10th of August, 1924 and his work in the Sister Island is now a matter of history. For twenty years he dedicated all his energies to the furtherance of the spiritual welfare of his flock and his activities bore fruit in the innumerable pilgrimages, retreats, and work of apostleship.

In his time, the Sanctuary at "Ta' Pinu", from a modest Chapel grew into a stately Basilica — an architectural gem of Romanesque style. The Image of Our Lady was crowned in the name and on behalf of His Holiness the Pope, by His Eminence Cardinal A. Lepicier, O.S.M., Papal Legate, when this eminent Prince of the Church paid a visit to Gozo in 1935.

By a Papal Bull dated the 1st of January 1944, the Diocese of Malta was raised to the dignity of an Archdiocese with Gozo as a Suffragan Sea and thus the two Dioceses now form the Maltese Ecclesiastical Province, and the Pastor to whom is entrusted the spiritual welfare of the Maltese is now known as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta — a great honour indeed for our Pastors and for our Islands.

**PROGRAMME**

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik MOZART

Serenade for Strings ELGAR

Symphony No. 7 in A Major BEETHOVEN

MANOEL THEATRE ORCHESTRA

Leader: GEORGE SPITERI

Conductor: JOSEPH SAMMUT

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik

MOZART (1756-1791)

Allegro — Romanza — Minuet — Rondo

Mozart composed a prolific library of music in a lighter vein Cassations, Divertisement, Serenades. Generally, these works were written on order for some festivities or parties at the palace of a nobleman, and their form lent itself particularly to Mozart's graceful writing. Some of his most engaging and light-hearted thoughts are found in these works.

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik is a Serenade and it was composed in 1787, a wonderfully productive year that saw the birth of Don Giovanni and other masterpieces. Most of Mozart's serenades were in five movements, and it is believed that this work (which is in four) originally had an additional Minuet now lost.

Allegro; with the flavour of a march, and the principal theme is given a meretricious decoration of graceful trills; Romanza; a lyrical and somewhat sentimental theme, a minuet, and rondo; the last two movements being the very essence of eighteenth century grace and elegance.

Serenade for Strings

ELGAR (1857-1934)

In Elgar's nature there was a mysticism, and a poetic strain, which opened sluices of melody and fluid counterpoint. His musical writing was usually crystalline, always stamped with good breeding. He was not afraid of emotional display, of giving expression to deep feelings. Moreover, he had an infallible instinct for orchestration and for building dramatic sequences, and could suggest pageantry and glamour in magnificently rich tonal speech. He was not an original composer, and he failed to produce an idiom distinctly of his own. His music often derives from Schumann and from Wagner. Though he was never the experimenter or the pioneer, his language was, at its best, one of great beauty which cannot fail to charm.

Sir Edward Elgar was born in Broadheath near Worcester, England, 1857, and died at Marl Bank in 1934. Studied theory by himself and Violin with Politzer.

Symphony No. 7 in A Major Op. 92      BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Vivace — Allegretto — Presto — Finale

The Seventh Symphony, in A Major, Op. 92 was composed in 1811/12 and was first performed on December 8, 1814. Many programmes have been attached to it, though there can be no doubt that Beethoven had none of them in mind — nor any other. He was here writing “absolute” music, rhapsodic in character, its interest exclusively musical. An introduction of the First Movement progresses to a vigorous Vivace. In the Second Movement Allegretto, Beethoven presents two principal themes, later using them contrapuntally. The Third Movement, Presto, is as one writer describes it, one of the most felicitous expressions of Beethoven’s capacity for ungovernable joy. The finale is a Corybantic dance, wild and abandoned, which was probably what led Wagner to designate this symphony as “the apotheosis of the dance”.

## ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL CHURCH

The Co-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, originally the Conventual Church of the Knights Hospitaller of Malta, was built between the years 1573 and 1577 on the design of the Maltese famous architect Girolamo Cassar. The adjacent Oratory of the Decollation and the Sacristies, as well as the two-storeyed buildings on either side of the Church were erected in the 17th century. The Church-Museum was inaugurated in 1965.

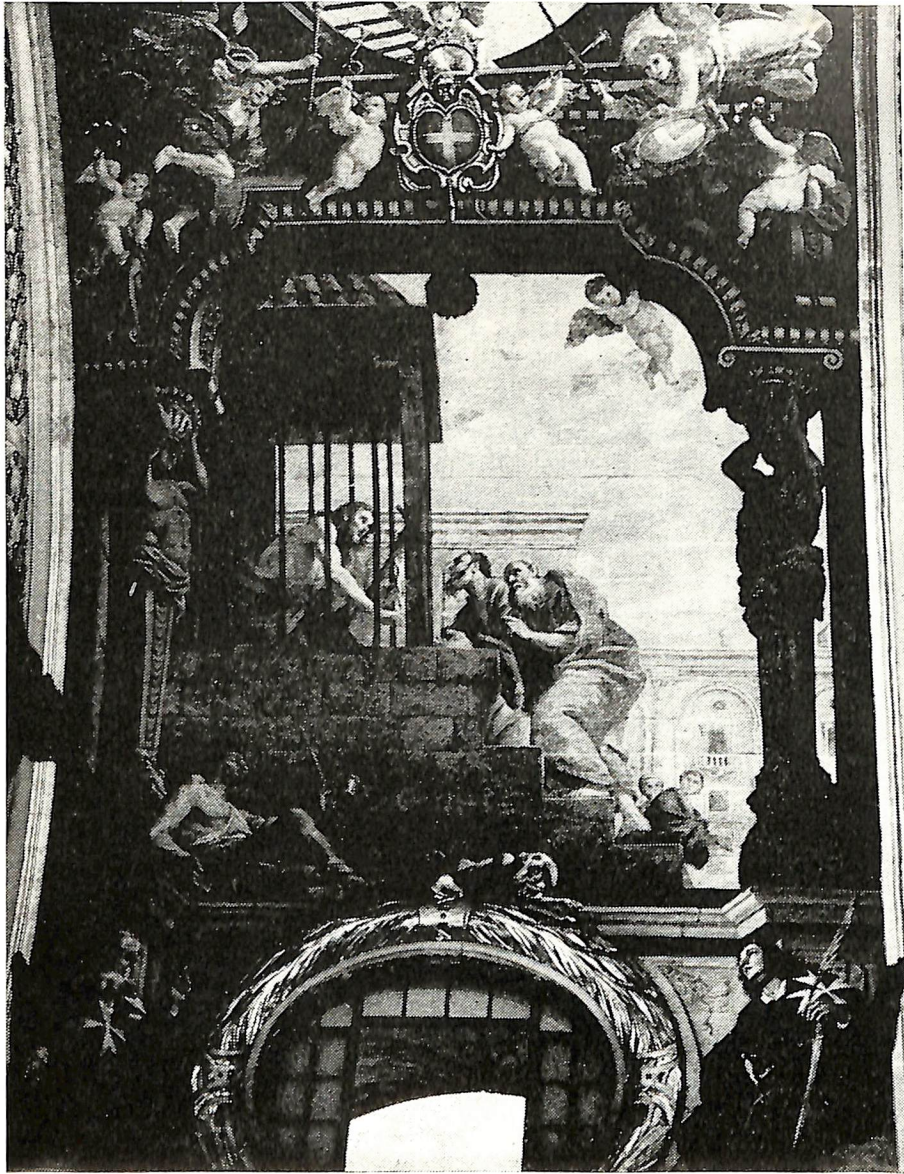
The plan of the vast Temple, dedicated to the Patron of the Hospitallers' Order, is very simple — a large nave with an aisle on each side. It contains seven chapels pertaining to seven different Langues of the Order, namely, those of Castille, Aragon and Auvergne on the Epistle side, and those of Germany, Italy, France and Provence on the Gospel side. Two other chapels, that of the Blessed Sacrament and that of the Holy Relics, known also as the Anglo - Bavarian Chapel, stand on the right and the left side of the apse respectively.

The barrel-shaped vault of the Church, divided into 6 sections, representing the Precursor's life, was painted directly on stone by the famous artist Mattia Preti, the "Calabrese", one of the best painters of the Italian Seicento.

On every side, carved walls, marble and bronze statues, beautiful paintings and silver works adorn the Temple. Undoubtedly, the most famous embellishment is the precious set of magnificent tapestries — 29 pieces — hanging around the nave, wrought by the renowned Belgian looms of Jodocus de Vos, on subjects mostly taken from the paintings of P.P. Rubens and Poissos.

The pavement is covered with 400 large multi-coloured marble slabs, commemorating the lives and deeds of brave members of St. John's Order, the cream of European aristocracy of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

Within a beautiful marble balustrade one sees the costly High Altar made of lapis-lazuli, onyx and other precious stones, in the middle of which there is the gilt bronze relief of the Last Supper, attributed to Bernini. Two bronze lecterns represent Moses and St. John's Eagle. The Choir with its old carved and gilt wooden stalls



and a square lectern in the middle. is dominated by the colossal group of the Baptism of Christ wrought by Giuseppe Mazzuoli, a pupil of Melchiorre Gafà, the Maltese sculptor.

In the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, within the historical silver gates, the miraculous Madonna of Carafa, solemnly crowned in 1954, is venerated. In the Chapel of the Relics there are two caskets — one of silver and one of wood — containing many outstanding relics of the Saints.

The Knights of each Langue vied with each other in adorning their respective chapel with marble and bronze statues by outstanding sculptors, such as Mazzuoli, Soldani Benzi and Pradier, and with paintings of renowned artistes, as Preti, Caravaggio, Favray, Penni and Bresciniano.

The Oratory, embellished with a carved and gilt-wooden ceiling and paintings by Preti, houses Caravaggio's world-known masterpiece "the Beheading of St. John".

All the Grand Masters from 1530 to 1798 are buried either in the Church or in the Crypt; almost all of them in artistic monuments or sarcophagi.

This Church, founded by Grand Master Jean de la Cassiere, embellished by the Knights and raised to the dignity of co-cathedral by the Holy See, is the pride of the Maltese people and a centre of attraction to foreigners.

Allegro Marcato

J.P.E. HARTMENN (1805-1900)

(Organ Sonata Op. 58)

**At the Organ**

**ARNE BERTELSEN**



