

MIT-O
21st July 78

4x3



THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, WELFARE
AND CULTURE

THE MANOEL THEATRE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

in association with

THE CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

present

an

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

by the

MANOEL THEATRE ORCHESTRA

Leader: George Spiteri

with the participation of

THE MANOEL THEATRE CHOIR

Soloist: MIRIAM GAUCI TABONE — Soprano

Conductor: JOSEPH SAMMUT

Chorus Instructresses:

Marietta Magro and Josanne Tagliaferro

FRIDAY, 21ST JULY 1978

AT ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL

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 famous Maltese 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 left side of the apse respectively.

The barrel-shaped vault of the Church, divided into six sections, representing the Precursor's life, was painted directly on stone by the famous artist Mattia Preti, il-“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 during certain periods of the year, 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 the Order of St. John, 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-azuli, 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 the Eagle of St. John. 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 by Giuseppe Mazzuoli, a pupil of the Maltese sculptor Melchiorre Gafà.

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 artists, such as Preti, Caravaggio, Favray, Penni and Brescianino.

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.

at the Organ — Mro. ANGELO PACE

PROGRAMME

OVERTURE THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO MOZART

Originally, "The Marriage of Figaro" was an opera buffa. But now, thanks to Mozart's greatness, it is no longer in the category of opera buffa, but rather, to use a favourite word of Wagner, "redeems" the opera buffa and makes of it a comedy in music. Great opera houses in the world still have this opera in their repertoire but its overture is still being performed in concert halls with no less enthusiasm.

ANDANTE IN G MINOR CARMELO GALEA

This piece shows the great influence of Italian music on our islands. Yet, it is a work which shows the Maltese composers in their creative vein.

SYMPHONY NO. 49 (LA PASSIONE) HAYDN

Adagio; Allegro di Molto; Menuet; Finale presto

Haydn, 'the father of the Symphony' is a great contributor to this form. He studied and worked on the examples set by C.P.E. Bach and Stamitz and was the source of inspiration for the later composers of the Romantic School.

KYRIE FROM MASS IN G. SCHUBERT

Due to the rise of public concerts in the 19th century Vienna, the Mass started to be composed mainly for public performance and not for ecclesiastical reasons. Masses in this genre include those of Spohr, Liszt, Schumann and Schubert. Yet, these are truly works of art.

SYMPHONY NO. 34 IN C MAJOR MOZART

Allegro vivace; Andante di Molto; Allegro vivace

Mozart's stay in Salzburg (1779 — 1780) proved to be a fertile period of composition. In this brief period, Mozart composed Masses, Serenade, Divertimento, 3 Organ Sonatas, a Concerto for two pianofortes and 3 Symphonies. One of the latter is Symphony in C. Major K 338 which is scored for 2 oboes, 2 bassoons, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, drums and strings.

MANOEL THEATRE ORCHESTRA

JOSEPH SAMMUT *Conductor*

George Spiteri *Leader*

Joseph Galea *Sub-Leader*

1st Violins:

Stephen Zammit
Ronnie Pisani
Helen Degabriele
Marcelle Bartolo

2nd Violins:

Victor Micallef
Walter Abela
Raymond Abela
Joseph Zammit
Doris Alden

Ann. M. Bugeja

Violas:

Guido Mamo
Alfred Serge
Miriam Boffa
Michael Laus

Violincellos:

Alfred Tonna
Monica Miggiani
Marguerite Miggiani
Mario Psaila

Contrabasso:

Lino Cremona
Nicol Ciantar
Mario Grima

1st Flute:

Joseph Corrado

2nd Flute:

Romeo Micallef

1st Oboe:

Orazio Cachia

2nd Oboe:

Pierre Grech

1st Clarinett:

Joseph Camilleri

2nd Clarinett:

Charles Abela

1st Bassoon:

Archibald Mizzi

2nd Bassoon:

Mario Micallef

1st Horn:

Alfred Spagnol

2nd Horn:

Philip Psaila

3rd Horn:

Emm. Spagnol

1st Trumpet:

Joseph Agius

2nd Trumpet:

Rogers Azzopardi

Timpani:

Joseph Curmi

MANOEL THEATRE CHOIR

Chorus Instructresses

Marietta Magro — Josanne Tagliaferro

FEMALES:

Abela Carmen
Barbieri Moira
Bartolo Lina
Carabott Maria Theresa
Cassola Marguerite
Conti Anna
Cremona Monica
Ebejer Katie
Ebejer Rose
Ebejer Sylvia
Falzon Josephine
Gabriele Pia
Micallef Miriam
Muscat Edwige
Muscat Pauline
Saliba Josephine
Scicluna Anne
Scicluna Antoinette
Scicluna Catherine
Zammit Mary
Zammit Pauline
Zammit Cordina Yvonne

MALES:

Cassola Hector
Farrugia Saviour Angelo
Gatt John Roland
Genovese Joseph
Grixti Charles
Micallef Alfred
Micallef Charles
Midolo John
Portelli John
Sant Spiridione
Storace Raymond
Vella Bondin John

Manoel Theatre Technical Staff:

VANNI LAUS

Lights

EMM. DALLI, FRANCIS MIFSUD,
JOE AZZOPARDI

Stage Carpenters

