



Mid-Med  
Bank Ltd



INSTRUMENTAL AND  
VOCAL CONCERT

Manoel Theatre  
2nd June 1984



Mid-Med  
Bank Ltd

proudly presents

# An Instrumental and Vocal Concert

at the

**Manoel Theatre, Valletta**  
**on Saturday 2 June 1984 at 7.30 p.m.**

featuring works by Gounod, Chopin,  
Liszt, Rossini, Schubert, Vivaldi,  
Pace and others.

Taking part are: Phyllis Bajada Abram,  
Mario Felice, John Galea, Stephanie Lauri,  
Rosabelle Pavia.

and

**The Young People's Orchestra**  
conducted by

**Helen De Gabriele**

**Leader: Stephen Zammit**

*Cover picture:*

*Two 18th-century prints: double-bass player and bassoonist (Bettmann Archive, New York)*

## INTRODUCTION

Mid-Med Bank has lately become more and more aware of its potential role as patron of artistic activities. The idea of encouraging bank employees in their own artistic pursuits is therefore a logical consequence.

After last year's favourable response to our first attempts at organising a Bank Concert at the University Assembly Hall, it was decided to go a step further and hold this year's soiree in this exquisite theatre. The participants this year are Phyllis Bajada Abram and Rosabelle Pavia, soprani; Stephanie Lauri and John Galea, pianists and Mario Felice, clarinettist. Staging a more or less homogenous and congenial evening with two sopranos, two pianists and a clarinettist, is quite a daunting prospect and we could not help being grateful to the dedicated and enthusiastic Young People's Orchestra under the baton of Helen De Gabriele, whose participation will surely enhance our concert. This locally unique juvenile orchestra plays a vital role in the artistic development of most of our young local musicians, giving them, in the easiest and most casual manner possible their first 'would-be' traumatic experiences in public performance. We are also grateful to Miss Maria Frendo, who will be accompanying Miss Bajada Abram and Mrs. Pavia at the piano.

The programme this evening is made up of a mixed bag of musical pieces. There is something for everyone. Three splendid arias for soprano by Rossini, Donizetti and Puccini. Two sparkling Études by Chopin. Two pyrotechnical showpieces by Franz Liszt; a very unusual trio for piano, clarinet and voice by Franz Schubert. An effervescent and lively cello concerto by Antonio Vivaldi, soloist Marcel Degabriele. Carmelo Pace's melodic and romantic Fantasia Lirica for piano and orchestra ending up with Offenbach's exuberant Barcarolle for two sopranos and orchestra.

My own involvement in the local musical scene besides my being a Mid-Med Bank employee, has brought me in close contact with all tonight's performers. They all take their art very seriously and are always ready to give their best. Miss Bajada Abram has been an established singer for a long time and no local production where voice is involved can do without her. Rosabelle Pavia is an up and coming attractive primadonna. Stephanie Lauri is an ambitious young pianist with a taste for the more flamboyant and technically demanding pieces in the pianistic repertoire. Mario Felice is in love with the sound of his clarinet and is always searching for different sounds and expressions to show it off to its best advantage. I feel confident that the evening will prove to be a memorable and enjoyable experience and one which will be improved upon and become a traditional yearly event in the future.

**Kenneth Zammit Tabona**



*Philip S. Zammit*

# PROGRAMME

**GOUNOD**

Ave Maria

Voice: Rosabelle Pavia

Piano: Maria Frendo

*Maria Frendo*

**CHOPIN**

Etude no. 7 in C sharp minor op. 25

Etude no. 12 in C minor op. 10 — "Revolutionary"

Piano: John Galea

**DONIZETTI**

Com'è bello (Lucrezia Borgia)

**ROSSINI**

Una voce poco fa (Barbiere di Siviglia)

Voice: Phyllis Bajada Abram

Piano: Maria Frendo

**PUCCINI**

Si, mi chiamano Mimi (La Boheme)

Voice: Rosabelle Pavia

Piano: Maria Frendo

**LISZT**

Nocturne "Lieberstraum"

Hungarian Rhapsody no. 12

Piano: Stephanie Lauri

**SCHUBERT**

Der Hirt auf dem Felsen

Clarinet: Mario Felice

Piano: Stephanie Lauri

Voice: Phyllis Bajada Abram

**VIVALDI**

Cello Concerto in E minor

Violincello: Marcel De Gabriele

**PACE**

Fantasia Lirica for Piano and Orchestra

Piano: Stephanie Lauri

**OFFENBACH**

Barcarolle (Tales from Hoffmann)

Voices: Phyllis Bajada Abram

Rosabelle Pavia

The Young People's Orchestra is conducted by  
Helen De Gabriele and led by Stephen Zammit.

*H. De Gabriele.*

— INTERVAL —





### PHYLLIS BAJADA ABRAM

Phyllis Bajada Abram joined the Bank in 1966 and presently works at our Merchants Street, Valletta Branch. She started vocal training with Miss A. Miggiani LRSM in 1973. Ten months later Phyllis made her debut at an MCI Concert when she was asked to stand in for a singer who was unable to attend. Since then she has participated in various recitals including two concerts held at the Manoel in 1979 and 1981. In September 1981 Phyllis also gave a recital on TVM.

An ex-member of the Choral Society she performed several sacred works under the baton of Mro. J. Vella, then choir master. These included: Requiem by Anton Bruckner, Stabat Mater by G. Rossini, Antonio Nani's Requiem and Nabucco by G. Verdi (concert version). In 1982 Phyllis took part in the Malta International Arts Festival when together with 3 other soloists she performed Haydn's Mass in Time of War — Paukenmesse 1796.

It was Mro. C. Pace who introduced Phyllis to staged opera when she was given a role in his opera "L'Ipogea" — based on a libretto by V.M. Pellegrini. This year she took part in Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana" as Mamma Lucia and recently in the opera 'Il-Weghda' by Charles Camilleri, libretto by J. Friggieri.

### MARIO FELICE

Born in 1960, Mario started his clarinet studies at the age of 10 at the Duke of Connaught Bank Club, Birkirkara. Later, he joined the Young People's Orchestra and the School of Music Orchestra.

Mario has since participated in various chamber music and orchestral concerts, at times as soloist. In 1979 he also travelled to the UK with the Young People's Orchestra for the Harrogate International Youth Music Festival.

Mario, who presently works at our St. Paul's Bay Branch, joined the Bank in 1978.



*Mario Felice*

*Phyllis Abram*

*Kauri*

### STEPHANIE LAURI

Stephanie obtained her LRSM and FTCL Diplomas studying under the guidance of Miss Tessie Portelli LRSM when only 19 years old. She has taken part in various local performances including the Malta Cultural Institute concerts. Recently she took the piano part in Charles Camilleri's all-Maltese opera "Il-Weghda" at the Manoel Theatre. Stephanie hopes to make a career as a concert pianist and intends to be instrumental in bringing the public to closer acquaintance and appreciation of works by local composers — especially Carmelo Pace and Charles Camilleri.

Stephanie, who is just 21 years old, joined Mid-Med Bank in 1981 and is currently working at our Paola Branch.



### JOHN GALEA

John Galea started music lessons in 1969 in Gozo and attended advanced tuition in Malta under Mrs. B. Bisazza LRSM, Mrs. M. Rossignaud LRSM and Mrs. A.M. Scicluna LRSM. John obtained his ATCL, LRSM and FTCL Diplomas in 1978, 1979 and 1980 respectively.

Although only 24 years old, John already has a long and varied career to his credit. He is the Director of the Astra Theatre, Gozo where he has conducted spectacular productions of "Merry Widow", "Waltzes from Vienna" and "The Gypsy Princess". The "Merry Widow" was also presented at the Manoel Theatre in 1978 and was acclaimed in the local press.

John was appointed Assistant Band Master of the 'La Stella Band' in 1981 and has composed various marches, instrumental and choral music. John has been an employee of Mid-Med Bank since 1978 and at present he works at our Victoria Gozo Branch.

### ROSABELLE PAVIA

Rosabelle has been studying vocalisation and technique at Miss A. Miggiani LRSM for the last six years. She has taken part in several MCI Concerts, locally produced operettas and other cultural activities. In 1980 she played the leading role in the operetta 'It-Twajba Susanna' presented at the Manoel Theatre.

Born in Victoria Gozo in 1960, Rosabelle joined the Bank in 1978 and at present she is working at our Mosta Branch.



*John Galea*

*Rosabelle Pavia*



### YOUNG PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA

The YOUNG PEOPLE'S ORCHESTRA was formed in 1971 by Helen De Gabriele who wanted to give her young students some experience in ensemble playing.

In January 1971 a small chamber ensemble performed at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, St. Julians, followed by another concert at the former St. Michael's Training College.

The first grand public performance was also held in 1971 at the De Porres Arts Centre. That programme was a great success and since then the Orchestra has never looked back. In fact, it now has to its credit an unending list of successful concerts at various halls, theatres, hotel complexes, churches and musical centres locally. In 1979, the Orchestra also participated in the Harrogate International Youth Music festival — the first time a Youth Orchestra from Malta took part in a festival of this sort.

Some of the members who formed part of the orchestra thirteen years ago have continued with their musical studies; some have gone on scholarships abroad, others have joined the Manoel Theatre National Orchestra. To-day only a few of the pioneers are still members of this group, although many new comers are to-day receiving the benefits that years of experience can offer.

H. De Gabriele.

2-6-84.



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