

## Bir Miftuh International Music Festival 2009

1<sup>st</sup> Concert Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009 -Baroque Recital by the Ensemble 'Il Sogno Barocco'  
comprising Constantin Chariot – flute, Anne Renouprez – soprano, Katsufumi Suetsugu –  
harpsichord,

Bruno Ispiola – cello, José Carrión Balbuena – counter-tenor.

This concert is sponsored by the Belgian Embassy.

**Il Sogno Barocco** is a Belgian ensemble composed of five highly talented and internationally promising musicians specialising in ancient music, but particularly passionate about baroque music. Their very select repertoire spans from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 1780s. The ensemble aims at promoting lyric works, in the form of operas and recitals, stemming from the baroque era, while demonstrating a strong liking for refined and light orchestrations with particular focus on musical aesthetics. They play on original instruments and on the baroque diapason. They have impressed audiences during their numerous vocal and instrumental recitals and festivals such as the *Nuits de Beloeil 2006*. 'Il Sogno Barocco' has also produced a chamber opera based on a cantata, *Appolo & Daphne HWV122 by Haendel*. Listening to them one feels himself transported into a baroque dream. Their programme features works by Vivaldi, Haendel, Locatelli, Hasse and Conti.

2<sup>nd</sup> Concert Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 – 1<sup>st</sup> Recital by the String SMS Quartet composed of Stefan Smoly – violin,

Max Schollum – violin, Stefanie Drach – viola, Elisabeth Smoly – cello.

2<sup>nd</sup> Recital by the Ensemble Pianoflauti composed of Sophie Schollum – flute, Lucia Riehs – flute,  
Leonora Scheib – clavinova.

Guest artist Baritone Benno Schollum will be accompanied by his daughter Sophie Schollum.

This concert is sponsored by the Malta International Airport.

These very young and gifted Austrian musicians have established a reputation as child prodigies. They are all students at the Beethoven School of Music Mödling near Vienna. They are enthusiastic performers and all winners of first prizes of the prestigious Austrian competition for young students *Prima la Musica*. They have mesmerised audiences all over Austria and were also greatly acclaimed in Budapest and at the 'Gaulitanus Festival' in Gozo last year.

Austrian **Baritone Benno Schollum** has sung across four continents during his international career. His repertoire encompasses a broad spectrum, from classic operetta to oratorio and opera. He has performed at major festivals in Vienna, Budapest, Bergen, Gstaad, Ljubljana and other cities. He has worked with eminent conductors like Yehudi Menuhin, Stefan Soltesz and Msitslav Rostropovich. He has appeared with the Vienna Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Spanish National Orchestra and other famous orchestras. Since 2004 Benno Schollum has been a regular guest in Malta's concert halls. He sang alongside tenor Joseph Calleja and gave a concert to celebrate the birthday of retiring President Dr. E. Fenech Adami. He lectures at the University of Vienna.

These young musicians together with Baritone Benno Schollum will entertain the audience with works by Haydn, Mendelssohn, Mozart and Schubert.

3<sup>rd</sup> Concert Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009 - Flute and Accordion Concert by the duo Arcadio Baracchi –  
flute

and Ivano Battiston – Accordion.

This concert is sponsored by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura.

**Arcadio Baracchi** graduated from the *Conservatorio L. Cherubini* in Florence and then studied Composition and Electronic Music. Later he specialised further and obtained the *Diploma dell'Accademia Internazionale Incontri col Maestro di Imola* and the Advanced Certificate of the Royal Academy of Music London. He took part in many national and international competitions. He started his concert career at a very early age, as soloist and also with various chamber music formations, playing both ancient and contemporary music. He collaborates with many esteemed musicians and is the protagonist at many renowned festivals and seasonal appointments like *the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino* and the *Biennale di Venezia*. He currently performs as a soloist and chamber musician with the *Contempoensemble* and the *Ensemble Elastiko* of which he is artistic director. He has recorded

extensively and has conducted many radio transmissions. He lectures at the *Accademia di Musica di Firenze*.

**Ivano Battiston** studied accordion and graduated with a first-class degree cum laude and honourable mention from the *Castelfranco Veneto Conservatoire*. He was awarded first prize at the *XXVIII Trophée Mondial de l'Accordéon* and subsequently achieved a Diploma in choral music and bassoon. He also studied composition. Battiston follows a heavy concert schedule, performing for prestigious music institutions in Italy, all over Europe, the United States and South America. As soloist he has played with the Moscow Soloists, the Quad City Symphony Orchestra in U.S., *RAI Torino*, *Milano Classica*, the Arturo Toscanini Emilia Romagna Symphony Orchestra and other leading orchestras. He has also collaborated with distinguished musicians and with well known orchestras such as the *Opera de Lyon* and the *Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia*. He has many CDs to his credit.

Their repertoire includes works by Bartok/Battiston, M. Panni, J.S. Bach, I. Battiston and Piazzolla/Battiston.

[4<sup>th</sup> Concert Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 - Violin, Viola & Cello Recital by the ProMuzika Ensemble composed of Nemanja Ljubinkovic – violin, Sarah Spiteri – viola, Rahia Angela Awalom – cello.](#)

This concert is sponsored by the German Embassy.

[ProMuzika Ensemble](#) is one of Malta's leading chamber ensembles. It was formed in 2004 and was initially made up of some of the best Maltese musicians on the island, but now it includes foreign musicians currently residing in Malta. The ensemble strives to hold performances in historical venues thus combining the promotion of music with Maltese cultural heritage. Members of ProMuzika represented Malta in the *Europa Musicale* Festival held in Germany, performed in Berlin at the *Berliner Konzerthaus*, in Leipzig at the *Gewandhaus* and in Wiesbaden at the *Kurthaus* and at *Aino Ackte* Concert House in Helsinki.

The members of the ensemble are also active as orchestra members, soloists and members of other chamber ensembles.

The current formation of this concert have been working together for about a year on an eclectic repertoire including Bach, Mozart, Dvorak, Reger and Richard Strauss.

The two main works to be performed at the concert are Bach - Art of the Fugue and Mozart - String Trio in E flat Major

[5<sup>th</sup> Concert Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009- Vocal and Harp Concert by Marie-Pierre Wattiez - soprano, Anne Marie Camilleri Podestá – Harp.](#)

This concert is sponsored by the French Embassy and the Alliance Française.

Parisian born soprano **Marie-Pierre Wattiez** obtained a Masters Degree in Musicology from the Sorbonne and then studied voice at the *Conservatoire de Paris* under the tuition of noted French soprano Mady Mesplé. She has sung as soloist in several oratorios, operas and recitals and has frequently collaborated with well known ensembles such as the William Byrd Ensemble, *Les Solistes Français* and *Le Concert Spirituel*. Her repertoire ranges from Gregorian chant to contemporary music. She has sung under the direction of Carlo Maria Giulini, Sir Georg Solti, John Elliott Gardiner and other celebrated directors. Performances include Purcell's opera 'King Arthur' at the *Théâtre Comédie* of Montpellier, at the *Théâtre des Champs Elysées* and at the Barbican Theatre in London, Brahms's German *Requiem* at the *Salle Pleyel de Paris* and the 'Passion' by the contemporary Finish composer Saariaho at *L'Opéra Bastille*. She has taught vocal music of the Renaissance period at the *Conservatoire National de Région de Tours* and currently lectures Vocal Technique at the Sorbonne.

**Anne Marie Camilleri Podestá** holds the Licentiate of the London College of Music (LLCM) in piano and the Licentiate of the Royal School of Music (LRSM) in harp. She is a member of the Ġukulari Ensemble with whom she has played in Budapest, Vienna and Bologna. Apart from her numerous and much applauded performances in Malta, in June 2004 Anne Marie represented Malta in a Gala Concert 'Welcome to the Union' at the *Konzerthaus* in Vienna. She has performed with the European Symphonietta, the Sophia Philharmonic and with the *Orquestra Sinfónica Portuguesa*. She has also played with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, accompanying tenor Joseph Calleja in Malta. She performed a world premier entitled *Ġesti*, a piece for solo harp composed by Prof. Charles Camilleri

at the Ninth World Harp Congress in Dublin and this was later launched as a CD. In June 2008 she took part at the Tenth World Harp Congress in Amsterdam.  
The duo will delight the audience with works by Fauré, Debussy, Poulenc, Guinod, Berlioz and Duparc.

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