

# Music



## A 67th annual celebration of music for the Leone Philharmonic Band

On 4 November, the Leone Philharmonic Band celebrated music through the production of the annual Leone Band in Concert. This concert, as for the past 67 years, is held as a commemoration of the proclamation of the Dogma of the Assumption, proclaimed by Pope Pius 12, on 1 November 1950. A few days later, the Leone Philharmonic Band celebrated this event with a musical concert in Independence Square, a concert which was then held annually till this day.

The musical programme, after opening with the popular march dedicated to the Assumption to Our Lady, the Leone Band passed on to pieces from the operas *Cavalleria Rusticana*, work of Pietro Mascagni, and *Pagliacci* by Ruggiero Leoncavallo, which were both successfully produced in the Aurora Opera House. The Leone Philharmonic Band revisited this achievement by the Opera House, where these operas were produced to celebrate the forty years of opera in Gozo, started by the Aurora Opera House through the production of the *Madama Butterfly* in January 1977. The

Aurora Opera House has just been given the Honor of Gozo, in recognition of the artistic and economic contribution to the island of Gozo.

The Leone Philharmonic Band, under the direction of Colin Attard, executed the work of composer Giovanni Giummarra *Vedi Napoli e poi mori* - A gem from the musical archives of the Leone Band written specifically for similar bands. Also, under the direction of assistant conductor Joseph Debrincat, the Leone Band executed the work of James Swearingen *Majestia*.

The last part of the musical programme was dedicated to the Russian composer Tchaikovsky, with parts of the suite from the renowned ballet *Swan Lake* and closing off with the *March Slave*.

The musical programme came at a closure with the band's hymn, where the audience showed its appreciation for the Leone Band's resounding performance. The Leone Philharmonic Society is committed to continue producing such local artistic exhibitions are means to increase the culture experience of our islands.



## A Recital of Sacred Music by the St Paul Chamber Ensemble

■ Dr Lydia Buttigieg

The St Paul Chamber Ensemble, established in 2015, is fast getting a solid reputation of presenting concerts of high calibre. The ensemble presented an autumn series of three concerts, two of which were on Saturday, 28 October at St Francis Church, Valletta, in aid of *Id-Dar tal-Providenza*. The second concert was held on Friday, 3 November at St Publius Church, Floriana, in collaboration with the Floriana Local Council and the Ghana Mission Foundation, under the distinguished patronage of H.E. President of Malta, Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. Both concerts were compared by Antonella Bugeja Conti.

Under the baton of Chev. Mro Mark Agius, the nearly 40-piece orchestra, which consists of both seasoned and upcoming musicians, presented a recital of sacred music. With an unflinching and exquisitely delicate sound and ably directed by its experienced conductor, the orchestra accompanied the well-

established local singers who participated in this delightful concert.

Mro Agius skilfully directed the orchestra with utmost precision, ease and confidence, employing various techniques that adequately portrayed different stylistic genres of music. The soloists were Karen Gatt Darmania, Claire Caruana and Frances Catherine Farrugia (sopranos), Christine Dalli (mezzo soprano), May Caruana (contralto), Charles Vincenti (tenor), Ivan Vella (baritone), Louise Andrew Cassar and James Vella Bondin (basses).

The two concerts commenced with an orchestral and vocal rendition of Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus Christi*, followed by *Ave Maria* by Caccini, ably executed by Claire Caruana and May Caruana respectively. *Look at the World* was superbly executed by all the singers, skilfully accompanied by the orchestra.

The second part of the programme presented *Ave Maria* based on the *Intermezzo* from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, a 19th-century one-act opera by Mascagni

and Mons Marco Frisina's *Magnificat* were performed flawlessly by Christine Dalli and Frances Catherine Farrugia respectively. Morricone's *Nella Fantasia*, both sung with excellent, well-rounded technique and with utmost confidence by Claire Caruana and Frances Catherine Farrugia. Brodsky's *I'll Walk with God*, a favourite piece in the classical repertoire was excellently interpreted by tenor Charles Vincenti.

The final three pieces on the programme were *Ave Maria* by Lorenc, exquisitely interpreted by Karen Gatt Darmania, *The Lord's Prayer* by Malotte was sung by Christine Dalli and May Caruana respectively, and the grand finale ended with the majestic setting of the late 16th-century Renaissance piece *Jesu joy of man's desiring* by Bach, sung by all the singers, which brought the appreciative audience to its feet in a well-deserved standing ovation.

The autumn series third and final concert will be held on Saturday, 16 December at St Lawrence Church, Birgum, at 7pm.



## THE BMAT PRS MALTA TOP 20 AIRPLAY CHART 10 NOVEMBER 2017



POSITION	PREVIOUS	TITLE	ARTIST
1	1	SAME OLD	LUCY'S LAST
2	4	MISS YOU	WINTER MOODS FT JOSEPH CALLEJA
3	3	HAFI PACI KULURI	THE TRAVELLERS
=4	7	SOME WAY	JOE ROSCOE
=4	2	MR. VANITY	LYNDSAY
6	10	XEMX U XITA	THE TRAVELLERS
=7	RE-ENTRY	MARIGOLD	WINTER MOODS
=7	7	COLD AS A FEVER	RED ELECTRICK
=7	RE-ENTRY	SINNER	RED ELECTRICK
=7	RE-ENTRY	VIVA MALTA	FREDDIE PORTELLI
11	16	SA L-AHHAR	FABRIZIO FANIELLO
=12	5	FEJN THOBB IL QALB	MIKE SPITERI
=12	RE-ENTRY	KEEP ME IN MIND	MIKE SPITERI
=12	RE-ENTRY	YOUNG AGAIN	RED ELECTRICK
15	12	HELWA TAL-GHAGEB	BERNIE & POD
16	RE-ENTRY	DAK LI INT	THE TRAVELLERS
17	RE-ENTRY	IT-TFAL TAL-LUM	ELEANOR CASSAR
18	RE-ENTRY	KEEP ME IN LOVE	THE NEW VICTORIANS
=19	NEW ENTRY	MA KELLEKX TORT	FREDDIE PORTELLI
=19	RE-ENTRY	THURSDAYS	JOE ROSCOE