



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



The Terra Sancta International Organ Festival September 18 – October 30, 2015

The **Custody of the Holy Land** is pleased to announce the opening of the second concert season of the **Terra Sancta Organ Festival - Music from the Churches of the Middle East**.

The festival will take place from **September 18 to October 30** in the following locations: **Amman** (Jordan) on September 18, **Emmaus El-Qubeibeh** (Palestine) on September 27, **Rhodes** (Greece) from September 30 to October 3 (in collaboration with the Organ & Music Festival Rhodes), **Larnaca** (Cyprus) on October 3, **Tel Aviv-Jaffa** (on Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27), **Nazareth** (on Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28), **Jerusalem** (on Thursdays, October 8, 15, 22, 29) and **Bethlehem** (on Fridays, October 9, 16, 23, 30).

The special feature of the **Terra Sancta Organ Festival** is that it is held at **churches and shrines of the Holy Land** and in places where the Franciscan Friars of the **Custody of the Holy Land** have been present for centuries. In this regard, we are organizing a winter concert season that will include also Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. The Terra Sancta Organ Festival is the only organ festival in the world to be organized in eight different countries, perhaps simply the only festival with this feature. The festival becomes then a way to give international visibility (and in some cases solidarity) to the **Christian communities of the Middle East and the Levant**; at the same time, the reality of the Custody of the Holy Land gets to be known also in non-religious circles, like the ones associated with music lovers and festival goers.

The concerts take place in churches, but all are welcome, whatever their religion.

The **holy places** in which the concerts take place, have an importance that goes beyond the musical event: therefore a special invitation is addressed to **pilgrims** and **tourists**, who are very welcomed to attend. The Terra Sancta Organ Festival represents one of the rare occasions where one can hear the sound of the pipe organ (the king of musical instruments, the largest) outside of the normal liturgical context. **Admission is free to all concerts.**

The opening event of the festival, however, will be held on **August 22 at the "Basilica of San Piero a Grado"** in Pisa (Italy), where, the bishop in Amman and vicar of the Latin Patriarchate for Jordan, **H.E. Msgr. Maroun Lahham** will bless a **new pipe organ** in the presence of the Archbishop of Pisa **H.E. Msgr. Giovanni Paolo Benotto** and the parish priest, **Father Antonio Pyznar**; the instrument will be installed in the shrine of the **Memorial of Moses on Mount Nebo in Jordan**. Even if small and portable, this organ - built by the artisan Nicola Puccini of Pisa – **will be the only pipe organ of Jordan**. After the concert of Pisa, the organ will be shipped to **Amman**, the capital of Jordan, for the concert scheduled on **September 18 at the church of the Terra Santa College**: the event will see the participation of the "Fountain of Love Choir" and an orchestra both conducted by **Toama Jbara** (Jordan); organist: **Mako Kusagaya** (Japan). Then, the organ will reach its final destination on Mount Nebo.



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The organists scheduled to perform in the Israel and Palestine concert season of October are **all internationally known**.

Peter Latona (USA) is Music Director for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest sanctuary in the United States; already a winner of the Bach Organ Competition in Lausanne, **Pavao Mašić** (Croatia) is a young talent with an intense concert activity in Europe: he is also the titular organist of the prestigious church of St. Mark in Zagreb, where the first organ concert took place in 1359; the Italian **Pier Damiano Peretti** (Italy/Austria) is professor of organ at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna; winner of the prestigious organ competition of St. Alban, he is also the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Artist Award by the Austrian government; **Marcel Octav Costea** (Romania), conductor and composer, teaches at the National University of Music of Bucharest and is the Director of Music at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Bucharest.

In addition, no less important organists will perform in September in the other locations of the Festival. They are the Italian **Antonio Galanti**, teacher at the Conservatory of Alessandria (Italy); **Mako Kusagaya** from Japan, teacher at the Conservatory of Amman; the Austrian **Matthias Giesen**, teacher at the University of Vienna and artistic director of the "Brucknertage St. Florian Festival"; the Greek **Christos Paraskevopoulos**, teacher at the Athens Conservatory and artistic director of the "Organ & Music Festival Rhodes"; the German **Gunther Martin Goettsche**, organist of the Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem; **Melanie Harrison** from Great Britain, a member of the British Institute of Organ Studies and the Frenchman **Christophe Guide**, organist of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Marseille.

The artists' complete biographies and all the information about the Terra Sancta Organ Festival can be found on www.tsorganfestival.org. All the concerts held in the **Basilica of the Annunciation** of Nazareth will be **streamed live** on the festival's website. Videos and audio tracks from the past edition are available on the **You Tube channel** and **Sound Cloud page** of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival.

The festival is made possible thanks to the organizational resources of the Custody of the Holy Land like the **Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America**, the **Magnificat Institute of Jerusalem**, the **Christian Information Center**, **ATS Pro Terra Sancta**, **Custodia.org**, the **Christian Media Center** and Franciscan monasteries of Amman, Rhodes, Cyprus, El Qubeibeh Emmaus, Jaffa St. Peter, Nazareth, Jerusalem St. Saviour and Bethlehem and with the support of the **Embassy of Croatia in Israel**, the **Embassy of Italy in Cyprus**, the **Romanian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv**, the **Italian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv**, the **Organ Builder Nicola Puccini** of Pisa and the **Associazione Santo Sepolcro** of Foligno.

Since 1342, the Custody of the Holy Land is a mission with a special character of the **Catholic Church** entrusted to the **Order of the Friars Minor** (Franciscans) and a diplomatic entity recognized by many countries and institutions.

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TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL - HOLY LAND ORGAN FESTIVAL Concert Season 2015

DATE	PLACE	ORGANISTS & MUSICIANS
22 August "Prelude" in Italy	PISA – Basilica of S. Piero a Grado – 7 pm Blessing of the new organ for the Mount Nebo (Jordan) H. E. Giovanni Paolo Benotto, Metropolitan Archbishop in Pisa - H.E. Mons Maroun Lahham, Patriarchal Vicar in Jordan Don Antoni Pyznar, Parrish Priest of the Basilica Nicola Puccini (Italy), organ builder	Antonio Galanti (Italy) Andrea Lagi (Italy), trumpet
18 September	AMMAN – Terra Sancta College – 7.30 pm	Mako Kusagaya (Japan) Fountain of Love choir Amman Toaama Jbara (Jordan), conductor
25 September	EMMAUS EL QUBEIBEH – Terra Santa Monastery – 4 pm	Gunther Martin Goetsche Heidrun Goetsche, soprano (Germany)
27 September	RHODES – St. Francis Church – 8.30 pm	Matthias Giesen (Austria)
27 Sept. – 3 Oct	RHODES — Church of St. Francis and of Our Lady of Victory Organ & Music Festival Rhodes	Chris Paraskevopoulos (Greece) Artistic director & organist
3 October	LARNACA – Church of St. Mary of Graces- 7. 30 pm	Christophe Guida (France) Melanie Harrison (England)
6 October	TEL AVIV – JAFFA – St. Peter’s Church – 7 pm	Peter Latona (United States)
7 October	NAZARETH – Basilica of the Annunciation – 6 pm	Peter Latona (United States)
8 October	JERUSALEM – Church of St. Saviour – 6 pm	Peter Latona (United States)
9 October	BETHLEHEM –Church of St. Catherine at Nativity – 6 pm	Peter Latona (United States)
13 October	TEL AVIV – JAFFA – St. Peter’s Church – 7 pm	Pavao Mašić (Croatia)
14 October	NAZARETH – Basilica of the Annunciation – 6 pm	Pavao Mašić (Croatia)
15 October	JERUSALEM – Church of St. Saviour – 6 pm	Pavao Mašić (Croatia)
16 October	BETHLEHEM –Church of St. Catherine at Nativity – 6 pm	Pavao Mašić (Croatia)
20 October	TEL AVIV – JAFFA – St. Peter’s Church – 7 pm	Pier Damiano Peretti (Italia/Austria)
21 October	NAZARETH – Basilica of the Annunciation – 6 pm	Pier Damiano Peretti (Italia/Austria)
22 October	JERUSALEM – Church of St. Saviour – 6 pm	Pier Damiano Peretti (Italia/Austria)
23 October	BETHLEHEM –Church of St. Catherine at Nativity – 6 pm	Pier Damiano Peretti (Italia/Austria)
27 October	TEL AVIV – JAFFA – St. Peter’s Church – 7 pm	Marcel Octav Costea (Romania)
28 October	NAZARETH – Basilica of the Annunciation – 6 pm	Marcel Octav Costea (Romania)
29 October	JERUSALEM – Church of St. Saviour – 6 pm	Marcel Octav Costea (Romania)
30 October	BETHLEHEM –Church of St. Catherine at Nativity – 6 pm	Marcel Octav Costea (Romania)