



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



An Event of the

TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL:

Organ & Music Festival Rhodes

September 27 – October 3, 2015

**Φεστιβάλ Εκκλησιαστικού Οργάνου
και Μουσικής της Ρόδου**

Sept. 27, Oct. 1 & 3 _ Church of St. Francis

27 Σεπ., 1-3 Οκτ. _ Εκκλησία Αγίου Φραγκίσκου

Sept. 29_ Church of Our Lady of Victory “Santa Maria”

29 Σεπ. _ Ιερά Μονή Παναγίας της Νίκης Σάντα Μαρία

8.30 p.m. || **Free Entrance** || 20.30 μ μ || **Ελεύθερη είσοδος**

www.tsorganfestival.org || organfestival@custodia.org

The "Organ & Music Festival Rhodes 2015" will have its opening event in Rhodes in the Church of St. Francis on **Saturday, September 27 at 8.30 pm**: the event is organized by the Custody of the Holy Land, the Catholic Church in Rhodes.

The performing artists –all internationally known- are the Austrian **Matthias Giesen (organ)** and the Greek **tenor Leonidas Sakellarides**. The program will offer music by Mozart, Liszt, Schumann and others. **Admission is free to this and all the other concert of the festival**, which will be held on September 29 at the Church of Our Lady “S. Maria” (45 Kathopouli st.) and on October 1 and 3 at the Church of Saint Francis (28 Dimokratias st. - Gate d'Amboise). All concerts will start at 8.30 pm.

In Greece opportunities to listen to the sound of the organ are few and rare; at the Organ & Music Festival Rhodes the organs are even two and this is what makes the festival unique in the national music scene. The pipe organ installed in the Church of San Francis in Rhodes is the largest church organ in all of Greece. In addition, the organ of Our Lady of Victory will be played for the first time this year during the festival.

The Greek organist **Chris Paraskevopoulos**, who is also the artistic director of the **Organ & Music Festival Rhodes**, and the soprano **Zoe Kokkala** will perform together on Tuesday, September 29 in the church of Our Lady “Santa Maria” (45 Kathopouli st.): the program is dedicated to Italian church music from 1500 to 1800.

The Municipal Choir of the city of Petaloudes, conducted by **Flora Pelekanou** and accompanied by **Chris Paraskevopoulos** on organ, will perform on Thursday, October 1 in the Church of St. Francis.

Maestro Paraskevopoulos will direct the last concert to be held on Saturday, Oct. 3 in the Church of



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Saint Francis and featuring **Natasha Bollaki** on organ, **Dimitrios Gkogkas** on trumpet and the choir St. Cecilia's Singers.

The Organ & Music Festival Rhodes has been taken place under different names since 2009, in the days that precede the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Chris Paraskevopoulos, professor of organ at the Conservatory "Filippos Nakas" in Athens, is the artistic director. The program always features international, national and local artists.

Since last year, the **Organ & Music Festival Rhodes** has become part of the broader **Terra Sancta Organ Festival**, also organized by the Custody of the Holy Land, and taking place in 2015 in Jordan, Greece (Rhodes), Cyprus, Israel and Palestine from September 18 to October 30 (www.tsorganfestival.org). The Terra Sancta Organ Festival wants to give to everyone a chance to listen to the sound of the organ, that otherwise would be heard only during the liturgical celebrations at some churches.

The Franciscan Friars have been present in Rhodes and Kos for centuries doing pastoral, cultural and charitable activities in favour of the local population; in recent months, the assistance to refugees has become one important activity of the friars.