



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



An Event of the

TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL

***Organ & Music* Festival Rhodes**

October 1 - 8, 2016

**Φεστιβάλ Εκκλησιαστικού Οργάνου
και Μουσικής της Ρόδου**

**Oct. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 2016 at 20.30 h. – Church of St. Francis – St Athanasios Gate – Rhodes Town
Εκκλησία Αγίου Φραγκίσκου**

8. 30 p. m. || **Admission Free** || 20. 30 μ μ || **Ελεύθερη είσοδος**
www.tsorganfestival.org || organfestival@custodia.org

Press release

From 1 to 8 October the 2016 edition of "**Organ & Music Festival Rhodes**" will take place in the St. Francis church in Rhodes (St. Athanasios Gate) organized by the **Custody of the Holy Land, Catholic Church in Rhodes**.

In Greece opportunities to listen to the sound of the organ are few and rare. The pipe organ installed in the Church of St. Francis in Rhodes is the largest church organ in all of Greece. Concerts will be held **at 8:30 pm on days 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 October with free admission**. The program features international, national and local artists.

The inaugural evening of Saturday, October 1 presents the **Rhodes Municipal Choir** directed by **Michalis Kalaentzis** with **Christos Paraskevopoulos** at the organ. Sunday, October 2 will be the turn of the **Municipal Choir and Orchestra of the City of Petaludes** directed by **Flora Pelekanou**, which in previous years had been a great success, with the Finnish **Vainio Margaret** at the organ. Another choir will sing on Tuesday, October 4: the **St. Cecilia Singers** directed by **Chris Paraskevopoulos** with **Yiannis Trimis** on trumpet and **Natassa Bolaki** at the organ.

Every year the Organ & Music Festival Rhodes hosts an international career organist: Thursday, October 6, the organ of the Church of St. Francis will be played by the Italian **Mario Duella**. Mario Duella in his career he has performed more than a thousand concerts in many countries around the world: Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, South America, United States, Canada and Mexico. The invitation of Mario Duella to Rhodes is made possible thanks to the support of the **Italian Institute of Culture in Athens**. The recital will be enriched by the voice of the soprano **Natali Eleftheriou**.

The last concert of the festival, Saturday, October 8, will present the baritone **Elpidoforos Raisakis**, accompanied on the organ by **Chris Paraskevopoulos**, and **Michalis Kantaridis** as a



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solo organist.

The Organ & Music Festival Rhodes takes place under various names since 2009, on the occasion of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Chris Paraskevopoulos, organ teacher at the Conservatory "Filippos Nakas" of Athens, is the artistic director.

For three years the Organ & Music Festival Rhodes has become part of the broader **Terra Sancta Organ Festival** (www.tsorganfestival.org), also organized by the Custody of the Holy Land in the churches of Middle East and Levant. 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 are present in Rhodes and Kos for centuries with pastoral activities, cultural and charitable activities for the benefit of local people and, these days, with the assistance to the refugees.