



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ

800 YEARS OF FRANCISCAN PRESENCE IN THE HOLY LAND

800 عاما على وجود الفرنسيسكان في الأرض المقدسة

# TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL

MOUNT NEBO (JORDAN) | MEMORIAL OF MOSES

September 20, 2018 at 7 pm | Admission Free

## PIPE ORGAN RECITAL & COMMEMORATION

In memory of Fr. Michele Piccirillo (1944 – 2008), Franciscan friar and archaeologist

Alessandro Licata (Italy), pipe organ

commemorative speeches:

Costanza Farina, UNESCO Representative to Jordan

Barbara A. Porter, Director of ACOR (American Center of Oriental Research)

Franco Sciorilli, Mosaicist

Győző Vörös, Hungarian Academy of Arts and Jordanian Department of Antiquities



Terra Sancta Organ Festival: [www.tsorganfestival.org](http://www.tsorganfestival.org) | [organfestival@custodia.org](mailto:organfestival@custodia.org)

# FR. MICHELE PICCIRILLO, ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL

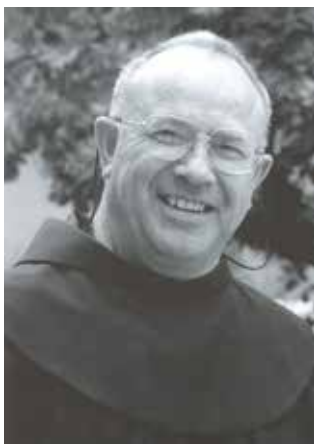
By Fr. Rif'at Bader – Editor in chief of "Abouna.org"

The year 2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the passing away of one of the most important researchers who loved Jordan's land, water and humans. It is a rare issue to find someone who says he wants to be buried after death in a country other than his native country. Fr. Michele Piccirillo had quite a different view. This Franciscan priest chose to be buried at Mount Nebo, the place he loved most and where he spent several years as a researcher, scrutinizing through the ruins of the past to give inspirations to the humanity of today.

This Italian priest was born in Casanova in the province of Caserta in 1944. He was fascinated by the Holy Land which was one of his aspirations since childhood. He came to Bethlehem when he was 16 years old, pursued his studies in Jerusalem, and was ordained priest in 1969. Then, he left for Rome to study archaeology. He returned to Jerusalem in 1974 to begin his academic career at the Franciscan College. He was renowned as an archaeologist with his colleague Fr. Bellarmino Bagatti. He came to Mount Nebo in 1976 and located the site of Prophet

Moses, discovered the baptism stock and pieces of invaluable mosaic dating back to the 6th century.

In 1987, he worked in Umm ar-Rasas, which is referred to in the Holy Bible as "Kastron Mefa'a". He also shed light on the mutual living between the city's Muslims and Christians, with the city becoming a unique touristic destination in our beloved country. UNESCO added this city to the World Heritage List in 2004.



From 1987 to 2000, Piccirillo worked as a teacher at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. He was among the first people to rediscover Bethany and the Baptism Site, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, especially in the Great Jubilee in 2000, during

which the St. Pope John Paul II visited the Holy Land and Fr. Michele Piccirillo was his guide. Piccirillo wrote many books on mosaics and archaeological sites in Nebo, the Madaba region, northern Jordan, Umm al-Rasas and several places in Palestine. He became sick in 2008 and passed away in October in Italy. He was given a solemn prayer ceremony in Amman when he was transferred to Mount Nebo, to be buried in the place he loved most.

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ALESSANDRO LICATA (Italy), pipe organ

Presentation by Br. Riccardo Ceriani, Delegate for Music of the Custos of the Holy Land



**Alessandro Licata** is an Italian organist, born and living in Rome, who graduated in 1974 at the 'Santa Cecilia' Conservatory of Music in Rome. He was awarded the first award at the prestigious Master Players International Music Competition held in Orvieto in 1977. During the '70s Alessandro Licata started his career as a teacher and a performer presenting a repertoire spreading from antique to contemporary music. In parallel, he studied in depth the masterpieces of Johann Sebastian Bach. In the course of his career, Licata has given concerts in Italy as well as in Poland, Portugal, Spain, Canada, Sweden and China. Licata teaches Organ since 1976; currently, he lectures at the 'Santa Cecilia' Conservatory of Music in Rome. He has been a speaker at several workshops and seminars where he spoke about the works of Johann Sebastian Bach and he has been a jury member in different competitions as well as a member on various commissions.

### Program

#### Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750)

##### Goldberg Variations: the Canons

*«Putting together the program of a concert means always scoring a balance between the location, the instrument and the context. I owe to an occasion of many years ago, the discovery of the particular role that the Canons play in the corpus of the Goldberg Variations and the role of science and number in the construction of the Canons. This program presents the Canons of the Goldberg Variations as a way to underline the union of scientific and artistic knowledge. I like to think that this union has always been present in the work of the archaeologist Fr. Michele Piccirillo, who made possible the recovery of this site and its appreciation, combining scientific research and the contemplation of beauty and its sacredness.» (Alessandro Licata)*

Aria

Canone all'Unisono

Canone alla Seconda

*Speech of Costanza Farina,  
UNESCO Representative to Jordan*

Canone alla Terza

Canone alla Quarta

Canone alla Quinta

*Speech of Barbara A. Porter, Director of ACOR  
(American Center of Oriental Research)*

Canone alla Sesta

Canone alla Settima

Canone all'Ottava

*Speech of Franco Sciorilli,  
Mosaicist*

Canone alla Nona

Quodlibet

Aria da Capo

At the end of the concert, the audience is invited to proceed to the Franciscan Convent to visit the grave of Fr. Michele Piccirillo and honour his memory.

*Speech of Győző Vörös,  
Hungarian Academy of Arts and Jordanian  
Department of Antiquities*

Presentation of the restoration of stucco, discovered in Machaerus



**The Terra Sancta Organ Festival** (Holy Land Organ Festival) is an international music event and a cultural activity produced by the Custody of the Holy Land, which allows everyone to enjoy the beauty of pipe organs, an asset that would otherwise be restricted to liturgies.

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

invitation is addressed to the pilgrims and tourists who love music.

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 *Custodia Terræ Sanctæ* (Custody of the Holy Land) have been present since the XIIIth century. Established in Jerusalem in the year 1342, The Custody of the Holy Land is a special and international mission of the Catholic Church, a part of the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) in the Middle East and the Levant. The Custody of the Holy Land is also a diplomatic entity recognized by many countries and institutions.

The artists' complete biographies and all the information about the Terra Sancta Organ Festival can be found on

[www.tsorganfestival.org](http://www.tsorganfestival.org)

Videos and audio tracks from the past editions are available on the You Tube channel of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival.



**The Organ of Mount Nebo** though small, is the handiwork of the prestigious Italian craftsman Nicola Puccini from Pisa and seems to be currently the only pipe organ in Jordan. The installation of the instrument was organized in the year 2016 in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Amman. The organ itself was blessed in 2015 in Pisa (Italy) by His Excellency Archbishop Maroun Lahham, at the time Auxiliary Bishop and Patriarchal Vicar for Jordan.