



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



28 September – 5 October, 2019

## *Organ & Music Festival Rhodes*

## Φεστιβάλ Εκκλησιαστικού Οργάνου και Μουσικής της Ρόδου

*An Event organized by*

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF RHODES**

in the frame of the

Custody of The Holy Land's

**TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL**

Press release

**From September 28 to October 5, 2019** the ninth season of "**Organ & Music Festival Rhodes**" will take place in Rhodes in St. Francis' church and in the church of Our Lady of Victory "Santa Maria" with five concerts organized by the **Custody of the Holy Land – Roman Catholic Church in Rhodes**. Chris Paraskevopoulos, organ teacher and administrator of the organ department at the "Hellenikon Odeion" (Conservatory of Greece) of Athens, is the artistic director. The Organ & Music Festival Rhodes for six years has become part of the broader **Terra Sancta Organ Festival**, the largest international festival for pipe-organ in the Middle East and Levant also organized by the Custody of the Holy Land.

Concerts will be held **in St. Francis' Church** (28 Dimokratias st.- St. Athanasios Gate) **and in Our Lady of Victory Church "Santa Maria"** (45 Kathopouli st.): **admission free**. The program features international, national and local artists. 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, where most of the concerts will be performed, is the largest church organ in all of Greece. All information and detailed programs can be found on the website [www.tsorganfestival.org](http://www.tsorganfestival.org) and [www.catholicchurchrhodes.com](http://www.catholicchurchrhodes.com).

### SPECIAL EVENT

This year is the 800th anniversary of the pilgrimage of peace of St. Francis of Assisi in the Middle East and the Levant. The festival commemorates it on **October 4, 2019 in the Church of St: Francis at 8 pm** with a special event of high cultural value, organized **in collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture in Athens: St. Francis in Music and Images**. This is a video and organ concert that will be performed on the basis of the Italian silent film "Frate Sole" (Brother Sun) dated 1918, written by Mario Corsi, directed by Ugo Falena, which tells the story of St. Francis. As at the beginning of cinematography, the film will have a musical accompaniment, in this case with the organ. This is another peculiarity of this special event: usually silent films are accompanied by the piano or other instruments. The musical accompaniment will be performed by the Italian maestro Eugenio Maria Fagiani, titular organist of "La Verdi" Symphony Orchestra of Milan and artistic director of the La Verna and Arezzo organ festivals in Tuscany. Rounding out the



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evening will be the **St. Cecilia Singers Choir** of Rhodes conducted by **Christos Paraskevopoulos** with **Natasa Bolaki** on the organ.

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**Organ & Music Festival Rhodes**

Chris Paraskevopoulos, artistic director

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