

## CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ

Il Delegato per la Musica e lo Spettacolo  
The Delegate for Music & Performing Arts



אחראי למוזיקה ולאמנויות הבמה  
المنسوب الموسيقي للفنون الأدائية

PRESS RELEASE

### **TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL** *Music from the Churches of the Middle East and the Levant* **Israel Concert Season** October 22 – November 7, 2019

For the sixth consecutive year the **Terra Sancta Organ Festival – Music from the Churches of the Middle East and the Levant**, organized by the Custody of the Holy Land, returns to Israel offering nine concerts, all with **free admission, from October 22 to November 7, 2019** in Tel Aviv Yafo, Nazareth, Jerusalem and for the first time also in Haifa. The complete program of the concerts, with all the information on musicians, dates and times, can be seen on the website [www.tsorganfestival.org](http://www.tsorganfestival.org).

The novelty of this year is the event "St. Francis in Music & Images", **two video-concerts with organ improvisation** to accompanying clips from the Italian silent film "Frate Sole" ("Brother Sun", 1918), which tells the life of St. Francis of Assisi after 800 years from his pilgrimage of peace in the Holy Land, which took place in 1218.

It is an operation of high cultural value, **with the patronage of the Italian Embassy in Israel and the collaboration of the Italian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv**, which re-proposes a practice that was normal at the beginning of the history of cinematography: a musical improvisation in support of a silent film.

Another peculiarity is that a film is shown in the churches with the accompaniment of organ, almost certainly for the first time in Israel: on October 28 at 7 pm in the church of the "St. Joseph" Latin Parish in Haifa (Sderot Ha Meginim) and on October 29 in the church of St. Peter in Old Jaffa at 18. It is a real challenge for the Italian **Eugenio Maria Fagiani**, organist titular of the Symphonic Orchestra "La Verdi" in Milan, who will have to improvise in Jaffa on an ancient and small pipe organ (built in Italy by the Agati firm in 1847) and in Haifa on a modern electronic organ with three keyboards and pedals, also this Italian.

**In Haifa**, in collaboration with "Scuola Italiana" (Italian School), the event "St. Francis in Music & Images" also includes **an exhibition with 28 large wall paintings from Giotto's frescoes** in the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi realized by the Italian artist between 1290 and 1295. The exhibition will remain at the "Scuola Italiana" (10 rehov Ha-Italkim) from October 23rd to November 1st from 3.30pm to 7pm (closed Saturday and Sunday).

But the reasons of interest of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival concerts do not end here: on October 31 the Spanish Juan Paradell Solé, organist of the Sistine Chapel choir in the Vatican, that is the Pope's organist, will perform in the church of St. Saviour in Jerusalem (Old City – New Gate) at 6 pm.

The other concerts will be performed by other international organists, for the first time in Israel, such as the Romanian Erzsébet Windhager-Gered, organist of the Lutherische Stadtkirche in Vienna (concerts organized in collaboration with the Romanian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv) and the Hungarian Levente Kuzma, winner of several important international competitions, professor of organ at the University of Szeged and artistic director of the Cathedral of Szeged (concerts organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Hungary in Tel Aviv and with the Representative Office of the Hungary in Ramallah).

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The program:

### TEL AVIV-YAFO | Church of St. Peter (Old Jaffa) at 18:00

- 22 October: **Erzsébet Windhager-Gered** (Romania), organ  
In collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv
- 29 October: **Eugenio Maria Fagiani** (Italy), organ  
**800 YEARS FROM THE PILGRIMAGE OF PEACE OF ST. FRANCIS IN THE HOLY LAND**  
**ST. FRANCIS IN MUSIC &IMAGES**  
*Organ Improvisations on episodes from St. Francis' life*  
*Clips from the silent movie "Brother Sun" (1918)*  
With the patronage of the Embassy of Italy in Israel  
In collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture in Tel Aviv
- 5 November: **Levente Kuzma** (Hungary), organ  
In collaboration with the Embassy of Hungary in Israel

### NAZARETH | Basilica of the Annunciation at 18:00

- 23 October: **Erzsébet Windhager-Gered** (Romania), organ  
In collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv
- 6 November: **Levente Kuzma** (Hungary), organ  
In collaboration with the Embassy of Hungary in Israel

### HAIFA | Saint Joseph Latin Parish (Sderot HaMeginim)

- 28 October at 19:00  
**Eugenio Maria Fagiani** (Italy), organ  
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### JERUSALEM | Church of St. Saviour (Old City, New Gate) at 18:00

- 24 October: **Erzsébet Windhager-Gered** (Romania), organ  
In collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute
- 31 October: **Juan Paradell Solé** (Spain), organ
- 7 November: **Levente Kuzma** (Hungary), organ  
In collaboration with the Representative Office of Hungary in Ramallah