



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



The Terra Sancta Organ Festival

presents

HOLY LAND PIPE ORGAN WEEKS 2022 and

HAIFA PIPE ORGAN SEASON 2022/23

Press release

The Terra Sancta Organ Festival presents the **HOLY LAND PIPE ORGAN WEEKS** (31 October - 18 November 2022) in Israel and Palestine, this year with 12 concerts in Tel Aviv (Old Jaffa), Nazareth, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. All information on programs and musicians can be found on the website www.tsorganfestival.org. Free admission to all concerts.

Compared to the last two editions, which had to face the limitations imposed by the measures against the pandemic, the novelty of this musical season is the return of organists from Europe. The Hungarian Zsolt Máté Mészáros and the Romanian Cristina Struta are two young but already established talents on the European organ scene, winners of prestigious international competitions and with a full schedule of concerts at home and abroad. The Italians Cosimo Prontera and Giulio Mercati have been organists for several years in their careers, who combine their concerts with the teaching and the direction of important festivals.

But the concerts of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival this year do not end in November, but continue throughout the musical season 2022/23 in Haifa on the organ of the Hecht Museum with the **HAIFA PIPE ORGAN SEASON** organized in co-production with "Organ lovers in Israel at the Treasures of the Jewish Music Association", the new name of the Israel Organ Association. The season consists of nine concerts, one a month with organists from Israel, the Czech Republic, Italy, Romania and the United States. Haifa Pipe Organ Season concerts are subject to a fee.

The concerts of the Holy Land Pipe Organ Weeks and the Haifa Pipe Organ Season are organized in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv, Italian Cultural Institute in Haifa, Embassy of Hungary in Tel Aviv, Representative Office of Hungary in Ramallah, Romanian Cultural Institute, Czech Center.

The Terra Sancta Organ Festival is an activity organized by the Custody of the Holy Land of Jerusalem.

PROGRAM

HOLY LAND PIPE ORGAN WEEKS

All concerts are at 6:00 pm – Admission free

Mészáros Zsolt Máté (Hungary), organ

Nazareth, 31 October 2022, Basilica of the Annunciation

Tel Aviv-Yafo, 1 November 2022, Church of St. Peter (Old Jaffa)

Jerusalem, 3 November 2022, Church of St. Saviour (New Gate)

Bethlehem, 4 November 2022, Church of St. Catherine at Nativity



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In collaboration with the Embassy of Hungary in Tel Aviv and the Representative Office of Hungary in Ramallah

Cosimo Prontera (Italy), organ – **Giuliana Mettini** (Italy), soprano
Tel Aviv-Yafo, 8 November 2022, Church of St. Peter (Old Jaffa)

In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv

Cristina Struta (Romania), organ

Nazareth, 9 November 2022, Basilica of the Annunciation

Jerusalem, 10 November 2022, Church of St. Saviour (New Gate)

Bethlehem, 11 November 2022, Church of St. Catherine at Nativity

In collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute

Giulio Mercati (Italy), organ

Tel Aviv-Yafo, 15 November 2022, Church of St. Peter (Old Jaffa)

Nazareth, 16 November 2022, Basilica of the Annunciation

Jerusalem, 17 November 2022, Church of St. Saviour (New Gate)

Bethlehem, 18 November 2022, Church of St. Catherine at Nativity

In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv and the Italian Cultural Institute in Haifa

HAIFA PIPE ORGAN SEASON

Hecht Museum Auditorium

in cooperation with “Organ lovers in Israel at the Treasures of the Jewish Music Association”

All concerts at 11:00 am

28.10.22 **Yuval Rabin** (Israel)

11.11.22 **Karel Martinek** (Czech Republic) – *In collaboration with Czech Center – Tel Aviv*

09.12.22 **Yuval Rabin** (Israel) – 200 Hundred years for C. Franck

13.01.23 **Alessandro Bianchi** (Italy) – *In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute - Haifa*

10.02.23 **James Welch** (USA)

10.03.23 **Zsolt Garai** (Romania) – *In collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute*

14.04.23 **Rodolfo Bellatti** (Italy) *In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute - Haifa*



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12.05.23 **Monty Benet** (USA)

09.06.23 **Yuval Rabin** (Israel)

Tickets: 60 shekels

Annual subscriptions: 250 shekels

ORGANISTS

in the Holy Land Pipe Organ Weeks

ZSOLT MÁTÉ MÉSZÁROS (HUNGARY)

Nazareth – Basilica of the Annunciation, 31 October 2022

Tel Aviv-Yafo, St. Peter's Church (Old Jaffa), 1 November 2022

Jerusalem – Church of St. Saviour (New Gate), 3 November 2022

Bethlehem – Church of St. Catherine at Nativity, 4 November 2022

Zsolt Máté Mészáros is a defining figure of the young generation of organ players in Hungary and has appeared as a concert artist across Europe and in the USA. After winning several important scholarships multiple times (the Annie Fisher; the Hungarian Academy of Arts Scholarship; the New National Excellence Program) he was selected as one of the young role models of the TALENT Talents and Success Stories series, supported by the Hungarian National Talent Program. He graduated from the Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, where he currently continues his Ph.D. studies as the President of the Doctoral Students Association. Since 2018 he serves as the Organist of the Holy Spirit Church in Budapest. In 2021 he became the Director of Music at the Main Parish Church of the Assumption in Budapest. He has premiered contemporary pieces written especially for him by the most prominent Hungarian composers. His concerts have been broadcasted live by Hungarian Radio on several occasions.

CRISTINA STRUTA (ROMANIA)

Nazareth – Basilica of the Annunciation, 9 November 2022

Jerusalem – Church of St. Saviour (New Gate), 10 November 2022

Bethlehem – Church of St. Catherine at Nativity, 11 November 2022

Cristina Struta is a graduate of the Faculty of Music and Theatre from Timisoara (Romania), where she also obtained her Master's Degree. She enrolled at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Lausanne (Switzerland). She has been awarded in several organ competitions in Romania and abroad (the International Organ Competitions of Szeged, of Timisoara; the "Ada Ulubeanu" competition in Bucarest). In 2016 she obtained the "Eugen Todoran" Prize for Excellence awarded by the West University of Timisoara. As a concert performer, she has played in Romania, Hungary, France Italy, Austria, and Switzerland. Besides being a soloist she collaborates with the Banatul Philharmonic Orchestra of Timisoara, under the baton of Gheorghe Costin, Nicolae Moldoveanu, Iosif Todea, and Tiberiu Popovici. She is a doctoral student at the Faculty of Music and Theatre, West University of Timisoara, where she is also an associate lecturer for organ, organ accompaniment, and chamber music with organ. She is an artistic manager of the Timorgelfest International Festival and several different musical projects.



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GIULIO MERCATI (ITALY)

Tel Aviv – Yafo, St. Peter’s Church (Old Jaffa), 15 November 2022

Nazareth – Basilica of the Annunciation, 16 November 2022

Jerusalem – Church of St. Saviour (New Gate), 17 November 2022

Bethlehem – Church of St. Catherine at Nativity, 18 November 2022

Giulio Mercati is extremely active and esteemed as a concert performer: as an organ and harpsichord soloist as well as an organist and continuo player in many important ensembles, under conductors such as Alain Lombard, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Juraj Valčuha, Robert Trevino, Alexander Vedernikov and many others. He has recorded for the RTSI (Swiss Italian Radio), Dynamic-Naxos, Bottega Discantica, and Tactus. He is resident organist at the Chiesa di Santa

Maria degli Angioli in Lugano (Switzerland). In 2019 a CD was released and presented, entirely dedicated to his works, published by Tactus and entitled “Giulio Mercati: Interrogatorio a Maria and other sacred works”. In 1996, Giulio Mercati graduated in Philosophy at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milano, with a dissertation on musical aesthetics. He’s an esteemed musicologist and lecturer. He is an artistic director, ed even creator, of numerous prestigious international festivals in Italy, Switzerland, and Spain. He’s a Professor of History of Sacred Music at the Faculty of Theology in Lugano. Since August 2021 he’s been in charge of all the musical events organized by the Diocese of Lugo (Spain).

COSIMO PRONTERA (ITALY)

Tel Aviv – Yafo, St. Peter’s Church (Old Jaffa), 8 November 2022

Cosimo Prontera is a professor of organ and organ composition at the Conservatory “Gesualdo da Venosa” in Potenza (Italy) where he also teaches “basso continuo” and ancient organ. He gives masterclasses in Lebanon at Notre Dame University. He is the founder and director of the Baroque Orchestra La Confraternita de’ Musici, which produced various first performances in modern times. Prontera was a guest at Musikwissenschaftliches Institut of Basel and the Handel House in London with concerts from the Neapolitan school of the XVII and XVIII centuries. Positive reviews have appeared in magazines such as CD Classical, Opera, Music, L’Opera de Paris International, Contrappunti, Amadeus, Instruments and Music, Music and School, and Orpheus.