



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



4 – 7 October, 2023

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 4 to 7 October 2023, the eleventh season of the Organ & Music Festival Rhodes will take place in the church of St. Francis in Rhodes with four concerts, all at 8 pm and with free admission.

The concert on **Wednesday 4 October** will open the festival with great solemnity on the very day in which the Latin Church of Rhodes, which organizes the event together with the Terra Sancta Organ Festival, celebrates the feast of St. Francis of Assisi to whom the church is dedicated and where the largest church organ in Greece is located. In fact, for the first time, thanks to the collaboration with the **Italian Cultural Institute in Athens**, a string orchestra, two singers and an organist will come from Italy to perform a special programme: the famous *Stabat Mater* by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736) and, in its **world premiere in modern times**, the *Concerto in D major for organ and orchestra* by Gasparo Sborgi (1737-1819), which also represents **the first ever concert for organ and orchestra ever performed in Rhodes**.

The *Stabat Mater* is part of the programming of the Pergolesi Spontini Foundation of Jesi (Marche region, Italy) which has made this composition an instrument of cultural diplomacy actions, a symbol of fraternity and dialogue between peoples and cultures in the name of Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, who was born in Jesi. The string orchestra invited by the Pergolesi Spontini Foundation is the **Time Machine Ensemble**, specialized in both contemporary and ancient classical repertoire. **Nikoletta Hertsak** (soprano) and **Federica Moi** (contralto) will sing with the orchestra conducted by Maestro **Marco Attura**.

The soloist of Gasparo Sborgi's *Concerto in D major for organ and orchestra* is the Italian **Eugenio Maria Fagiani**, known for his international career and for being the organist of the "La Verdi" Symphony Orchestra in Milan, as well as artistic director of the International Organ Festival of La Verna, one of the oldest in Italy. Maestro Fagiani has specialized in finding and re-proposing ancient forgotten compositions by little-known authors. The *Concerto in D major for organ and orchestra* by Gasparo Sborgi, who was chapel master at the court of Leopold and Ferdinand Grand



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Dukes of Tuscany in the 18th century, has been traced within the "Ricasoli Collection" currently conserved at Louisville University in the United States.

On **Thursday 5 October** the organist **Eugenio Maria Fagiani** will play in a second concert for organ solo with music by J. S. Bach, Schubert, Rinck, Reger and by Fagiani himself.

In its eleven years of history, the Organ & Music Festival Rhodes has been the showcase of the best Greek organists, selected by the artistic director **Chris Paraskevopoulos**, professor and director of the organ department at the Athens Conservatory "Nikolaos Mantzaros": on **Friday 6 October** the recital will be given by **Dafni Melanitou**, organist of the Catholic cathedral of Athens.

On **Saturday 7 October** the last concert of the festival is entrusted to the Polish **Vincent De Pol**, for many years "organist in residence" of the church of St. Bernard in Hamburg-Poppenbüttel (Germany) and concert performer active on all continents. De Pol will present a varied and interesting program with significant musical pieces from all centuries from 1600 up to today.

All the programs and information of the Organ & Music Festival Rhodes 2023 can be found on the website www.tsorganfestival.org.

4 – 7 October, 2023

Organ & Music Festival Rhodes

Church of St. Francis
(28 Dimokratias str., St. Athanasios Gate – Rhodes Town)

All concerts start at 8:00 pm. Free Admission

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Eugenio Maria Fagiani, pipe organ
Nikoletta Hertsak, soprano
Federica Moi, contralto
Marco Attura, conductor
Time Machine Ensemble

Gasparo Sborgi (1737-1819), *Concerto in Re for organ and orchestra* (world premiere in modern times);

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736), *Stabat Mater*.

Thursday, 5 October 2023

Eugenio Maria Fagiani (Italy), pipe organ

Music by J. S. Bach, Schubert, Rinck, Reger, Fagiani



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Friday, 6 October 2023

Dafni Melanitou (Greece), pipe organ

Music by “Bach & Friends”

Saturday, 7 October 2023

Vincent De Pol (Poland), pipe organ

Significant organ repertoire of all ages: Takle, Moretti, Buxtehude, J.S. Bach, Davide da Bergamo, Dieckmann, Guilmant