



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL 2023-2024 **Spring concerts in Lebanon and Syria** **12 April – 1 May 2024** **Press release**

From April 12 to May 1, the Terra Sancta Organ Festival presents nineteen concerts in Lebanon and Syria. Organized by the Custody of the Holy Land as an artistic contribution to the culture of the countries where it is present (Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Greece, Cyprus, Egypt), since 2014 the Terra Sancta Organ Festival is often the only opportunity to listen the repertoire of the largest of musical instruments in the Middle East and the Levant. All information can be found on the website www.tsorganfestival.org. The Terra Sancta Organ Festival also has a popular YouTube channel with 275 videos taken from its concerts and a Facebook page.

The festival takes on different names depending on the places and partners, although it presents itself with its own name in a single general program. In Lebanon the concerts are organized together with Notre Dame University and give rise to the "Lebanese Organ Week" (SOL Festival, acronym for Semaine de l'Orgue au Liban) with the collaboration of the Italian Cultural Institute of Beirut and the support of the embassies of the countries of origin of the foreign musicians (this year Germany, Spain, as well as Italy). Ten concerts will be held in Lebanon from 12 to 21 April, covering the country in its entire extension, from north to south, from Tripoli to Tyre, through Mount Lebanon, Beirut and up to the Beqaa valley. The program includes an organ concert with the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, one with organ and vocal ensemble, two concerts with improvisation on silent film, a "cross-art" performance with prepared piano, organ, poetry and live painting, three concerts of chamber music and two solo organ recitals. The complete program can be consulted on the website www.sofestival.org.

In Syria, the festival is called "Organ & Music Festival Syria" and is organized in collaboration with the Damascus Opera House and the Higher Institute of Music. In addition to the Damascus Opera House and the National Conservatory, concerts take place in churches in Damascus, Aleppo and Latakia. The foreign musicians come from Italy, Spain and Austria. The program highlights the organ concert with the Syrian National Symphony Orchestra, two concerts with improvisation on silent film, a "cross-art" performance with prepared piano, organ, dance and percussion, other chamber ensembles and two essays from the master classes.

(please, read the concert program on the following pages)



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ

**SOL – SEMAINE DE L'ORGUE AU LIBAN
LEBANESE PIPE ORGAN WEEK 2024
12 – 21 April – 9th edition**

ADMISSION FREE TO ALL CONCERTS

Friday, 12 April, 8 pm

AJALTOUN | Church of Mar Zakhia
Vincent De Pol (Germany / Poland), pipe organ
In collaboration with the German Embassy in Lebanon

Saturday, 13 April, 6 pm

KHIRBET QANAFAR (West Beqaa) | Johann Ludwig Schneller School
Film-concert *Der Galiläer (The Galilean, 1921)* with organ improvisation
Mathias Rehfeldt (Germany), pipe organ and live musical commentary

Sunday, 14 April, 12 pm

BEIRUT | National Evangelical Church
Vincent De Pol (Germany / Poland), pipe organ
In collaboration with the German Embassy in Lebanon

Sunday, 14 April, 8 pm

MAYSSRAH (Nahr Ibrahim) | Church of St. Elie - Carmelite monastery
Film-concert *Der Galiläer (The Galilean, 1921)* with organ improvisation
Mathias Rehfeldt (Germany), pipe organ and live musical commentary

Tuesday, 16 April, 8 pm

BEIRUT | American University of Beirut (AUB) Assembly Hall
Cross-art concert with Mario Mariani (Italy), piano and pipe organ
Rudy Rahme (Lebanon), live painting and poetry
In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute

Wednesday, 17 April, 8 pm

BEIRUT (Gemmaizeh) | Church of St. Maroun
Ensemble Recercare
Mario Rahi (Lebanon), violin
Paolo De Matthaëis (Italy), organ
Fabio Catania (Italy), viola da gamba
In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute

Thursday, 18 April, 7 pm

TRIPOLI (El Mina) | Latin Church of St. Francis - Custody of the Holy Land
Ensemble Recercare
Mario Rahi (Lebanon), violin
Paolo De Matthaëis (Italy), organ



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ

Fabio Catania (Italy), viola da gamba
In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute

Friday, 19 April, 8 pm

BEIRUT (Downtown) | Saint Louis Latin Cathedral of the Capuchin Fathers
Inaugural concert for the new pipe organ

Aarón Ribas (Spain), pipe organ
Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra
Garo A vessian (Lebanon), conductor
In collaboration with the Embassy of Spain in Lebanon

Saturday, 20 April, 8 pm

ZOUK MOSBEH | Church of Notre Dame de Louaizeh
Les Solistes de Beyrouth, vocal ensemble

Fernando Afara (Lebanon), conductor
Paolo De Matthaëis (Italy), pipe organ
In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute

Sunday, 21 April, 11 am

TYRE | Latin Church of St. Anthony – Custody of the Holy Land

The concert in Tyre has been cancelled for security reasons, due to the current unstable situation in southern Lebanon.

ORGAN & MUSIC FESTIVAL SYRIA 2024

Damascus | Aleppo | Latakia

23 April – 1 May 2024

ADMISSION FREE TO ALL CONCERTS

Tuesday, 23 April 2024, 8:00 pm

DAMASCUS | Damascus Opera House
Improvisations, choreography and percussions
Mario Mariani (Italy), piano, pipe organ
Rahaf Aljaber (Syria), choreography and dance
Omran Abou Yahia, Shafikn Yaghi (Syria), percussions

Wednesday, 24 April 2024, 8:00 pm

DAMASCUS | Damascus Opera House
Recital for violin & piano
Daniel Auner (Austria), violin
Mitra Kotte (Austria), piano

Thursday, 25 April, 2024, 8:00 pm



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ

DAMASCUS | Damascus Opera House
Concert for pipe organ & orchestra
Aarón Ribas (Spain), pipe organ
Syrian National Symphony Orchestra
Missak Baghboudarian (Syria), conductor

Saturday, 27 April 2024, 6 pm

DAMASCUS (Salhieh) | Latin Church of St. Anthony
Concert for Choir & Orchestra
Choir and Orchestra of the Higher Institute of Music
Missak Baghboudarian (Syria), conductor

Sunday, 28 April 2024, 8:00 pm

DAMASCUS (Tabbaleh) | St. Paul's Memorial
Performance of the master class in Chamber music
Daniel Auner (Austria), violin & conductor

Monday, 29 April 2024, 7:30 pm

ALEPPO (Azizieh) | Latin Church of St. Francis
Film-concert with live music commentary
Mario Mariani (Italy), pipe organ
Choir "La Classica" conducted by Joseph Baghdo (Syria)

Monday, 29 April 2024, 5:00 pm

DAMASCUS | Higher Institute of Music
Final concert of the master class in Chamber music
Mitra Kotte (Austria), piano
Daniel Auner (Austria), violin & conductor

Monday, 29 April 2024, 8:00 pm

DAMASCUS | Damascus Opera House
Concert with chamber orchestra
Daniel Auner (Austria), violin & conductor

Wednesday, 1 May 2024, 7:00 pm

LATAKIA | Latin Church of the Sacred Heart
Film-concert with live music commentary
Mario Mariani (Italy), electronic organ