

Environmental Concert

Manoel Theatre
Saturday, 6 June 1998



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Environment

1736

Minister's Award for Environmental Achievement

Since his appointment as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Environment, the Hon. George W. Vella has endeavoured to integrate Foreign policy and Environmental issues to ensure better living for us and generations to come. It is in this context that the International fora and other World Organisations work to enhance one common need: the preservation and creation of new space dimensions within the ever-changing world.

Malta is no exception to the high demands as required in today's world. Whilst not hindering the rapid development of our society, we should not utilise every inch of our land to fulfil our greed and often short-sighted intentions.

The Minister's Award for Environmental Achievement is being launched this year to stimulate and encourage entities, institutions and individuals to excel in their work and bring forward alternatives to better the environment.

This prestigious Award represents the Maltese plant, *Widnet il-Bahar*, made of sterling silver and with gold-plated leafing. The winner will be announced during this evening after the Consultative and Advisory Board on the Environment proposes the final document of adjudication.

It is intended that this activity will be organised annually so that more social partners and individual citizens rekindle a spirit of environmental awareness in their particular field or area where they work.

Palazzo Parisio

The Palace with a History



The intricate and interesting history of this well-known Palace which is situated right in the core of our Capital City was initially a building occupied by two large houses belonging to Chev. Fra Michel Fonterma dit. La Chiesa. Later on it was bought by Bali' of Monasca or Comm. Fra Giovanni di Ventimiglia of the Counts Marseilles Orioules of the Language of Provence, who bequeathed it in usufruct to members of his family who at anytime might be serving in the Order of St. John. However The Ventimiglia family in 1717 exchanged the two houses with another two in Kingsway, with the new owner now becoming Donna Maria Scerberras, who was inherited by her son Mons. Domenico Scerberras (Conventual Chaplain to the Order, Archdeacon of the Cathedral, Auditor to Grandmaster Zondadari and Vicar General to Bishop Gori Mancini). In fact it was he who demolished the two original houses and erected the present Palace.

After Mons. Sciberras' death in 1744, the property was inherited by his sister Donna Margherita Muscati and later by her son Don Paolo Muscati. Finally it was inherited by daughter Anna Muscati, heiress of a large fortune and who married the penniless Cavalier Don. Domenico Parisio on 13 October, 1760.

When Malta capitulated to the French in the famous episode of 12 June 1798, Napoleon landed and took up quarters in the Banca Giuratale in Merchants Street which he did not find comfortable. So on 14th June he moved to Palazzo Parisio where he stayed until 20th June, 1798.

On 2nd September of the same year revolts by the Maltese paved the way to oust the French from Malta. Amongst the rebels were a group of Naxxar volunteers headed by Cavalier Paola Parisio Muscati. After the coming of Alexander Ball to Malta, the French were defeated of the island and on 26th November, 1800 Sir Abercrombie called on Malta on HMS Diadem and lodged at Palazzo Parisio till 20th December, 1800.

At this stage, Chev. Paolo Parisio Muscati won a good number of prestigious acknowledgements from the British Empire. On the 10th December 1841 Sir Paolo Parisio died at the age of 65. He was given a military funeral and his corpse was interred at Ta Giezu Church, Valletta. After Sir Paolo's death, the Palace was taken over by the Government and was first used as a Post Office. It is also interesting to note that the top storey of Palazzo Parisio was completed after World War I to house Audit Officers. During World War II, the Palace was partially destroyed but fortunately the facade remained intact.

At present, the building houses the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Environment. Two halls on the ground floor are being restored and will be used for the holding of Seminars and Conferences. It is envisaged that the new Conference Hall will be ready later on this month.

*By courtesy of Mr. Gaetan Naudi,
Director Corporate Services
at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and the Environment
who submitted historical information.*

Miriam Gauci



Born in Malta, Miriam Gauci started her vocal studies with her aunt, Soprano Hilda Tabone. She continued her studies in Milan with Lia Guarini and obtained the Diploma in singing from the Coservatorio Giuseppe Verdi. In 1981 she won the international competition of the Centro di Perfezionamento Artisti Lirici di La Scala, where she attended a two-year course, studying with Giulietta Simionato and Luciano Silvestri. In 1983, Miss Gauci won the international competition Aureliano Pertile of Bologna and the Toti del Monte of Treviso.

In 1984, Ms. Gauci made her debut in Bologna with Poulenc's La Voix Humaine. An important step in her career took place during the season 1985-86 when she sang l'Orfeo of Luigi Rossi and Bellini's La Sonnambula, conducted by Gianandrea Gavazzeni at the Teatro La Scala. She has since appeared in major opera houses and concert halls in Florence, Geneva, Zurich, Hamburg, Munich, Dusseldorf, Berlin Deutsche Oper, Dresden, Madrid, Barcellona (Liceu), Paris, Toulouse, Vienna State Opera, Wexford, Brussels, Antwerp, Santiago del Cile, Okinawa, Tokyo and Moscow, singing major roles. Her performance of Micaela in Bizet's Carmen at Earl's Court, London, was recorded live on video and CD. She has performed roles in Rigoletto, La Traviata, Simon Boccanegra, Don Carlo, Otello, La Boheme, Madama Butterfly, Suor Angelica, Gianni Schicchi, Manon Lescaut, Liú in Turandot, Pagliacci, Donna Elvira in Don Giovanni, Ilija in Idomeneo, and Manon of Massenet.

In 1987, she made her debut in the United States, in Madama Butterfly in Sante Fe, with great success. That same year, she inaugurated the Los Angeles opera season as Mimí in La Boheme together with Placido Domingo, with whom she later sang the same role in Hamburg.

Among her concert appearances, one may remember Pergolesi's Stabat Mater with the La Scala Orchestra, Mahler's second symphony with Zubin Mehta at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Verdi's Requiem conducted

by Georges Prêtre at the Zurich Opera House, and a recital with her husband Michael Laus at the San Carlo of Naples.

Miriam Gauci has worked with world famous stage directors such as Robert Wilson in Madama Butterfly at the Opera de Bastille of Paris, and Franco Zeffirelli in La Boheme at the San Carlo of Naples.

She was invested as a Member of the Order of Merit in 1993.

A very important step in her career, that came about in February 1997, was the production of Boito's Mefistofele conducted by Riccardo Muti, in which Miss Gauci sang both roles of Margherita and Elena.

Miriam Gauci has recorded Madame Butterfly, Manon Lescaut and Pagliacci as completed operas and an album of Italian Operatic Arias for NAXOS. She has also recorded Simon Boccanegra, Otello, Suor Angelica, Gianni Schicchi, La Boheme, Tosca, the Verdi Requiem, Dvorak's Stabat Mater and Te Deum, Beethoven's Egmont and Ninth Symphony for Discover International, all conducted by Alexander Rahbari.



Michael Laus

Michael Laus was born in Malta in 1960. After his early musical training in Malta, he was awarded a scholarship by the Italian Cultural Institute, which enabled him to continue his studies at the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi in Milan. There, he studied piano, harpsichord, composition, and conducting. He later attended masterclasses in conducting with George Manahan in the United States and with Vladimir Delman in Bologna.

He has appeared as guest conductor with the Orchestra and Chorus of the Teatro Comunale di Bergamo, the Orchestra Filarmonica di Parma, the Youth Orchestra of the Moscow Conservatoire, the New Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. In 1996 he conducted a series of performances of Madama Butterfly at the Berne State Theatre with Miriam Gauci in the title role. In 1998, he conducted a production of Adriana Lecouvreur in the same theatre.

Michael Laus is currently Associate Professor of Music Studies at the University of Malta and was Principal Conductor of the National Orchestra at the Manoel Theatre from 1991 to 1997. He has recorded for the labels Discover International and Unicorn-Khanchana.

Andrew Micallef

Andrew Micallef was born on 7th February, 1969 at Żebbuġ, Malta. He inherited his love for the instrument from his father, who taught him the basic techniques. Andrew's repertoire consists mainly of French titles. In 1986, the French Embassy sent him for a course in Nice. In 1993 and 1994 he was invited to Paris to record a selection of titles for a C.D. compilation.



HENRI MICELI Born 1972. Has studied Dramatic Art and has taken part in various productions. Has taken part in the Europe Encounter Young Actors in Beacon, France. His artistic career includes radio and television programs both as animator and presenter. He also forms part of the Corinthia Animation Group.

JOSETTE CIAPPARA One of the moment's leading stage, radio and television actresses. She has directed numerous theatrical and television productions. She also teaches drama to students of all ages.



CHRISTINA ATTARD Attended a drama course at Mikielang Borg Centre. Has taken part in various productions under different directors.



CLAIRE AGIUS ORDWAY Has taken part in various productions at the Catholic Institute, and also in a number of television and radio programmes.



ISABELLE PACE Attended MTADA for seven years and also a drama course at Mikielang Borg Centre. Her artistic appearances include tragedies, comedies and Shakespearean works.



ANTONELLA LOFREDA Attended a drama course at the Guze Ellul Mercer Foundation, and has taken part in various theatrical productions.



JOSEPH GALEA Started acting from an early age and like the rest of the group, has also taken part in a number of local productions.



OPENING TUNE

Children's Choir - Maestro Paul Abela

MIRIAM GAUCI

THE NATIONAL ORCHESTRA - CONDUCTOR MICHAEL LAUS

Leader of the Orchestra - Miss Marceline Agius

Rumanian Folk Dances

B. Bartok

"Casta Diva" from Norma

V. Bellini

Pizzicato Polka

Tritsch - Tratsch Polka

J. Strauss

"Pace, Mio Dio" from La Forza Del Destino

G. Verdi

"Summertime" from Porgy and Bess

G. Gershwin

ANDREW MICALLEF

Petite Fantaisie Pastorale

(ouverture)

composer: Tony Valence

Avant l'Hiver

(ouverture)

composer: J. Mallerey

Le Canari

(classical piece)

composer: F. Poliakin

PLAY

Ahna lkoll Annimali

Kitba ta' Tony Cassar Darrien - Produzzjoni u Direzzjoni ta' Josette Ciappara

XUMMIEMU

Y.A.D.A. DANCERS

INTERVAL

ANITA CAUCHI

Accompanied on the piano by Annabelle Azzopardi

Climb Every Mountain

music by Rodgers and Hammerstein from the 'Sound of Music'

Torna a Sorriento

by Decurtis

CHIARA

Ghanjiet il-Poplu

The One that I Love

GORG PERESSO

Poetry Recital

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

MINISTER'S SPEECH

CANTORES SANCTI JULIANI

Ave Maria

Jacob Arcadelt (1514-1557) arr. for 3 voci bianche by Lino Attard

Without any doubt, this Ave Maria is the most popular piece of the whole vocal church poliphony. Listening to it at St. Peter's in Rome, Franz Listz must have received a lasting impression since he revived it often in piano and organ compositions. It was apparently first published in 1845 and appears to be an adaptation of

Arcadelt's three-voice Chanson 'Nous que les hommes', published in 1557.

Virgin, tutt'amor

Francesco Durante (1684-1755) eleb. Pablo Colino 1989

This 'Preghiera' is a pure manifestation of the spiritual torment that the sinner feels at the feet of the Blessed Virgin, imploring Her to reach out to his needs.

Laudate Dio

Giovanni Animuccia (1571)

This 'Laude Spirituale' is composed for 3 voices and comes from the Oratio Flippino by the same composer.

The Merry Peasant

Robert Schuman (1810-1856)

This short lively song depicts the peasant's simple life and his joy in going through his normal daily chores.

Lapsi

Carmelo Pace (1906-1993)

This is an arrangement from Carmelo Pace's original Maltese folk collections. It reflects the Mediterranean love for life and merry making.

L-Imnarja

Carmelo Pace (1906-1993)

Based on an ancient tradition dating back to the 16th - 17th century, this folk tune for four voices unaccompanied, clearly brings out the mood prevailing in the gardens of Buskett as the locals celebrated the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Presentation of Minister's Award

Introduction

Mr Vince Gauci B.Sc., M.Sc.
Director, Environment Protection Department

Report

Professor Alfred Vella, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.
on behalf of the Consultative and Advisory Board on the Environment

Presentation of Awards

Closing Speech by

The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Environment
Dr. George W. Vella M.D., Cert., GAM (UK), M.P.

Participants

ORGANISATIONS

ECO (Malta Ecological Foundation)

Educational Campaign - Brochures and Posters

Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna

Restoration of Fort Rinella

SGS Thomson (ST Microelectronics)

Electroplating Wastewater Recycling

Department of Agriculture

Restoration of Wied il-Qlejja' (Chadwick Lakes)

Frisky Poultry

Development of 'Environmentally-Friendly' Poultry Farm

Delimara Power Station - Maintenance Section

Embellishment of Site

Green Skip Services Ltd.

Collection of Waste for Recycling

Institute for Energy Technology

Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Grid-connected system

Society for the Study and Conservation of Nature/ARBOR (Jointly)

Nomination of Mr Guido Lanfranco

School Council, School of Art

Rehabilitation works at school

Naxxar Local Council

Various projects, mainly rehabilitation and embellishment projects

INDIVIDUALS

Mr. Ray Bajada

Production of TV Series - Kuluri

Mr. Tarcisio Barbara

Composting of organic waste

Collection of rain water

Mr. Aldo Busuttill

Production of environmental posters and literature

The Y.A.D.A. Dance Company



The 'Young Actors and Dancers Association', Y.A.D.A., was formed in September 1984 to initially set up a stage production. Felix Busuttill thought of amalgamating various actors and dancers from different schools to stage 'Guardian of Light'. With the help of Mr. Paddy and Mrs. Janatha Stubbs, Y.A.D.A. was formed and 'Guardian of the Light' realised. Since then as they say, the rest is history. Since that first show at the Catholic Institute in February '95 the list of performances is endless ... 'Ants', M.A.D.C.'s production at the Manoel Theatre in 1985; 'Romeo and Juliet' at the University Theatre August 1985; 'Zaghzugh' November 1985; 'X-cited' - May 1986 and 'ISKRA' at the Mediterranean Conference Centre 1986; 'In-Nisga ta' Gensna' 25th Anniversary Celebrations in the presence of H.R.H. Prince Philip and other international officials; 'La Traviata' - January 1990; Charles Camilleri's 'Maltese Cross' - 1995; Malta Song Festival for the Eurovision Song Contest - 1992 ...

Y.A.D.A., in all its versatility, has already performed in many hotels, night clubs and pop concerts on the Island and are now artistic collaborators with the prestigious 'Corinthia International Group of Hotels' and 'The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza'. The Company has also performed in Stuttgart, on Sudwestfunk T.V. in Baden Baden, in Cambridge, U.K. and recently alongside

Canale 5's Primo Ballerino Silvio Oddi in Italy. They are also currently resident dancers for Super 1 T.V. and P.B.S.

In 1994 Y.A.D.A. celebrated its 10th Anniversary with its much acclaimed 'Dance Spectacular' at the Mediterranean Conference Centre and three years later 'FIRE DANCE' was presented on the same stage with the participation of over one hundred dancers. During the same year the Company won joint first place in the Jazz Section of the, Maltafest Choreographic Awards and toured Italy. This year it was awarded the 1998 Turin representation award. The group will be performing this, in this city in August. Y.A.D.A. also represented Malta in Istanbul, Turkey during the 'Malta Week' in September 1997.

Other productions included 'Night and Day' at Hagar Qim in July 1998 and 'Rocco Barocco' in Valletta in August 1998 as part of the "Evenings on Campus" celebrations.

Anita Cauchi

Since her debut, Ms. Cauchi has enjoyed an active career as a recitalist and opera singer. She took part in concerts organised by the Malta Cultural Institute, Maltafest, the Russian Centre and many others.

Besides taking part in Operas like "Suor Angelica", "Jeanot et Colin" and "Joconde", Ms. Cauchi sang the part of Dangeville in Cilea's "Adriana le Couvrer", being one of the few Maltese singers to take part with a foreign cast.

In 1992 she took part in the Eisteddford Llangollen Competition in Wales where besides obtaining very encouraging results she gained a vast and healthy experience as regards international level of singing.

The highlight of her career was obviously in May 1994 when she won the first prize in the first Melita-Rossia Russian lyrical song competition organised by the Russian centre and the Ghaqda Kantanti Lirici Maltin under the auspices of the Russian Embassy.

The following June Ms. Cauchi had the opportunity to visit Moscow and attend master-classes with Russian Soprano Lydia Abramova at the "Istituto Ippolitov Ivanov". She was also invited to give a vocal recital.

In May 1995 Ms. Cauchi was guest singer together with clarinetist Freddie Mizzi at the official opening of the Institute of Visual Arts.

Besides performing in operatic and classical music, Ms. Cauchi had the opportunity of enriching her repertoire in sacred music, accompanied on the organ of St. John's Co-Cathedral by Russian organist Svetlana Bodiul in commemoration of the Russian dead of the Second War and with the orchestra in Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Zerafa's "Magnificat".

Anna Cauchi commenced her studies in vocal training and technique under the tutorship of Soprano Antoinette Miggiani ARAM, by whom she still is being coached.

She "masters a dramatically powerful voice with a wide vocal range" and is "building up a merited reputation for her serious commitment and approach to her art and the way she interprets the pieces she chooses".



Annabelle Azzopardi

Annabelle Azzopardi neé Kent started piano studies when she was eight. She passed her exams with competence, achieving the highest results in every grade. She was awarded the Bronze Medal (1984) and the Silver Medal (1987) by Trinity College of Music, London for obtaining the highest marks in Malta both in the practical and theory examinations. In 1988 she obtained her ALCM, followed by the ATCL a year later. Ms. Azzopardi is an accomplished pianist and has accompanied choirs and soloists in her career.

Chiara

1994

Competed in Festival organised by Y.T.C. "L-Ghanja tal-Poplu" with the song "Ghanjet il-Poplu", music by Jason Cassar and lyrics by Sunny Aquilina and nominated as Best New Voice of the Year.

Throughout the years participated in T.V. and Radio Programmes. Took part in various charity shows in aid of different organisations such as "Caritas" and others. Also invited to judge children's singing contests.

1995

Competed in Festival organised by Y.T.C. "L-Ghanja tal-Poplu" with the song "Ismaghni ftit habib", with music by Jason Cassar and lyrics by Sunny Aquilina.

Competed in Festival organised by Public Broadcasting Services "Kliem u Muzika" shown on TVM with the song "Holma ta' Sliem", which placed second, written by Sunny Aquilina and music by Jason Cassar.

1996

Competed in "Festival tal-Kanzunetta Maltija" with the song "Idejja t-Tnejn", lyrics by Sunny Aquilina and music by Jason Cassar.

Took part in musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" organised by Actreact Company and held at the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

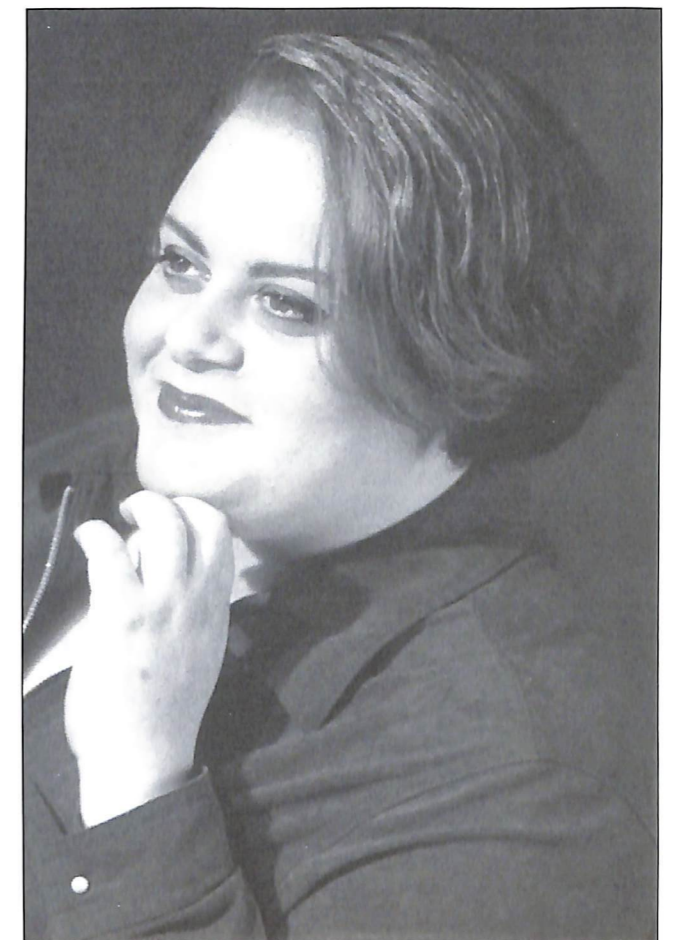
Took part in musical "Highlights of the Musicals" organised by LAP Productions and held at The Mediterranean Conference Centre.

1997

Was invited by the National Tourism Organisation of Malta to join Mary Rose Mallia, Yada Dance Company and Ray Azzopardi to promote a "Maltese Week" in Istanbul, Turkey.

Took part in a Religious Musical "Gesù ta' Nazareth" organised by the company Teatru Rjal and held at the Catholic Institute, Floriana.

Placed first Super 1 Television programme "Qisu l-Bierah", hosted by Eileen Montesin.



Took part in the musical "Beauty and the Beast" originally produced by Walt Disney Company, organised by Corinthia Animation Team and held at The Mistra Village Holiday Complex.

Took part in the musical "Sound of Music" organised by the Actreact Company and held at The Mediterranean Conference Centre.

Placed third in festival organised by Y.T.C. "L-Ghanja tal-Poplu" with a song called "It-Tlett Ibliet", lyrics by Sunny Aquilina and music composed by Jason Cassar.

1998

Competed in The Song for Europe Festival and placed first with the song "The one that I love" with lyrics by Sunny Aquilina and music by Jason Cassar.

Competed in the Eurovision Song Contest held on the 9th May in Birmingham, England with the song "The one that I love" and place 3rd with 166 points, highest-ever obtained by Malta and 7 points behind the winner.

Cantores Sancti Juliani

(The St. Julian's Children's Choir)



The Choir was founded in 1983 by Miss Elvia Agius. At the time the choir numbered around 40 children - boys and girls whose ages varied between 7 and 13 years. Along the years many members joined and left the choir, most of whom joining other adult choirs as they grew up. Notwithstanding the constant changes, the choir kept on with its activities until the present day.

Initially, the choir performed during church functions at Christmas, Easter, and other important occasions. From time to time, it also presented Easter cantatas and musicals to entertain the older generation in old people's homes.

Between the years 1983 and 1995, the choir participated in various concerts together with adult choirs at St. John's Co-Cathedral and sang at different venues at the invitation of other communities on the occasion of the festas of the town and villages around the island. In September 1986 the choir was particularly singled out for its participation in the premiere performance of the oratio *Ommna tas-Sokkors* by Maltese Composer and Conductor of the National Orchestra Mro. Joseph Sammut.

In January 1996 Baritone Lino Attard was asked to offer his services to help with the choir's development,

and has since worked with Ms. Agius to instil love for music in the young choristers.

Today the choir numbers around 70 active members and performs regularly during the 11 o'clock Sunday Mass at the St. Julian's Parish. It boasts of a wide repertoire consisting mainly of sacred works.

In March this year the choir successfully participated in the 5th International Choir Festival "Orlando Di Lasso" held in Rome and the Vatican City. In April it was invited to participate in the International Children's Choir Festival organised by the Cathedral Museum. The Choir has been invited to perform in the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland and will be performing in a series of concerts in the U.K. later on next year.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Environment