

The UoM Junior College Orchestra forms an integral part of the cultural agenda of the College. It is made up of some 45-50 young budding musicians, with nearly 300 performances to its credit! The orchestra performs a vast repertoire comprised of popular classics of instrumental and vocal music under the baton of Mro. Manoel Pirotta. Some of the more prestigious venues include The Manoel Theatre, MCC and MFCC, both the University and Junior College Auditorium; hotels such as *Le Meridien*, *The Hilton*, *Kennedy Nova*, and *Dolmen*; churches, including the St. John's Co-Cathedral, St. Paul's Anglican Church, and *Ta' Pinu* Basilica, but also the Parish Church of Għasri – the smallest village in Gozo; as well as participating in various national festivals around Malta and Gozo. In its history, the orchestra also toured France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Sicily. Last year, it celebrated its 15th. anniversary since its foundation in 1998. Its first CD, entitled 'Celebrating 15 years', was recorded at the Peter Serracino Inglott Auditorium, and will be launched in 2015 to mark the 20th. anniversary since the foundation of the Junior College in 1995.

Mro. Manoel Pirotta DNESM (Lyon) [M.A.] Dip CNR (Lyon) [B.A. (Hons.)] Hon VCM LFIBA CT, FVCM (Hons.) FTCL FLCM FNCM LTCL LMusLCM LMusTCL graduated from the *Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Lyon* (1994) and lectures the Matsec music programme at the UoM Junior College. The Research & Advisory Board of the IBC Cambridge nominated him *International Musician of the year* for his outstanding musical achievements (2003). Awarded the ***Grand Prix des Arts*** for music composition and conducting at the 8th. Malta International Art Biennale (2007). He was conductor of the *Catholic Institute Youth Orchestra* (1987-9), the *Maltese Youth Orchestra* (1994-6), and *The Euro Academy Youth Orchestra* (2002-8). At present, he is musical director of the *College Orchestra* since 1998. His incidental music – *Antony and Cleopatra* won him an entry in the *Shakespeare Music Catalogue* issued by Victoria College, Canada. The work was revised and played by the orchestra ***Città di Ravenna*** (2005). His ***La Lyonnaise*** features in Murray MacLachlan's CD *Piano Music from Malta*. Other works are also included in piano anthologies, among which, *Kinder Garden* and *A Musical Tribute to Mozart from Malta*. Mro. Pirotta is also bandmaster of the *Socjetà Mużikali San Ĝużepp* of Hamrun A.D. 1889.