

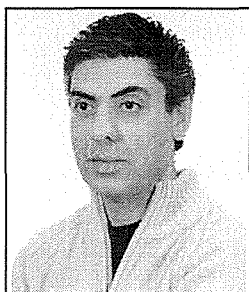


**The UoM Junior College Orchestra** is made up of some 45 budding musicians hailing from the college and with well over 200 concerts to its credit! Important venues abroad include *Teatro L. Mercantini* (2001) and the *Fieralingue* (2005). In 2004 and 2005, the students attended masterclasses at *Hamburger Konservatorium* and the *Musikschule Rissen*. The orchestra also gave a series of instrumental and vocal concerts in Heidelberg at Eichtersheim Castle Gardens Festival and vocational schools of Wiesloch and Schwetzingen (2007). In 2008 the orchestra gave a *Concerto vocale e strumentale di musica sacra e classica* at *Chiesa di*

*San Nicola* (PISA) and *Chiesa di Sta. Ubaldesca* (CALCINAIA) as part of a cultural exchange between the *Istituto Magistrale Statale "G. Carducci"* (*Liceo Pedagogico Linguistico e Scienze Sociali Sperimentale*), and the University Junior College Music Department. In November of the same year it also gave another two concerts, one at the *Teatro del Convitto del Liceo Scientifico* (ASSISI) and the other at the *Teatro Comunale 'Ettore Thesoriere'* (CANNARA). In July 2010 the orchestra revisited Heidelberg and gave two concerts in Louise-Otto-Peters-Schule (Wiesloch) and Max-Weber-Schule (Sinsheim). In March 2011 they visited Spain on an exchange visit with the *Gran Asociacion Colegio* of Valencia where they also gave performances which included works by Maltese composers Camilleri and Pirotta. In 2012, another cultural exchange took place, this time with the *Istituto Tecnico 'Luca Pacioli'* of CREMA in the Province of Cremona in the Italian Region of Lombardy where the orchestra performed in the *chiesetta* to a packed house of opera lovers. While in Italy, they also visited the *Museo Stradivariano* (Cremona), the *Museo La Scala* (Milan), and were invited over to a performance of *Aida* at La Scala of Milan which was under the musical direction of Omer Meir Wellber. Since 2008, nine most promising members from the orchestra also take part in the annual festival of the *Printemps des Lycéens et des Apprentis* organized by the Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur in the south of France.

Some of the more important recent performances held in Malta and Gozo include: The Manoel Theatre (*Notte Bianca* 2012), Palazzo Castellania - Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care (Valletta), MCI Monday Ovarions (Le Meridien St. Julians Hotel and Spa), the annual Christmas Concert at the Dolmen Hotel (Qawra) World Children's Day Festival, Inauguration of St. George's Square (Valletta), Gozo International Celebration (GIC) (Qala - Gozo), *Milied Flimkien* (St. John's co-Cathedral), Christmas on Campus (University Chapel), the annual Soirée (Junior College Auditorium), Parent's Meeting (Sir Temi Zammit Hall - Tal-Qroqq), The Point Shopping Mall (Tigné), Learning Expo (Hilton Malta - Portomaso), MFCC - Intrapriża Malta (Ta' Qali), University Discovery Week at the University Campus, *Skopri l-Università fi Tliet Ibliet* (Birgu, Bormla and Isla), and Christ the Saviour Church of Ghasri - the smallest village in Gozo!

The UoM Junior College is planning to celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup>. anniversary under the baton of Mro. Manoel Pirotta in 2013.



**Mro. Manoel Pirotta** graduated from the *Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Lyon* (1994) and lectures the Matsec music programme. The Research & Advisory Board of the IBC Cambridge nominated him *International Musician of the year* for his outstanding musical achievements (2003). He was awarded the **Grand Prix des Arts** for music composition and conducting at the 8<sup>th</sup>. Malta International Art Biennale (2007). Pirotta conducted the *Catholic Institute Youth Orchestra* (1987-9), the *Maltese Youth Orchestra* (1994-6), and *The Euro Academy Youth Orchestra* (2002-8). He is also 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. It 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*. He is also musical director of St. Julians Band A.D. 1927 since 2008.