

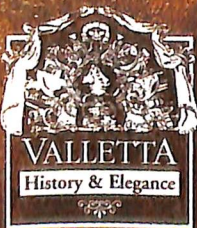
Valletta

HISTORY & ELEGANCE

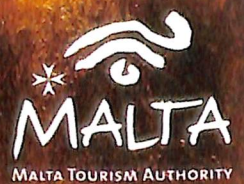
16-22 April 2001



A Festival of History & Heritage
Pageantry & Music & Dance



Souvenir Programme 50c



CULTURAL EVENTS

MANOEL THEATRE

17 April Recital by Carmine Lauri (violin) and Simon Hester (piano)
 21, 22 April Ghandek jew M'Ghandekx the evergreen pochade by M.A. Borg (Maleth)
 27,28,29 April Below the Belt a play by Richard Dresser (Masquerade)

ST. JAMES' CAVALIER

1 - 15 April Holy Week Exhibition
 23 March - 22 April Exhibition by Salvatore Montanucci (paintings)
 21,22 April - 28, 29 April "Selh is-Serp" by Bronk Productions
 12 April - 9 May Exhibition by Janet Caruana Savage (paintings)
 27 April - 3 June Exhibition by Jessica Debattista (paintings)

RUSSIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE

10 April - 11 May Handmade Easter Egg Exhibition
 17 April Concert by Russian Soprano Tatyana Vakina & Pianist Svetlana Radugina

MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE CENTRE

18 April Central Bank Concert by the National Orchestra
 5 May Claudette Pace in Concert

*V*alletta Evenings - A City Alive is an initiative of the Malta Tourism Authority aimed at bringing new life to the capital in the evenings. The City Alive Initiative essentially consists of the bringing together of a number of activities and events on Friday and Saturday evenings over four weekends. The dates for the Valletta Evenings Initiative are Fridays and Saturdays; April 20, 21; April 27, 28; May 4, 5; May 11, 12.

For more information you may write to cityalive@visitmalta.com

IN GUARDIA - FORT ST. ELMO

*H*istorical re-enactments, in period costume, of full scale military parades held on Sundays at one of Malta's most prominent historical landmarks-Fort St. Elmo, Valletta.

2001 Dates

January 28 • February 4, 11, 18 • March 4, 11, 18
 April 18 • May 6, 13, 20 • June 3, 10, 17
 September 9, 16, 23 • October 14, 21
 November 4, 11 • December 23, 30

Weather Permitting

Commencement of parades: 11.00hrs Duration: 40 mins
 Entrance fees:- Adults: Lm1.50 Children (4-16 years): 50 cents

ALARME!

*R*e-enactment portraying a military encounter between French and Maltese troops, from 1798-1800.

2001 Dates

February 25 • March 25 • April 29 • May 27
 June 24 • September 30 • October 28

Weather Permitting

Commencement of parades: 11.00hrs
 Duration: 1 hour
 Entrance fees:- Adults: Lm1.50
 Children (4-16 years): 50 cents

VALLETTA

"HISTORY & ELEGANCE"
 FESTIVAL

16TH - 22ND

APRIL 2001

Highlights of the Festival Programme

Re-enactment of the Bandu

(The Town Crier heralding the events of the day)

Street walkabouts by actors in period costume

Garrison life - French Period by H.R.G.M.

Italian Sbandieratori
 (two performances in Republic Street)

Various concerts at Grandmaster's Palace

Edinburgh Quartet
 (at two different venues)

Military Band Marches

Festa Band Marches

Street concerts

Exhibitions

Folklore singing & dancing

A Grand Re-enactment (c. 250 participants) portraying the historical event of the joyous celebrations on the election of Grandmaster Alof De Wignacourt (1601).
*E*ach day performances will start at 10.00 hrs and will continue uninterruptedly until 16.00hrs. The events will recommence in the evening at different times

WELCOME TO VALLETTA



Valletta is a monument to courage. Malta's capital city was founded only a few months after the raising of the Great Siege of 1565. The Knights of St John ably and valiantly led by Grand Master Jean Parisot de la Valette, and the Maltese had halted the all conquering military and naval strength of Suleiman the Magnificent. Malta had won but many were the lives, young and old, which were sacrificed for the cause.

On the 28 of March 1566 Grandmaster La Valette and his Knights, accompanied by the Bishop of Malta, the Grand Prior of the Conventual Church and crowds of Maltese citizenry gathered on the site of what is now the Church of Our Lady of Victories for the ceremony leading to the laying of the foundation stone near the new city's main gate.

From that moment onwards, the city of Valletta, named in honour of the Grandmaster himself, has been the centre stage of history crossed by generation after generation of Maltese. La Valette, as the inscription carved on his tombstone reads, was "the first to be buried in this beloved city of which he was the founder."

Surrounded by bastions, the grid patterned city planned by Lapparelli da Cortona, the foremost military architect of the times, Valletta, although badly damaged during World War Two, still prides in her vast array of spectacular, mainly baroque, palaces and churches. Every one a piece of Maltese history, splendid repositories of art, temples to God and to man.

What you see today, albeit with the trappings of the twentieth century, still reflects much of the same scene that four hundred years ago met the eye of Grandmaster Alof De Wignacourt on the 10 February 1601, the day of his election to the Magistracy, the feast of St. Paul, patron saint of Malta.

Many are the travellers who, throughout the years, have written about their impressions of Valletta and about her townspeople. Perhaps one of the more accurate being that of Paul Brydone, who upon his arrival wrote that he found himself "in a new world of letters like Lord Byron, Sir Walter Scott and Samuel Coleridge and statesmen like the young Disraeli, bedecked with lace on his cuffs, jewels on a satin shirt and silver buckles on his shoes, all had their own personal opinion about Valletta and its people.

Times have changed. Gone are the breeches and tricorne hats, the carriages, rumbling through cobbled streets. Today's Maltese, not to mention the many visitors who make Valletta such a vibrant, cosmopolitan city, that daily arrive by boat, car and public transport and pass through her gates, opt for more leisurely attire and do not stand on ceremony. They are the direct descendants of the hospitable and awestruck people who welcomed the Apostle Paul way, way back in 60 AD.

In the city to which I bid you welcome on behalf her mayor and people, the Malta Tourism Authority has organised a week long programme of music, spectacle and folklore for you to enjoy.

Michael Refalo
Minister for Tourism

VALLETTA'S PAST & FUTURE



This annual event presents us with the opportunity to reflect on the past, present and the future of our capital city. The Festival's various events, and in particular the colourful pageantry, will once again recall Valletta's illustrious history and prestige. The city's baroque heritage, left to us by the Knights of St. John and a reflection of their years of grandeur, will provide the perfect backdrop for the various cultural activities which you will be able to enjoy during the Festival.

Valletta's modern challenge is to ensure that, whilst conserving its many treasures, it continues to be a thriving, vibrant and cosmopolitan hub of activity both during the day, but particularly in the evenings. Valletta is an essential component of our tourism product. However, its relevance will be tremendously enhanced if we will be able to give it life after shopping hours. In this respect, I am glad to note that there is a growing movement towards revitalising Valletta. I am also proud to state that the MTA is taking a leading role in this direction.

Meanwhile, it is my pleasure to cordially invite you to immerse yourselves in a celebration of art, heritage, pageantry and music.

John C. Grech
Chairman - Malta Tourism Authority

THE HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT OF THE ELECTION OF GRAND MASTER ALOF DE WIGNACOURT

This year's Festival coincides with the 400th anniversary of the election of Grandmaster Alof De Wignacourt, a French Knight, which took place on 10 February 1601.

As the Grandmaster was the supreme head and authority of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, his election to the magistracy took the form of a spectacular ceremonial. The candidates to this highest-ranking post were invariably knights with an illustrious career, and who had achieved distinction in their virtues and merits. The Grandmaster was appointed for life and one of the elderly Knights was often chosen for the Grandmastership. Upon the death of the Grandmaster, the seal of his office was broken, and the election of a successor took place

three days after the occurrence of the vacancy. The Pope assumed the right of nomination so long as the post remained vacant but his claim lapsed as soon as a successor was duly appointed by the Order.



Portrait of Alof De Wignacourt (Fine Arts Museum)

The election proceedings were held in conclave inside the Order's conventual church, at first in St Lawrence church in Birgu, and from 1571 onwards in St John's in Valletta. The newly elected Grandmaster took his place under the magisterial canopy, erected within the precincts of the chancel of the main altar, and took the oath of office which was administered by the Grand Prior of the church. A was intoned to the accompaniment of music. The church bells pealed a joyful note, whilst the main door of the church was opened to allow the people to enter the church and participate in the singing of the Thanksgiving Hymn to the Almighty. The Grandmaster then received the homage of all present. The Grandmaster appeared from the balcony on the main portal of the church, where he was greeted with loud applause and cheers. The Order's squadron in harbour fired a salute, and a similar salute was fired from all the forts and fortifications.

A detachment of the Grandmaster's militia lined that part of Strada San Giorgio (now Republic Street) from the Auberge d'Auvergne to the entrance of the Magisterial Palace. The Grandmaster then proceeded in his carriage amidst the rejoicing and jubilant cheers of the people. There were instances when the horses were removed, and the Grandmaster's carriage was drawn by the large crowds. Thus, amidst cheers and applause he was conveyed in triumphal procession to the Palace.

The Band played at the Palace Square and odes, hymns and poems, sonnets and cantatas were sung in honour of the new Grandmaster.

These outdoor celebrations will be re-enacted on Sunday, April 22nd at 10.30 hrs.

THE VENUES FOR MUSICAL PERFORMANCES



ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL

The Co-Cathedral of St. John was originally built by the Order to serve as the Order's monastic church. Its architect was Gerolamo Cassar who selected a simple and severe mannerist style for its architecture. Some hundred years later the church was renovated from the inside by the Italian artist Mattia Preti who embellished it into a baroque masterpiece of architecture.

ST. PAUL'S PRO-ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

This church was commissioned by Queen Adelaide in 1838 to serve the huge British garrison that was stationed in Malta. Its neo-gothic style from the outside contrasts sharply with the neo-classical and baroque style which is also found on the inside. After a halt in its construction, due to a fault in its foundation walls, the church was completed by the British engineer Frank Scamp in 1844. The church is situated on the same site where the Auberge of Germany once stood.



GRANDMASTER'S PALACE

The palace was built in two stages and the halls and corridors surround two courtyards. The first of these is Neptune's Courtyard, the other Prince Alfred's Courtyard. The Palace served as the residence and administrative Office of the Grandmaster. During subsequent periods it became the administrative headquarters for the French General Vaubois, and later on the Office and residence for the British governor. The Palace today houses Parliament and the Office of the President. It also is considered as one of the main tourist attractions in Valletta.

PALACE SQUARE

The porticoed building in front of the Grandmaster's Palace was known as the Main Guard during the British period. It used to serve as the Secreteria, i.e. the financial and administrative centre of the Order of St. John. On the left hand side of the square is the monument that recalls the riots of the Sette Giugno which occurred in 1919. Behind it an ornate facade belongs to the ancient De Verdellin Palace.



GREAT SIEGE SQUARE

This square situated in front of the law courts is one of the focal points of Valletta. One may see here the monument commemorating the Great Siege of 1565, after which the square is named. The central figure represents Malta flanked by the symbolic figures of Europe and the Papacy.

ST. JAMES' CAVALIER

St. James' Cavalier, once an important post for Valletta's defence system has since September 2000, been opened to the public as a Centre for Creativity, where the performing and visual arts may be enjoyed. The Centre is open from 10.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs on all days and entrance is free.



THE PERFORMERS



ANDREW MICALLEF - ACCORDION

Born in 1969 at Zebbug, Malta. Andrew Micallef inherited his love for the accordion from his father who taught him the basic techniques of the instrument. He studied at the School of Music in Valletta. He is an active member of the "Accordion Stars" which was set up with the aim of promoting young musicians and giving them the opportunity to enhance their talents. Andrew's repertoire consists mainly of traditional French songs.

JAMES GRECH - VIOLIN

James Grech started violin at an early age under Marcelle Bartolo. He then furthered his studies under Prof. Joachim Atanassov and continued his studies in Torino Italy with Prof. Massimo Marin at Conservatorio "Giuseppe Verdi" after being granted a scholarship by the Italian Cultural Institute. In '95 he was placed 2nd in the competition of Giovanni Esecutori held in Palermo. In '98 he won the Korean Award and Individual Prize for superb performance in Korea. He has been described by world-renowned violinists Marco Fornaciari and Boris Belkin as being a very talented violinist.



MAY CARUANA - PIANO

May started studying music at the age of 6, under the guidance of Ms M.A. Agius. Later, she went on to study for several years with Ms. Fransina Abela Brincat. She sat for all the graded examinations of the Royal School of Music, passing most of them with distinction. May has attended master classes with several foreign musicians, including Ruth Harte of the UK and Prof. Marcel Baudet of the Netherlands. She also studied for some months under the tutelage of Prof. Nina Kazimirova of the Ukraine.

SAMMY MURGO - SAXOPHONE

Sammy Murgo is one of the leading saxophone players in Malta. His repertoire ranges from pop to jazz. During his long career, spanning over 40 years, he has travelled extensively all over the world playing in clubs and concert halls.



FREDDIE MIZZI BIG BAND

The "Freddie Mizzi Big Band" was formed in 1958 and gave its premier performance in October of the same year on the occasion of the British Forces Grand Ball, held at Vernon Club, Valletta. The Band is made up of fifteen top class local musicians and its wide international repertoire includes the music of great composers such as Glenn Miller, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Earle Hagen, Harry James, and Jerome Kern, and many others. The Band's leader is Freddie Mizzi, one of the Island's most prominent musicians.

V ALLETTA

"HISTORY & ELEGANCE"
FESTIVAL

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MONDAY 16TH APRIL

10.00 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street	Walk-about in period costumes
10.00 hrs - 11.00 hrs	Republic Street	"Bandu" - Towncrier's decrees
11.00 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street & Palace Square	March and Display by Italian Sbandieratori
12.30 hrs - 13.15 hrs	German Maltese Circle	James Grech - Violin Recital
13.15 hrs - 14.15 hrs	St. John's Square	The Greenfields - Modern Folk Singing
14.30 hrs - 16.00 hrs	Grandmaster's Palace	Greek folk Singing by Amfion Choir
15.00 hrs - 16.00 hrs	Republic Street	Cameo Folk Dancers
18.30 hrs - 19.30 hrs	Republic Street	Festa Band Marches by La Vallette Band Club

TUESDAY 17TH APRIL

10.00 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street	Walk-about in period costumes
10.00 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street	"Bandu" - Towncrier's decrees
10.30 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street and Freedom Square	March and Display by Italian Sbandieratori
11.30 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street & Grandmaster's Palace	Nordlingen Orchestra (German)
12.30 hrs - 13.15 hrs	Manoel Theatre Courtyard	Andrew Micallef - (Accordion)
13.15 hrs - 14.15 hrs	St. John's Square	Tony Camilleri - Modern Folk Singing
14.30 hrs - 15.00 hrs	Republic Street	Jackson's Pipe Band
15.00 hrs - 16.00 hrs	Republic Street	Tonia & Benny - Modern Folk Singing
18.30 hrs - 19.30 hrs	Republic Street	Festa Band Marches by King's Own Band Club

WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL

10.00 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street	Walk-about in period costumes
10.00 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street	"Bandu" - Towncrier's decrees
11.30 hrs - 12.00 hrs	Republic Street to St. George's Square	The Police Band, & Police Drill Band Marches and Display
12.30 hrs - 13.15 hrs	St. James' Cavalier	May Caruana - Piano Recital (Organised by Dept. of Culture)
13.15 hrs - 14.15 hrs	St. John's Square	Traditional Maltese Folk Singing
15.00 hrs - 16.00 hrs	Republic Street	Paul Curmi Folk Dancers
19.30 hrs - 20.30 hrs	St. Paul's Pro-Anglican Cathedral	Edinburgh Quartet

THURSDAY 19TH APRIL

10.00 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street	Walk-about in period costumes
10.00 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street	"Bandu" - Towncrier's decrees
10.30 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street	Paul Curmi Folk Dancers
11.30 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street	Cameo Folk Dancers
12.30 hrs - 13.15 hrs	St. John's Co-Cathedral	Organ & Trumpet Recital by Hugo Agius Muscat & Paul Busuttil
13.15 hrs - 14.15 hrs	St. John's Square	Traditional Maltese Folk Singing
15.00 hrs - 16.00 hrs	Republic Street	The Greenfields - Modern Folk Singing
18.30 hrs - 19.30 hrs	Great Siege Square	Versatile Brass Ensemble

FRIDAY 20TH APRIL

10.00 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street	Walk-about in period costumes
10.00 hrs - 11.00 hrs	Republic Street	"Bandu" - Towncrier's decrees
11.30 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street to St. George's Square	Armed Forces of Malta Band March & Display
12.30 hrs - 13.15 hrs	Manoel Theatre	Saxophone Session by Sammy Murgu
13.15 hrs - 14.15 hrs	St John's Square	Tony Camilleri - Modern Folk Singing
15.00 hrs - 16.00 hrs	Republic Street	Rainbow Folk Singers - Modern Folk Singing
19.30 hrs - 21.00 hrs	Chamber of Commerce	Edinburgh Quartet

SATURDAY 21ST APRIL

10.00 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Republic Street	Walk-about in period costumes
10.00 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street	"Bandu" - Towncrier's decrees
10.30 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street	Jackson's Pipe Band
10.30 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Neptune's Courtyard - Grandmaster's Palace	French Blockade Period re-enactment by the H.R.G.M.
11.30 hrs - 12.30 hrs	Great Siege Square	Versatile Brass Ensemble
12.30 hrs - 13.30 hrs	St. John's Square	Etnika Project (Traditional Folk Music)
13.15 hrs - 14.15 hrs	St. John's Square	Traditional Maltese Folk Singing
14.30 hrs - 15.00 hrs	Republic Street	Naxxar Scout Band
19.30 hrs - 21.00 hrs	Grandmaster's Palace Corridor	Excerpts from "Tales of Hoffmann" Malta Opera Company

SUNDAY 22ND APRIL

09.30 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Republic Street	Walk-about in period costumes
09.30 hrs - 10.30 hrs	Freedom Square	Paul Curmi Folk Dancers
10.30 hrs - 11.30 hrs	Freedom Square & Palace Square	Grandmaster's Pageant
11.45 hrs - 13.00 hrs	Great Siege Square	"The Election of G.M. Alof De Wignacourt" Grand Finale - Freddie Mizzi's Big Band

END OF FESTIVAL



NORDLINGEN ORCHESTRA

The Knabenkapelle Nordlingen is the municipal band of Nordlingen (Germany), made up of young musicians whose age ranges from thirteen to twenty years.

THE EDINBURGH QUARTET

The Edinburgh Quartet is one of the longest-established British string quartets. The Quartet remains Scotland's only ensemble dedicated exclusively to the performance and teaching of chamber music. It has given concerts in over 45 countries world-wide. The Edinburgh Quartet was appointed Quartet in residence of the Ian Tomlin School of Music at Napier University, Edinburgh, in 1997. The Quartet continually explores new ideas and collaborations with artists working in dance, drama, poetry, puppetry and other cross-cultural projects.



THE VERSATILE BRASS ENSEMBLE

The Versatile Brass Ensemble, formerly The Versatile Brass Quintet was founded in 1999 for a special occasion to represent Malta in the Expo 2000 in Hanover. Their repertoire varies from the Classic to Pop and Jazz.

MALTA OPERA COMPANY

The Malta Opera Company is a charitable trust with the sole aim of producing operas using local singers in all main and subsidiary roles. Their first production "Tales of Hoffman" was staged with great success at St James' Cavalier, Valletta. For the Valletta Festival the Company will perform excerpts from the same Opera. The concert will be held inside one of the long corridors in Grandmaster's Palace.

DR. HUGO AGIUS MUSCAT



PAUL BUSUTTIL



ORGAN & TRUMPET RECITAL (ST. JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL)



STREET PERFORMERS

THE MALTA POLICE BAND

The Malta Police Force Band was established in 1919 by bandmen from the King's Own Regiment and the Royal Malta Artillery. The band was re-activated in 1994 and presently has a compliment of 45 musicians. During the past years it has performed on not less than two hundred occasions. On the 25th anniversary of the Republic of Malta the band performed jointly with the Armed Forces of Malta at St. George's Square. While the band strives to achieve excellence in its displays, it also functions as a bridge between the Police Corps and the general public.



MARCH & DISPLAY BY THE BAND OF THE ARMED FORCES OF MALTA

The Armed Forces of Malta Band was formerly known as the Royal Malta Artillery Band and established well over hundred years ago. The band has a compliment of 43 musicians directed by Captain George Debono (L.(Mus.LCM). The band's repertoire ranges from military marches, to classical and pop music. The band holds frequent concerts and displays throughout the year in connection with National festivities and other events.



TRADITIONAL MALTESE FOLKLORE SINGING

Various *ghannejja* (ethnic singers) will be performing traditional Maltese folk songs known as *ghana* (singular *ghanja*) in St. John's Square. The *ghanja* is a four line stanza, and one song duet may take up to some 60 minutes if not more. The *ghannej* singer) will often pick on a real or fictitious theme. The *ghannej* is accompanied by either guitarist (*il-prim*) or more (*daqqaqa sekond*).



THE MALTA POLICE PRECISION DRILL

The Malta Police Precision Drill was set up in 1988. This elite group's motto is "Rhythm, Elegance & Precision". They hold drill displays utilising the 1.33m-long Lee Enfield .303 rifle, with great dexterity skill and flair. The team may perform in 12 or 16 formation under the leadership of Sergeant Stephen Mallia. The display which takes 10 minutes will contain some 200 rifle movements in all. The M.P.P.D. have participated in the celebrations for the 750th anniversary of the city of The Hague.

SBANDIERATORI

A display by a group of Sbandieratori from Terni - Umbria will take place along Republic Street and at Palace Square. These will be accompanied by a colourful pageantry group called 'Gruppo Storico' and another group of 'Arcobusieri'.



MALTESE FOLK SINGERS & DANCERS

ETNIKA - A REVIVAL OF MUSICAL HERITAGE

The Etnika programme intends to project the faithful reconstruction of traditional Maltese instruments onto a contemporary musical platform. The distinct drone of the Maltese *zaqq*, the shrill of the *flejguta* and the throb of the *tanbur* will portray a unique soundscape that resides in the collective memory of the Maltese but, which most have never experienced. The programme will alternate between traditional interludes and a series of original pieces composed specifically for the Etnika ensemble by Ruben Zahra. This repertoire will feature a synthesis of ethnic music with other musical genres, including jazz, rock and classical.



THE INSTRUMENTS

Iz-Zaqq – bagpipe. A reed instrument characterised by an air reservoir in the form of a bag usually made from an animal skin.

Iz-Zummara – reed pipe. A wind instrument with a single-reed fitted into one cylindrical tube and with or without a small horn fitted at the end.

It-Tanbur – frame drum. Made from goat skin stretched over one side of a simple circular frame made of thin wood.

Iz-Zafzafa – friction drum. Made from a cask, a pitcher or any other suitable container

Il-Flejguta or **Fifra** – whistle flute. An end-blown flute in which the air is directed through a simple mouthpiece against the sharp edge of a hole cut in the pipe just below the mouthpiece, made from cane or wood.

THE GREENFIELDS



CAMEO FOLK DANCERS



THE RAINBOW FOLK GROUP



PAUL CURMI DANCERS



TONY CAMILLERI - L'GHANNEJ



BENNY & TONIA



COSTUMES IN MALTA

One of the more significant events that may be enjoyed when attending the “Valletta - History & Elegance Festival” is the series of street walkabouts held by actors dressed in period costume. The costumes worn are often designed on original patterns taken from the 17th and 18th century style worn by the nobility.

During that period, the materials used for garments worn by the nobility were damask, velvet, silk, cotton and lace. The tailor or the designer made a pattern, usually floral, to achieve a personal distinct style. Some of these patterns were very elaborate and required much patience and time. The thread used for embroidery had to be dyed separately to create a distinctive coloured pattern. Gold or silver thread was used to heighten the design wherever this was visible. Other accessories were also used to adorn the dress, e.g. gold or silver buttons.

There were generally two types of dresses: a one piece dress known as “a closed robe”, meaning a skirt and bodice that was double breasted. The other type of dress generally worn consisted of two pieces: that is the bodice, and the skirt dressed separately.



The corset's shape was opened from the front by means of a double-breasted pattern, or else fastened from the back with crossed lace. The corset had a very low cut neckline reaching the breasts. Generally the sleeves were three quarters, and opened wide at the forearm. At the end of each sleeve layers of hand-made lace were attached. It is worth mentioning that lace making is a very old traditional Maltese industry. Traditional lace involved particular designs and the eight pointed cross, symbol of the Knights of St. John was a recurring subject. In most cases the bodice was plain in colour while the stomacher, (the front part of the garment) was more elaborate in its design to create contrast.

There were exceptions when the bodice was also embroidered, in which case the stomacher had a different, more complicated pattern to contrast. The stomacher was made up of vertical bones to hold it stiff. At the bottom the stomacher was more closely boned to form the waistline. The stomacher was further embellished with gold or silver thread, diamonds, silk ribbons and lace.

Another characteristic of the Maltese dress was the skirt. It was complimentary in colour and pattern to match the bodice. On the side of the skirt there were pockets which were not visible. The skirt was heavily pleated to create a more voluminous appearance and reached down to the ankles to leave the shoes visible. The shoes were heavily heeled and thus had to be tied fast to the ankles by ribbons at the back of the shoe so as not to allow the feet to slip out when walking. Stockings were also worn and they were gartered above or below the knee.

The hair was pulled back and covered with a veil in the form of a decorative lace cloth. This head gear was often worn by women in high society.

MANOEL THEATRE

Antonio Manoel de Vilhena, a Grandmaster of the Knights of St. John, in 1731 decided to build a personally funded public theatre 'for the honest recreation of the people', as recorded to this day in a Latin inscription above the main entrance of the theatre.



The first opening night for the theatre was on the 9th of January 1732 with a presentation of 'Merope', a grand tragedy in the classic style, by Scipione Maffei. The setting was designed by Francois Mondion, who was the architect of the Order of St. John, and the play was performed by the Knights themselves.

Since those early days the theatre has seen Maltese history unfold and changes on the Island did inevitably effect its fate. After the Knights surrendered Malta to Napoleon and French rule in the late eighteenth century, the theatre gradually fell into darker days. With the arrival of the British the theatre came to life again and throughout the first half of the nineteenth century there was a nine-month season of opera each year from September to May.

The theatre boasts of numerous nights of splendour, when it was graced by foreign royal dignitaries. One such instance was on 4th December, 1838, when

Queen Adelaide, widow of King William IV, attended a performance of 'Lucia di Lamermoor', by Gaetano Donizetti. 'The Manoel' is now officially Malta's National Theatre and continues to enjoy the high standard of both local and foreign performers. A truly magnificent and unique place-indeed.

RE - ENACTMENT - FRENCH BLOCKADE 1800

Display by the Historical Re-enactment Group Malta – H.R.G.M. at Grandmaster's Palace.

The H.R.G.M will be carrying out a re-enactment of drill display portraying the **Cacciatori Maltesi** which was a Maltese regiment that had been set up in the last years of the Order's stay in Malta, and which had taken up arms against the French troops inside Valletta. The re-enactment will take place inside Neptune's courtyard, at Grandmaster's Palace on Saturday, April 21.

Members of the H.R.G.M. represent Maltese military units of the late 18th century, the **Regimento di Malta** and the **Cacciatori Maltesi**, both of which were regiments of the knights of St. John, as well as the **Maltese Light Infantry**, the first Maltese corps of the British Army which was set up by Capt. James Weir during the blockade of the French. Extensive research, meticulous attention to detail and sound training by experienced re-enactors guarantee a result worthy of the members' dedication.



ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Mr. Martin Morana
Secretary	Ms. Stella Vella
Member	Ms. Janice Mifsud
Member	Mr. Noel Castillo
Member	Mr. Tony Bonello
Member	Mr. Edmund Mifsud
Member	Mr. Roderick Zammit
Member	Mr. Etienne Montfort
Military Pageants Co-ordinator	Mr. Michael Stroud
Casting Co-ordinator	Mr. Philip Mizzi
Concerts Co-ordinator	Mr. Robert Cefai
Traffic Control	Sup. Carmel Magro
Logistics Co-ordinator	Mr. Joe Borda

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

16TH - APRIL 2001

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Speaker of the House of Representatives	Rev. Chancellor St. Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral
Ministry of Tourism	Casino Maltese
The Mayor & The Valletta Local Council	Naxxar Boy Scouts
Valletta Rehabilitation Project	Red Cross
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Department of Culture	The Malta Chamber of Commerce

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❖ Venues for Musical Performances ❖

1. German - Maltese Circle
2. Grandmaster's Palace
3. Manoel Theatre
4. Russian Culture Centre
5. St. James' Cavalier
6. St. Paul's Anglican Pro-Cathedral
7. St. John's Co-Cathedral
8. Chamber of Commerce
9. Great Siege Square
10. St. John's Square
11. Palace Square

● Route for Grandmaster's Pageant and other Parades

The Valletta "History & Elegance Festival" is being organised by the Product Planning & Development Directorate of the Malta Tourism Authority.

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