

GOZO
INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION
(GIC)



Christmas Edition
Official Programme

Sunday 18th December 2011

Qala Parish Church - Gozo



*Glory be to God
Perhaps we find it hard
to talk about God but
God talks about Himself
through his own creation.*

Can Dr Joseph Zammit

Programme

FOURTISSIMO BRASS

O come, O come Emmanuel – Traditional
Chimning bells – Phillips
Allegro from Concerto Op3 No9 – Vivaldi

Soprano Patricia Buttigieg – Organist Antoine Theuma
Ave Maria – Gounod

Bestowing of 'The Horace Mercieca Award'

Archpriest's address

The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra

Soprano Dame Ruth Sammut Casingena

Christmas March – Manoel Pirota (b. 1962)

The work is cast in the traditional Maltese march and makes use of two well known Christmas tunes, Ejjew O Nsara for the main section, and alternating in form with a trio – Ejjew, la ddumux.

Ave Maria - Giulio Caccini (1551-1618)/Steven Mercurio (b. 1956)

The aria is a musical hoax generally misattributed to Vladimir Vavilov who published and recorded it with the ascription to "Anonymous " in 1970. It is believed that the work received its ascription to Giulio Caccini after Vavilov's death, by an organist who gave the "newly discovered scores" to other musicians.

Air for Winds - André Waignein (b. 1942)

Waignein is a Belgian composer of international fame. His music is naturally played throughout Europe, as well as the USA, Canada, Japan and Australia. He is recipient of more than 300 published pieces.

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

It is the most common English title of the 10th movement of the cantata Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben, BWV 147 composed by Johann Sebastian Bach. Written during his first year in Leipzig, Germany, this chorale movement is one of Bach's most enduring works.

Magnificat Choir – Soprano Patricia Buttigieg – Organist Frankie Magro

Stille Nacht – Franz Gruber

While Shepherds – Handel

Angels We Have Heard On High – Traditional

Feature

Soprano Roxana Xuereb – Organist Frankie Magro

Someday – Huckback of Notre Dame

Tenor Joseph Buttigieg – Organist Frankie Magro

In the Bleak Midwinter – Gustav T. Holst

FOURTISSIMO BRASS

German Dance – Weber

Angels we have heard on high – M. Stewart

A holly Waltz – M. Cordner

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Cantique de Noël – Adolphe Adam (1803-56)

'O Holy Night' is a well-known Christmas carol written in 1847 to the French poem "Minuit, chrétiens" (Midnight, Christians) by Placide Cappeau (1808-1877), a wine merchant and poet, who had been asked by a parish priest to write a Christmas poem.

Te Deum (H. 146) – Trumpet Prelude - M. A. Charpentier (1643-1704)

The grand polyphonic motet was written during Charpentier's stay at the Jesuit Church of Saint-Louis in Paris, where he held the position of musical director.

Millennium Song - Kees Vlak (b. 1938)

Dutch composer of works for concert band who writes under various pseudonyms. Many of his works won international acclaim, among which the Millennium Song.

3 Songs for Christmas I (Arr. by Manoel Pirotta)

The triptych contains 'God Rest, Ye Merry, Gentlemen', author unknown, the very popular 'Silent Night', words in German by the Austrian priest Father Joseph Mohr and melody by Austrian composer F.X. Gruber, and 'O Come all Ye Faithful', a hymn tune attributed to English hymnist J. F. Wade.

Presentation of painting by Gozitan artist Anthony Caruana

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The Sleigh Ride (German dance K. 605/3) – W. A. Mozart (1756-91)

One of the most popular of Mozart's numerous orchestral dances consisting of a simple dance in triple meter. Its most unusual feature, and the one that inspired its nickname, is its original scoring: in addition to a small orchestra it calls for two posthorns and five sleighbells that bounce along on each beat.

La Vergine degli Angeli – Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

La Forza del Destino is an opera in four acts by Verdi to a libretto by Piave after A.P. de Saavedra (Duke of Rivas) (1862, St Petersburg); Verdi revised it (1869, Milan), to a libretto revised by Ghislanzoni. Its second Act closes with this quiet, simple hymn, before Leonora sets off to her hermitage.

FOURTISSIMO BRASS

Sounds of Christmas – Various

Christmas Joy – E Leidzen

Radetzky March – Straus

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Soprano Patricia Buttigieg – Soprano Roxana Xuereb

Tenor Joseph Buttigieg – Tenor Rev. Joseph Zammit

FINALE: Adeste Fideles

A hymn tune attributed to English hymnist J. F. Wade. The original four verses of the hymn were extended to a total of eight, and these have been translated into many languages many times, though the English "O Come, All Ye Faithful" translation by the English Roman Catholic priest Frederick Oakeley is particularly widespread.

DAME RUTH SAMMUT CASINGENA OSJ FTCL LRSM LTCL Dip. In Music Studies (University of Malta).

Mum, all round artiste, educator and founder of Journey Movement, Ruth enjoys the great satisfaction of discovering, exposing and nurturing her own son Jake and all the individuals she teaches.

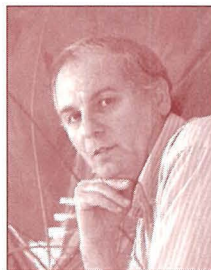
Born on the 26th of March 1970, Ruth's musical journey started at age nine, when she commenced piano lessons, and emerged into endless hours and several years of intensive studying, performance, pedagogy and dedication to a sound academic and cultural education.

A classically trained musician and broadcaster, Fellow and Licentiate of the Trinity College of Music (London), Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music (London), graduate in musicology from the University of Malta, Ruth has furthered her music studies (Master Degree in Voice) for a year at the De Singel Conservatory in Antwerp, Belgium. Backed up by a twenty five year music teaching career, Ruth has graced the stage for over 28 years. A piano and vocal recitalist whose repertoire ranges from Renaissance to contemporary, she has worked extensively with Maltese and foreign artists, performing as a solo artiste, premiering various Maltese compositions, and performing initially as a chorus girl, and later as a solo soprano in operatic, sacred and chamber music, musical theatre, as well as an actress in plays, landing lead roles in *Joconde*, *Messiah*, *Cin-ci-La*, *Il Paese dei Campanelli*, *A Slice of Saturday Night*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* and *La Vedova Scaltra*.



ANTHONY CARUANA, born in 1955, is one of Malta's established artists, whose earlier work consisted mainly of an expressionist interpretation of the Maltese urban and rural landscape. Later on however, these landscapes fast gained a more abstract dimension and today, the artist's main idiom is abstraction which lends mostly to the abstract expressionist movement of the fifties and sixties. If we could speak of a movement or school of Expressionism in Malta, Anthony Caruana would definitely belong to it. When seeking to capture the essence of traditional Maltese architecture and the rural Mediterranean landscape,

the interpretation is expressionist yet very personal. His spontaneous and uninhibited brush strokes coupled with an exciting chromatic scale are evocative of the artist's affinity with the Mediterranean and of his contagiously passionate temper. Joy, passion, solitude, fear, insecurity and love are as much the subject of his works. The themes in his canvasses are raw, and center around the emotion, weakness and vulnerability of the artist who first and foremost, is human. His works has been exhibited in most major European cities since 1972, winning various prestigious awards; worth mentioning, the National Portrait Gallery and the Mall Galleries of London, the Caterina dei Medici Award in Florence, *La Triade* in Milan and the Biennale Grand Prix for Contemporary Art in Monte Carlo. His works are featured in various magazines amongst them *The Art of England* and *House & Garden of Scotland*.





FOURTISSIMO

The trumpet quartet was formed in 2010. The members are very experienced professional musicians. JASON CAMILLERI (Dip. ABRSM) Gozo's leading trumpeter is a member of the Armed Forces of Malta Band, a member of the Windmill Brass quartet from Malta and an outstanding performer as soloist on his instrument. Recital performances at Valletta, Mdina and Victoria. SHIRLEY HELLEUR (BA. LRAM. LTCL. PGSE). Highly qualified as a music teacher. A member (and accompanist) for the New Choral Singers, and the Musical Director of the Imperial ladies choir in Mellieha. ANDRE HELLEUR From Britain's Brass band scene. Now playing with this and the Windmill brass quartet based in Mellieha. DON GATES Many years experience as a leading trumpeter in UK Dance bands. Has appeared in "Pebble Mill at One", "Top of the Pops" and "Come Dancing". Has played on the Cunard liners including the QE2. Before retirement was a Brass teacher in Lancashire for more than 20 years.



JOSEPH BUTTIGIEG



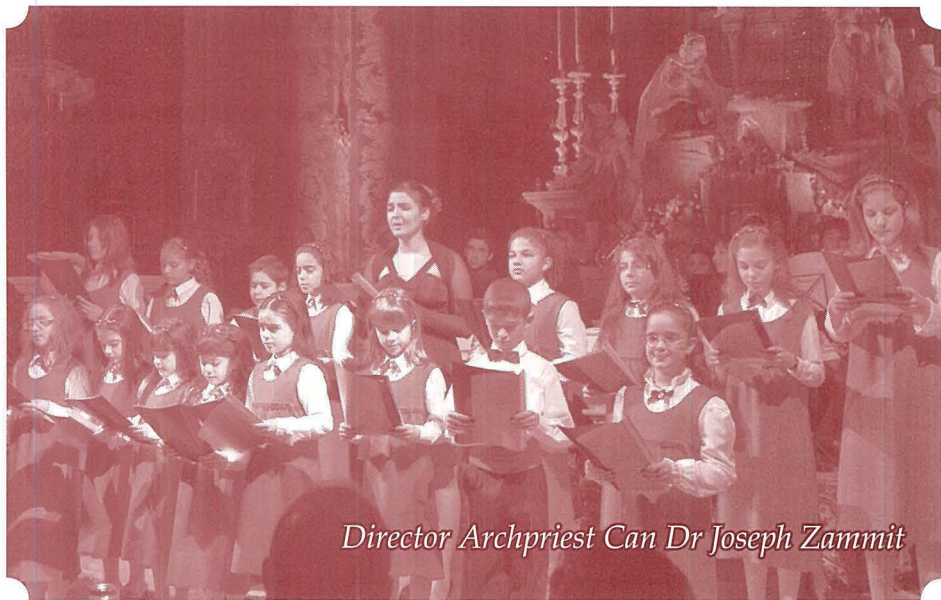
ROXANA XUEREB



PATRICIA BUTTIGIEG

The Parish “Magnificat Choir”

Established nineteen years ago, ‘Magnificat Choir’ has performed many concerts, delighted audiences at all the GIC’s and especially graced the Westminster Cathedral in London and Il Duomo in Messina.



Director Archpriest Can Dr Joseph Zammit



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 is a life fellow of this association and contributes significantly to the standing of the IBA in the worldwide forum. He was awarded the Grand Prix des Arts for music composition and conducting at the 8th. 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.



The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra is comprised up of some 40 budding musicians hailing from the college and with almost 190 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 Eichersheim 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 Thesorieri' (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 Maltese composers Camilleri and Pirota. 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 recent important performances held in Malta and Gozo include: The Manoel Theatre (Notte Bianca 2011), Palazzo Castellania - Ministry for Health, the Elderly and Community Care (Valletta), MCI Monday Ovations (Le Meridien St. Julians Hotel and Spa), 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 – Intrapriza Malta (Ta' Qali), and Christ the Saviour Church of Ghasri – the smallest village in Gozo!

During the month of December 2011 the orchestra has given performances at the La Valette Band Club in Valletta for the occasion of the 10th. Anniversary of the Radio 101 programme 'Marci u Bandalori' (2.12); for the inauguration of a new state school at Zokrija, limits of Mosta (3.12); The Point Shopping Mall at Tigné (10 and 13.12); 'Milied Flimkien' at St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta, and the University Chapel (16.12).