

GOZO INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION (GIC)



Christmas Edition Official Programme

Sunday 16th December 2012

Qala Parish Church - Gozo



Can Dr Joseph Zammit

God is Love

The story of the first Christmas is indeed an excellent showcase of today's theme. There we can see God's love for us in sending his only Son Jesus. Born to poor parents, in an unknown city, in a dark cave, with no amenities for a newly born child. And all this despite all our shortcomings, our mistakes and our under achieving. We are never outside his care, his understanding or his compassion. Because his love for us is unconditional.

**Letter from Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi,
President of the Pontifical Council for Culture
to Canon Dr Joseph Zammit about the GIC**

17th October 2012

I have received your letter dated 11th October in which you gave me a detailed description of the interesting initiative which takes place in your parish, the Gozo International Celebration, the 21st edition of which will be held on 16th December 2012 with the theme 'God is Love'.

I consider bold and far reaching the choice to render the Christian community a welcoming and open platform which promotes the exchange and reciprocal consciousness, and helps in the build up of an open mentality in encountering the other, being sincerely ready to know others and let others know one, with sincerity and profound esteem. From the sensibility of the mind and heart is born the desire to narrate one's own faith and culture without inhibitions, and the readiness to accept the other doing likewise. This ensures reciprocal listening, without fears, which builds understanding through everyday actions. The exchange of greetings, of a smile, the sharing of a thought induce in a dialogue the small steps that lead far towards the meeting of all those, believers and non-believers, who cultivate the hope of a peaceful co-existence among peoples, cultures and religions.

I encourage you to continue and intensify this experience, while I bless you and your parish, and send my warm greetings to all participants.

Gianfranco Card. Ravasi

Programme

Once in Royal David's City – Cecil Alexander - Henry Gauntlett

Magnificat Choir accompanied by organist Frankie Ion Magro
Director Rev. Joseph Zammit

Letter from Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi

President of the Pontifical Council for Culture

Christmas March – Manoel Pirotta (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*.

Pavane in Blue – Ted Huggens (1928-2006)

A Dutch composer of wind music and teacher on various music academies. A pavane is a slow court dance employing repetitive steps.

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

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

The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra
Director Mro Manoel Pirotta

Be Born In Me – Francesca Battistelli

Soprano Corinne Borg accompanied by organist Frankie Ion Magro

Christmas Lullaby – John Milford Rutter (b. 1945)

Tenor Joseph Buttigieg
accompanied by Venice Cassar and Melanie Grima
and The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra

Christmas Medley:

Sinfonia Pastorale, Noel Noel, Qed Jinfirex Mal-Widien
Organist Noel Gallo

Archpriest's Message

In Dulci Jubilo – 14th Century German Carol

See Amid The Winter's Snow – Edward Caswall - John Goss

Ding Dong Merrily On High – Traditional

Magnificat Choir

Feature

Trumpet Voluntary – Jeremiah Clarke (1674-1707)

The most celebrated trumpet voluntary is the *Prince of Denmark's March*, a composition by Jeremiah Clarke written circa. 1700. It is properly a rondo for keyboard and was not originally called a trumpet voluntary.

Suo Gan – Welsh Traditional

Among the most important collections of Welsh songs is the “Welsh Harper” by composer Joseph Parry (1841-1903) which includes this ancient Welsh Lullaby.

A Concert Celebration – Andrew Lloyd Weber (b. 1948)

A choral showpiece featuring the greatest melodies and songs of Andrew Lloyd Webber, arranged as a celebratory medley. Songs include: *The Phantom of the Opera, Music of the Night, Don't cry for me Argentina, Superstar, King Herod's Song, Memory, and Go go go Joseph.*

The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra

The Voice – Celtic Woman

Soprano Roxana Xuereb accompanied by organist Frankie Ion Magro

Ave Maria – Gounod

Soprano Patricia Buttigieg accompanied by organist Noel Gallo

Invocazione – Giuseppe Giardini Vella

Tenor Rev. Joseph Zammit and Magnificat Choir
accompanied by organist Noel Gallo

Bestowing of ‘The Horace Mercieca Award’

Presentation by Artist Victor Agius

The Young Maria – Ted Huggens (1928-2006)

The so-called Bach/Gounod *Ave Maria* is a setting of the Latin text *Ave Maria*. It consists of a melody improvised by Charles Gounod superimposed over the Prelude No. 1 in C major by J.S. Bach.

The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra

Stille Nacht – Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

Magnificat Choir

VICTOR AGIUS (Artist)

Victor Agius, born 1982, had his first contact with art through his father Mario Agius, who is a sculptor. Victor studied at the University of Malta from where he got a degree in Art (2000 – 2004) and furthered his studies at the International School of Painting, Drawing and Sculpture in Perugia, Italy (2008) and at the Central Saint Martins College for Art and Design in London where he followed the course 'Contemporary Fine Art Practice' in 2011. Some of his solo shows were held locally at the Opus 64 Galerie in Sliema and the Auberge d'Italie in Valletta, and internationally in Lago Maggiore and Florence amongst others. He has also participated in several notable group exhibitions held at the Pastificio Cerere Gallery in Rome in 2012, Galleria D'Arte Sant' Eufemia in Venice in 2011, Arte Padova Art Fair, at the Long Room Gallery at Oxford University in Oxford, at the Biennale Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea in Florence, at the Centre Culturel Christiane Peugeot in Paris, at the Bricklane Gallery in London, at the Museum of Modern Art in Santo Domingo and at the St. James Cavalier, Valletta, Malta. The works exhibited can be grouped into different themes such as the Annunciation to Mary, different compositions illustrating the Holy Family, the adoration of the shepherds and of the Magi and the Madonna and Child theme. His current interpretations of the Nativity contain elements that bridge the iconography of the birth of Christ with contemporary media. Some of his nativities are collected and exhibited worldwide. His nativity ceramic sculptures are permanently exhibited at the Rita Bocher Nativity Museum of Pennsylvania in America, Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (MuCEM) in Marseille, the Museo del Presepio in Giarre Sicily and at the Museo Internazionale del Presepio in Rome.



JOSEPH BUTTIGIEG (Tenor)

Joseph commenced his music education at the age of seven, studying pianoforte and theory with Annuziata Darmanin under whom he obtained distinctions with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. He later underwent vocal coaching and tuition with the acclaimed soprano Miriam Cauchi. Joseph attended masterclasses in Malta with Juliette Bisazza Zanni and with the renowned Maltese tenor Paul Asciak. In summer 2009, Joseph resided at the Dartington International School of Music where he participated in voice masterclasses directed by mezzo sopranos Margaret Lenski Rizza and Sally Burgess focusing on vocal technique and interpretation. While there he was chosen by conductor Paul Daniel to sing the solo part in the world premiere of David Bedford's *Wake Into the Sun*. The performance was broadcast live on BBC radio from the UK. Joseph has also attended masterclasses at the Vienna Konservatorium and will be returning again next year. Moreover, for the past 6 years he has been studying violoncello with the distinguished cellist Simon Abdilla Joslin. As a tenor, Joseph is a versatile performer and his repertoire includes baroque, Lieder, contemporary and opera. A soloist of the Gaulitanus Choir he took on the role of St Paul in Carmelo Pace's cantata *Eternal Triumph* performed at the Mdina cathedral which was under the direction of Mro. Colin Attard. Joseph Buttigieg has sung in various musicals including Oliver in Lionel Bart's *Oliver Twist* and Pharaoh in Lloyd Webber's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. He also interpreted various roles in operettas mainly; Fairfax in Jones' operetta *The Geisha*, Kareska in Strauss' operetta *The Gipsy Baron*, Pirate King in *'The Pirates of Penzance'* and Giuseppe Palmieri in *'The Gondoliers'*. Joseph also ventured into the world of opera, landing minor roles in Giordano's *Fedora*, Puccini's *'La Boheme'*, Verdi's *Nabucco* and *'La Forza del Destino'*. Earlier this year Joseph performed in the role of Lun Tha in the most celebrated musical 'The King and I' by Rodgers and Hammerstein.



THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA 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 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 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 LaScala 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 Ovations (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), MFCŻC – Intraprija Malta (Ta' Qali), University Discovery Week at the University Campus, *Skopri l-Universită fi Tlitt Ibljet* (Birgu, Bormla and Isla), and Christ the Saviour Church of Għasri – the smallest village in Gozo! The University of Malta Junior College is planning to celebrate its 15th 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 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.



ROXANA XUERREB Born in Sibiu Bucharest in Romania on the 11th March 1994. She studied singing from an early age and she is a very promising soprano. Roxana has always been part of our parish Magnificat Choir.



PATRICIA BUTTIGIEG Born in Melbourne, Australia on 26th April 1992. At the age of two she returned with her family back to their native island of Gozo and since then she has been living in the village of Qala. She is a very creative and artistic person thus to enhance these talents she is continuing her studies in the Institute of Art & Design. Patricia started singing with the Magnificat choir at the age of three. Till this day, she is still a member. With the same choir, she had the opportunity to sing in London & Messina. She was recognised as a soprano by Canon Joseph Zammit who instructed her for her very first solo during the 2009 Easter Edition of the GIC. In January 2009 she joined the Gaulitanus choir. She had the opportunity to go abroad with the same choir to perform in Firenze. She has also had the opportunity to sing in various concerts as a soloist, the choir organises and in various operas.



Established 20 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 di Messina, Italy.

NOEL GALLO (*Organist*)

Noel Gallo of 31 years from Sliema is an Organist, Organ Consultant, Builder and Designer.

He studied Solo Piano with the Trinity College of Music London and organ performance under the tuition of Mro. Carmelo Zammit. He was resident church organist at St. Gregory Parish Church Sliema for over a decade and he still regularly plays in churches around Malta and Gozo for masses, concerts and other occasions as his last major performance was during the *First Gozo Organ Festival* where he gave a lecture on pipes organ and their history in Gozo and also played during concerts.



His passion and skills in pipe organ building were nurtured and inspired by Mr George Schembri, who spent much of the last century working on Maltese Organs. Noel is constantly specializing in organ building practice and design studies with German Master Organ builders abroad. He also studied architecture and drafting in Malta and worked for a Civil and structural engineering studio.

He is well involved in organ building as his projects can be found in various parts of the globe, mostly in Germany but also in the United Kingdom, Australia, Norway & South Korea. He also works closely with a Master Organ builder and other organ builders in developing organ designs, re-building and restoration organ projects and giving technical advice for new organ projects. Recent commissions saw the construction of his design for a new 4 manual and pedal console containing 90 registers for the Berlin Philharmonic Hall in Germany and a new 3 manual and pedal organ of 28 stops for St Paul's Chapel, Perth in Australia. Commissions have come from major organ building firms from Europe and beyond.

In a recent local major work, Noel has been responsible to coordinate the detailed historic restoration of the Organ in San Lawrenz Parish Church Gozo, an EU funded project. This instrument was fully dismantled and erected full height in a professional workshop to receive a full restoration.

In 2010, Noel went to the UK to address the Autumn Conference of the Institute of British Organ building where he gave a highly successful presentation of his services and on the organ design subject. He was also invited to write a major article for 'Organ building' on the annual publication of the IBO, detailing the work of British organ building throughout 2011. Noel now has established an organ building and design studio in Malta and he is the only and first Maltese organ designer that made designs for new organs outside Malta. Examples of his work can be viewed at www.ngpipeorgandesign.com

CORINNE BORG (*Soprano*)

Corinne Borg from Qala was born on the 18th of April 1997. Her carrier started with the Magnificat Choir in 2002 at the age of 5. When she was 11 years old she went to sing with the Magnificat Choir in Westminster Cathedral in London. She started her solo singing career in 2006. She participated in many song festivals in Malta and Gozo. Corinne won several festivals. She even participated in several television programmes. In 2010 she was chosen to participate in the Opera Carmen and in 2011 she participated in the Opera Tosca in Aurora Opera Theatre, under Mro Colin Attard. In the GIC it is not her first appearance because she participated with the Magnificat Choir and Corinne also participated in this year summer feast GIC. Corinne is still practicing and taking her vocal lessons under the supervision of Marlene Bartolo and Audrey Bartolo.

