

GOZO  
INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION  
(GIC)



**Christmas Edition**  
*Official Programme*

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

**Qala Parish Church - Gozo**



## **The Word was made flesh**

What a different world it would be if we were ready to go that extra mile when friends and foes are stranded and need that little push. When we are ready to open up our heart to the poor, the powerless and the friendless.



*The Parish "Magnificat Choir"*

*Director Archbishop Can Dr Joseph Zammit*



**MATTHEW TABONE** was born in Victoria, Gozo on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1997 and hails from Qala. He attended St. Theresa school in Kercem for his primary education, the Sacred Heart Minor Seminary School at secondary level and is presently attending Sir M.A. Refalo at post-secondary level. Matthew learned to play the trumpet and drum kit at Johann Strauss School of Music at Sannat Gozo and attended piano tuition under the tutorship of Ms Maureen Zerafa. He was awarded a special prize for consecutive distinctions by Trinity College Guildhall.

Matthew is a promising local young musician. He is an established trumpet player with the *Ite Ad Josef* band of Qala, and accompanied the Saint Joseph Youth band on the drum kit. Matthew is also engaged with other Maltese and Gozitan band clubs, also played lead trumpet with the *Sacred Heart Seminary School Orchestra*. Matthew has accomplished the course in both the theory of music and piano practice, by Trinity College Guildhall. Matthew was also involved as a solo pianist in previous editions of the GIC. He is energetic and committed to provide an exceptional performance when engaged in musical events.

**THE UOM JUNIOR COLLEGE ORCHESTRA** is made up of some 40 budding musicians hailing from the college and with almost 250 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*. It also gave 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 UoM JC Department. In November of the same year it 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 including works by Maltese composers Camilleri and Pirotta. In 2012, another cultural exchange took place, this time with the *Istituto Tecnico 'Luca Pacioli'* of CREMA where the orchestra performed in the *chiesetta*. While in Italy, they also visited the *Museo Stradivariano* (Cremona), the *Museo La Scala* (Milan), and were invited over to a performance of Verdi's *Aida* at La Scala of Milan. This year's exchange took place in Modica, Sicily between the UoM Junior College and the *Liceo Musicale dell'Istituto Superiore "G. Verga"*. The two orchestras performed in a joint concert at the *Teatro Garibaldi*.



Important venues for local performances include: **The Manoel Theatre, Palazzo Castellania, Dar l-Ewropa, Great Siege Square, World Children's Day Festival (President's Palace), the Palace courtyard, Inauguration of St. George's Square (Valletta), MCI Monday Ovations (Le Meridien Hotel, St. Julians), Gozo International Celebration (GIC) (Qala Parish Church, Gozo), *Milied Flimkien* (St. John's co-Cathedral, Valletta and the *Basilica of the Blessed Virgin of Ta' Pinu in Għarb, Gozo*), Christmas on Campus (**University Chapel**), the annual Soirée (JC Auditorium), **The Point Shopping Mall, Tigné, Learning Expo (Hilton Malta, Portomaso), Intrapriża Malta (MFCC, Ta' Qali), National Book Festival 2013 (MCC), and Christ the Saviour Church, Għasri** – the smallest village in Gozo!**

This year, it is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup>. anniversary since its foundation in 1998. Its first CD will be launched during a commemorative concert at the Fr. Peter Seracino-Inglott Auditorium in Spring 2014.



**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). Awarded the **Grand Prix des Arts** for music composition and conducting at the 8<sup>th</sup>. 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 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*. Mro. Pirotta is also bandmaster of the *Soċjetà Mużikali San Ġuzèpp of Hamrun*.

# *Programme*

Gregorian chant  
O little town of Betlehem  
Stille Nacht

Away in a manger  
In Dulci Jubilo  
Hark the herald  
Ding dong merrily on high

## **Magnificat Choir**

Soloists: Karol Grima, John Paul Buttigieg, Mickayla Mizzi, Melanie  
Grima, Felicity Ann Xerri, Roberta Xuereb

## **Archpriest's Message**

I have a dream - Abba arr. Richard Clayderman

## **Pianist Matthew Tabone**

Te Deum (H. 146) - Trumpet Prelude - M. A. Charpentier (1643-1704)  
Gesù Bambino - Pietro Alessandro Yon (1886-1943)

## **Soprano Rosabelle Pavia**

**The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra**

Ave Maria - Bach

## **Soprano Ruth Portelli**

accompanied by pianist Mro John Galea

Christmas March - Manoel Pirotta (b. 1962)  
Prelude in D minor BWV999 - J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

## **Stefan Chircop - Guitar Solo**

**The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra**

## **Feature**

O Holy Night

**Soprano Patricia Buttigieg**

accompanied by organist Noel Gallo

Ave Maria – Beyoncé Knowles

**Soprano Roxana Xuereb**

accompanied by pianist Matthew Tabone

Sanctuary of the Heart (Méditation Religieuse)

- Albert W. Ketèlbey (1875-1959)

Cantique de Noël - Adolphe Adam (1803-56)

**The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra**

Let it be - John Lennon and Paul McCartney

**Pianist Matthew Tabone**

A Marshmallow World - Peter De Rose (1900-1953)

Halleluyah - Leonard Cohen (b. 1934)

**Soprano Rosabelle Pavia**

Our Father - Albert Hay Malotte

**Soprano Ruth Portelli**

accompanied by pianist Mro John Galea

Panis Angelicus

**Soprano Patricia Buttigieg and**

**Tenor Rev. Joseph Zammit**

accompanied by organist Noel Gallo

**Bestowing of 'The Horace Mercieca Award'**

**Presentation by Artist Anthony Patrick Vella**

Romance - Anonymous

**Stefan Chircop** - Guitar Solo

Mille Cherubini in Coro - Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

**The University of Malta Junior College Orchestra**



**PATRICIA BUTTIGIEG** was born in Melbourne, Australia, in 1992. The family returned to their native island of Gozo when she was two, ever since she has been living in the village of Qala.

She attended Qala Primary School and Aguis de Soldanis Secondary School, followed by post-secondary studies at Sir M. A. Refalo. Now she is studying for a degree in 3D, product and interior design at the Institute of Art and Design in Malta. Also, for the past four years she has been tutored by Soprano Miriam Cauchi.

Patricia started singing with the Magnificat choir, and at the age of three being the youngest member. She is still a member of the choir, which is directed by Canon Dr Joseph Zammit, and in 2008 sang at the Westminster Cathedral in London during the Malta Day celebrations. She was encouraged to sing as a soprano by Canon Rev. Dr. Joseph Zammit, who instructed her for her very first solo during the 2009 Easter Edition of the Gozo International Celebration. In August 2011, on the eve of the Assumption feast, a small group from the Magnificat Choir held a concert in Sicily at the Messina Cathedral in front of a large audience. Patricia sang various solos including Gounod's Ave Maria.

In January 2009 she joined the Gaulitanus choir, which is directed by Mro Colin Attard. In December 2010 they performed in Firenze, and she has also sung as a soloist in various other concerts organised by Mro Attard.

In May 2010 she also joined the youth choir, singing on stage for H.H. Pope Benedict during his visit to Malta.

Last year she joined the Menhir Qala folk group as their main singer and has been performing with them at various events in and around Malta and Gozo, and in August 2012 at various locations in Agrigento, Sicily.

A proud moment was when she sang together with Can Rev Fr Joe Zammit at the opening of the Russian Chapel at the President's Palace.

Patricia also performed with the choirs of two operas which were held at the Aurora Theatre in Gozo, firstly in Aida in 2009 and then Turandot in 2012.



**RUTH PORTELLI** was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1989 and resides in Victoria, Gozo. She attended Qala Primary School and at the age of 11 she attended Aguis de Soldanis secondary school. Ruth proceeded with her studies at Sir M.A. Refalo School before continuing her studies at the University of Malta following the course B.A. Maltese & Spanish Studies.

Ruth was recognized as a singer at the age of four during a prize day at school. From then onwards, she competed in various festivals in Gozo and even in Malta and won several of them. She took part in various concerts, namely, the editions of the Gozo International Celebration (GIC) in Qala, the Nadur Christmas Concert, the Qala International Folk Festival (QIFF), and had also accompanied the well-known tenor Aldo Busuttill as a guest singer during his concert last year.

At the early age of 11, she started taking part in popular operas at the Aurora Theatre in Gozo, such as, Carmen, Turandot, Nabucco, Fedora, La Forza del Destino, La Bohème, Aida, amongst others.

Moreover, Ruth is a soprano soloist in the well-know Gozitan choir Chorus Urbanus directed by Mro. Dr. John Galea. She had the opportunity to sing abroad in major countries such as Slovenia, Lanciano in Italy, Vrnjacka Banja in Serbia, Czech Republic, Greece and London.

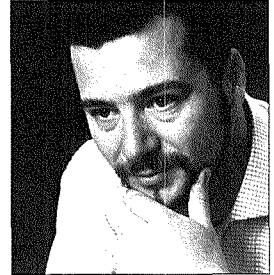
She was the first one to receive the Horace Mercieca Award, given during one of the GIC edition. In 2010, she made it to the final of the Malta Eurosong with the song Three Little Words where she placed 8<sup>th</sup>.



**ROXANA XUEREB** was born in Sibiu Bucharest in Romania on the 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **ANTHONY PATRICK VELLA**

I was born in Valletta, Malta, in 1961. There I lived surrounded by the highest form of Italian baroque art expression, foremost among these being St. John's Co-Cathedral of the Knights of Malta where I also attended religious functions. These have left an indelible mark on me, not only visually but also deep in my interiority. This association between the senses and the spiritual elevates art to the sublime.



In 1972 I attended the School of Art at Palazzo De La Salle for several years where, amongst other things, I obtained my first prize in Design, a prize that was sponsored by Farsons, a prestigious firm on the island. I started frequenting the Museum of Fine Arts in 1975 to do restoration work under the expert direction of Fr Marius Zerafa O.P., then Director of Museums.

I soon felt attracted towards design, focusing on form and space. In 1980, I studied architectural design in the morning and graphic design in the evening. Meanwhile, I even worked on architectural details of several designs for a prominent Maltese artist, Frank Portelli. I also worked on creating a market image for consumer products that are still marketed up to the present day.

After I finished my studies I went to Italy where I worked within a team of artists, designers and architects. Here I met the architect Nuccio Lo Castro while working at the Museum of Ethno-Anthropology of Nebrodi. My work experience with Nuccio LoCastro consolidated my own ideas about museum design, mainly that museums should serve not only as an educational place or simply as a place housing a collection of priceless objects but also as a place of contemplation where one's thoughts can run wild. It should be a place where one can learn, relax, meet, socialize and participate. In other words, the museum should be an interactive place where a kinaesthetic experience may be enjoyed.

It was also during my stay in Italy that I met Maria Rita, who after four years became my wife. After marrying, we decided to return to Malta. We have two daughters, Maria Roberta (born 1990) and Simona (born 1994). In 1988 I started working for the firm Raniolo & Bencini Architects and Civil Engineers. I worked on various prestigious projects that were entrusted to them. Later I was Art Director in an advertising agency. It was here that I became interested in the pedagogical aspect of communication. I furthered my studies in this area in Florence.

Since 1994 I have worked as a freelance designer specializing in museum design but also working on corporate identity image, designing interiors and teaching art and design. I am also a member of the International Council of Museums. This work gives me the opportunity to share my ideas with others and in this process lose and rediscover them in a fresher way. I believe that it is in this bringing together we can build an ideal environment where the human person, both body and spirit, may live in harmony with itself and the environment.



Since early childhood, Gozitan Soprano **ROSABELLE PAVIA** has been very much attracted to the stage and was regularly involved in local productions of Operettas and stage shows. In her late teens she started training her voice in production and technique under the tuition of Sop. A. Miggiani, furthered her studies with Mezzo Sop. E. Thomas Jones and attended Master Classes conducted by Madam Dobrev. Her latest vocal coach was Milan-based Guliette Bizazza Zanni. She has been in the local Classical music scene as a free-lance soloist ever since.

This talented Soprano has sung in Concertos, Oratorios, Operettas, Musicals and Operas, in all our leading theaters - both in Malta and Gozo alongside artists of National and international caliber. Some of the Operatic roles she has interpreted are: Contessa di Coigny (**Andrea Chenier**), Flora Bervoix (**La Traviata**), La Grande Sacerdottessa (**Aida**), Clotilde (**Norma**), Giovanna/Contessa di Cogni/Paggio (**Rigoletto**), Corra (**La Forza del Destino**), Anna (**Nabucco**), Kate Pinkerton (**Madam Butterfly**), Inez (**Il Trovatore**) and Dama (**Macbeth**).

In 1992 she was **sponsored** by the Bank of Valletta to **represent Malta** in the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in **Wales**. She successfully placed fifth amongst twenty-one international sopranos.

Rosabelle has a keen interest in television and radio broadcasting - for over a year she presented a weekly, two hour Classical Music programme on Radio Calypso. She used to sing the ever popular *Gzira tal-Holm*, closing signature tune of P.B.S. programme, *Ghawdex Illum* for over ten years. In the summer of 1998 she was awarded the *Palma tad-Deheb* award for outstanding achievement by the Saint Lawrence Cultural Committee. For several years she was a very active member in the Cultural Council for Gozo - originating and organizing Classical Music activities such as *Nwar Muzikali* and *Ghall-Kenn tal-Hara d-Dejqa* which had become regular annual events in Gozo's Musical Calendar. She has sung under the baton of various renowned Musical Directors, the latest being Mro. Marco Frisina renowned composer and director of sacred music at the Vatican. She has also appeared as a guest singer in the *Miss Turismo Europeo* Competitions, held in Sicily and televised on *Rai Uno* and sang in the televised Eighteenth Edition of "Miss Model of the World" held at 'The Window of the World', China. She was 'The Headmistress' in the musical "Cindy" and 'Carmela' in the world premiere concert performance of the musical "Besieged". She also featured in the TV series 'Marvin' as a supporting actress. In the summer of 2011 she was asked to join the 'Marie Therese Vassallo Choir' on their trip to Wales as a Guest Soloist and again in the summer of 2012, this time to Havant, UK. Last year she formed part of the casting committee and assisted Mro M. Gauci in preparing the choir for the live-orchestral school production of "Anne of Green Gables" which was successfully performed in April. She has a Voice Studio where she teaches vocalisation and technique and loves to organise, present and sing in Concerts featuring her students! Rosabelle is now again an active member in the Gozo Cultural Committee and in the *Wirt Ghawdex Committee* and loves to encourage and promote young artists through activities organized by these committees. She specialises in wedding-mass hymns and spot entertainment.

Her vast repertoire includes Sacred, Classical, Semi-classical, Neapolitan, Italian, English and Maltese songs.