



A. M. Mangion Group

25

*YEARS OF
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY*

On the occasion of its 25th Anniversary



A. M. Mangion Group

is proud to present an

Operatic Concert

with the participation of



Leader: Nadia R. DeBono

Conductor
Michael Laus

Soprano
Miriam Gauci

Bass
Ugo Guagliardo

Saturday 26th April 2003 at 8.00pm
Manoel Theatre, Valletta
under the distinguished patronage of
H.E. Prof. Guido de Marco, President of Malta

Sunday 27th April 2003 at 8.00pm
Manoel Theatre, Valletta

 **A M Mangion Ltd**

 **ALPHAMED**


AMACOL


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has made great strides forward. They have raised, in no small way, the standards of music in Malta with performances that have graced our theatres, much to the delight of the ever-increasing music loving public.

Miriam Gauci has established herself as a leading Soprano in the international circuit having appeared in the more important houses worldwide. Her debut with Pouleni's *La Voix Humaine* in 1984 at the Teatro Comunale di Bologna, threw open the doors of other important opera houses in Europe and America. Her many recordings include various opera and other works from the classic repertoire.

Ugo Guagliardo made his debut in 1998 in Scontrino's *Gringoire* at Teatro Politeama, Palermo. He was then selected by the Fondazione Teatro Massimo for roles in *Manon Lescaut* and *Eugenio Onegin*. He participated in a cultural exchange between Operalab and the city of Detroit, studying at the Michigan Opera Theatre. His next engagement is with the Teatro Massimo in Verdi's *Macbeth*.

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of the A.M. Mangion Group of Companies, it is a great pleasure for me to welcome all our guests for this evening of entertainment to commemorate our silver anniversary.

We are honoured to be associated with this formidable group of accomplished artists for the celebration of our 25th Anniversary.

These past 25 years have witnessed the A.M. Mangion Group grow rapidly in the Healthcare sector from pharmaceutical importation to general hospital supplies, including the installation and maintenance of medical equipment, in both Malta and North Africa.

I wish you a very pleasant evening. I have no doubt that it will be an excellent performance that will certainly be remembered as a major cultural event.

The companies A.M. Mangion Ltd, Alphamed Ltd and Amacol Consult have become synonymous with the mission 'Promoting Health Care' and this success has been followed by diversification into Information Technology and Communications with the setting up of Amatech Ltd, Keyworld Ltd and our VOIP service One Voice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our past and present members of the Group, as well as all those who have extended their support and contributed to our success.

We look to the future with great enthusiasm and determination.

Alfred M. Mangion
Chairman

Similarly, over the past years, the National Orchestra

CONDUCTOR'S PROFILE

Michael Laus - Conductor



After his early musical training in Malta, Michael Laus won a scholarship from the Italian Cultural Institute which enabled him to continue his studies in piano, harpsichord, composition, and conducting at the Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi of Milan, where he graduated in 1982. He later participated in master classes in conducting given by George Manahan in the United States.

As a concert pianist Michael Laus has given a number of recitals and piano concertos in Malta. He has also appeared as pianist in prestigious international venues such as Milan's Sala Verdi and the Teatro San Carlo of Naples.

Michael Laus was the Principal Conductor of the Manoel Theatre Orchestra from 1991 to 1997. In 1999, he was appointed Chairman of the National Orchestra, which he regularly conducts. He has been invited to conduct a number of prestigious orchestras such as the

Bournemouth Symphony, the Primavera Ensemble, the Slovak Philharmonic, the New Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Belgrade Philharmonic and the Orquesta Sinfonica de Asturias. He has appeared as Music Director of a number of operatic productions in Malta (*Così fan Tutte*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *La Bobème*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Pagliacci*, *Werther*, *The Maltese Cross*), at the Berne State Theatre (*Madama Butterfly*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *Otello*), and in Oviedo (*L'Amico Fritz*). He has also conducted memorable performances of Mozart's *Requiem* (Benevento Cathedral), Verdi's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Choral Symphony* (Mediterranean Conference Centre, Malta). He is Associate Professor in Music Performance at the University of Malta.

As a recording artist, he has recorded works for the piano and orchestra as well as orchestral music on CD, which have been released on Discover International and Unicorn-Khanchana labels.

SOLOISTS' PROFILES

Miriam Gauci - Soprano

Born in Vittoriosa, Gauci started her vocal training with her aunt, Soprano Hilda Tabone. She continued her studies in Milan where she obtained the Diploma in Singing from the *Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi* and from the *Centro di Perfezionamento Artisti Lirici di La Scala*. Her professors for vocal training were Giulietta Simionato and Lia Guarini.

In 1987 she made her very successful debut in the United States, singing Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* with Santa Fe Opera. That same year, she inaugurated the Los Angeles Opera Season as Mimi in Puccini's *La Bobème* with Plácido Domingo as Rodolfo. Her debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York took place in 2001 singing Mimi in *La Bobème*. At the U.S.A she also performed in San Francisco and Cleveland.

After these successful appearances she then proceeded in appearing in most important international Opera Houses such as *La Scala di Milano*, Firenze, Bologna, *Teatro Bellini* in Catania, Madrid, *Liceu* in Barcellona, Hamburg, Essen, Dresden, Dusseldorf, Dusseldorf, Opera Bastille in Paris, *Theatre du Capitoul du Toulouse*, Marseilles, *Sao Carlo* in Lisbon, Zurich and Geneva. In 1997 Gauci had a great success in Boito's *Mefistofele* under Riccardo Muti at the Vienna State Opera. Together with Riccardo Muti she performed Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* in Vienna commemorating the anniversaries of Verdi and Mahler, which was broadcast live worldwide. She also sang the same work at the NHK Symphony Hall in Tokyo and inaugurated the Salzburg Festival 2002 at the Grosse Festspielhaus under the direction of Riccardo Muti. During these years Gauci appeared regularly in Munich State Opera House singing in *La Bobème*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Simone Boccanegra* followed by huge success in the Summer Festival 2002 singing the role of Elisabetta in the five-act version of Verdi's *Don Carlo* under the baton of Zubin Mehta. With the same conductor she performed at the *Maggio Musicale Fiorentino* singing in Mahler's Second Symphony. Other concert performances that are to be remembered are those at the Musikverein in Vienna with Vladimr Fedoseev, *L'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia* in Rome with George Prêtre. Gauci recorded nine complete operas and several other symphonic works.



Ugo Guagliardo - Bass



Twenty five year old Palermitan bass Ugo Guagliardo made his debut in 1998 in Scontrino's *Gringoire* at Palermo's Teatro Politeama and in Petrassi's *Morte dell'Aria*. He was then selected by the Foundation Teatro Massimo for roles in *Manon Lescaut* and *Eugenio Onegin*. Meanwhile he completed his diploma in pianoforte at the State Conservatory Vincenzo Bellini in Palermo under the guidance of Prof. Aurelia Sagnolo. In 1999, he debuted for Operalaboratorio in Rota's *Una Notte di Un Nevraštenico* and sang and recorded Traetta's *Stabat Mater* for Bongiovanni of Bologna. He also figured in Gnecco's *La Prova di un'Opera seria* and Moore's *The Devil and Daniel Webster*. Contracts at the Teatro Massimo followed in Gregoretti's *Una Favola per Caso*, Puccini's *La Bobème*, Weill's *Lady in the Dark*, and most recently in *Madama Butterfly*. He participated in a cultural exchange between Operalaboratorio and the city of Detroit, studying at the Michigan Opera Theatre. Upon his return he sang in Paisiello's *Il Fanatico in Berlino in Mantova*, Puccini's *La Bobème* in Jesi and debuted as Don Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in Holland and Don Alfonso in *Così fan Tutte* at Teatru Manoel in Malta. Finalist in many International Singing Competitions (As.Li.Co, Tito Gobbi, Giuseppe Di Stefano), he also won second prize in the Lignano Sabbiadoro International Singing Competition. Soon to complete his university studies in philosophy, his next engagement is with the Teatro Massimo for Verdi's *Macbeth*.

Recently he made his debut as Don Giovanni in *Don Giovanni* by Mozart at Teatru Manoel in Malta with M.Michael Laus conductor and M.Mauro Avogadro director.



PROGRAMME

1. B. Smetana
The Bartered Bride
(Polka)

2. G. Rossini
"La Calunnia e' un venticello"
from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*
[Bass]

3. A. Ponchielli
Danza delle Ore
from *La Gioconda*

4. G. Verdi
"Tacea la notte placida ... di tale amor"
from *Il Trovatore*

5. J. Strauss
The Gypsy Baron
(Overture)

6. G. Verdi
"Son giunta! ... Madre pietosa Vergine"
from *La Forza del Destino*
[Soprano]

7. G. Verdi
Scena: "Chi siete? Chiedo il Superiore"
[Soprano, Bass]
Scena e duetto: "Chi mi cerca?
Son io ... Infelice, delusa, rejeta"
from *La Forza del Destino*
[Soprano, Bass]

PROGRAMME NOTES

Bedrich Smetana (1824-1884) **The Bartered Bride (Polka)**

Bedrich Smetana began work on his folk comedy, *Prodaná Nevesta* (The Bartered Bride) in 1863 and completed it on March 15, 1866. He was forty-two at the time and in good health, showing no signs of the deafness and insanity which were to plague him later in life. Following its world premiere at the Provisional Theatre in Prague on May 30, 1866, conducted by the composer himself, *The Bartered Bride* immediately established itself internationally, quickly becoming a shining symbol of the unique spirit of the long-oppressed people of Czechoslovakia. The libretto, by Karel Sabina (1813-1877), is set in rural Czechoslovakia offering a classic story of three 19th-century young people who have strong desires, obstacles and challenges as they come of age within an insular community with strong traditions and customs. In writing *The Bartered Bride*, Smetana used his young characters as symbols of rising Czech nationalism and of the Czech people seeking to re-define themselves and to break away from Austro-Hungarian authority. This is not to suggest that Smetana's writing is political or pedantic for *The Bartered Bride* is filled with charm, poignancy and sentiment as well as captivating music. Smetana's huge melodic and orchestral gifts range from simple folk-like tunes to genuine operatic arias with vocal and dramatic range. The Polka encountered towards the end of Act I, a highly spirited Bohemian dance, had its origins in a series of early Wedding Scenes for piano (written in 1849).

Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868) **"La Calunnia è un venticello" from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia***

Gioacchino Rossini occupied an unrivalled position in the Italian musical world of his time, winning considerable success relatively early in his career. His successful 'Italian' period (1810-1823) was followed by another period of success in Paris that led to his final opera, *Guillaume Tell*, staged in Paris in 1829. Of Rossini's operas, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (The Barber of Seville) is probably the best known. It is based on the first play of the *Figaro* trilogy by Beaumarchais, on which Mozart had drawn thirty years before in Vienna. Based on a libretto by Cesare Sterbini, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* is a comic opera in two acts, rich in melody and abounding in good spirits and brilliant climaxes. As the go-between for Count Almaviva and Rosina, Figaro comically and consistently fools the suspicious Dr. Bartolo, who has eyes for Rosina himself. In the twists and turns of the plot, and in order to meet her, the good count disguises himself first as a soldier and then as a substitute for Rosina's music master. Despite all obstacles love wins and Count Almaviva manages to marry Rosina. In the second scene of the first act, set in a room at Dr. Bartolo's house, Don Basilio informs Dr. Bartolo that Almaviva is Rosina's new lover. He suggests a plan to discredit him by calumny and sings "La calunnia è un venticello."

Amilcare Ponchielli (1834-1886) **Danza delle Ore from *La Gioconda***

The Italian composer Amilcare Ponchielli is nowadays remembered merely for his opera *La Gioconda* – particularly the ballet music *Danza delle Ore* (Dance of the Hours). Stylistically, *La Gioconda* unites elements of French grand opera – its mass scenes, grandiose stage effects and ballet inserts – and Italian verismo. Indeed, Ponchielli was considered one of the musical founders of verismo, not only as a composer but also as the tutor of Mascagni and Puccini. Albeit under the easily decipherable pseudonym of Tobia Gorrio, the libretto of *La Gioconda* was written by Arrigo Boito. Boito transposed the action of Victor Hugo's play *Angelo, the Tyrant of Padua* to Venice and incorporated a great deal of local color by choosing well-known settings for the action. The depiction of the characters through leitmotifs and the topics of love, intrigue, power and death were models for the style of operatic verismo later established by Mascagni and Leoncavallo. *La Danza delle Ore* is the famous episode in the third act of this opera when an entertainment is staged by one of the characters for his guests, symbolizing the conflict between darkness and light.

PROGRAMME NOTES

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) **"Tacea la notte placida ... di tale amor" from *Il Trovatore***

The action of the four-act opera *Il Trovatore* is set in the environs of Zaragoza, the capital of the Kingdom of Aragon, and in the mountains of Vizcaya (Biscay), around 1412. Unfortunately the story (libretto by Salvatore Cammarano and based on *El Trovador* by Antonio García Gutiérrez) has often led to confusion owing to the fact that it does not consist of a single plot, but rather of three separate, intertwining sub-plots – war, love and revenge. The scene (Act I - Scene 2) is set in the gardens of the palace of Aliferia where Leonora – a lady-in-waiting for the Princess of Aragon – confides to her servant Inez how at a tournament she had placed the victory wreath on the head of an unknown knight in black armour. Soon after, civil war erupted in the country. She did not see him again until she heard someone serenading her in the garden and to her surprise the troubadour was in fact the unknown knight. Despite Inez's doubts, Leonora admits that she has fallen in love with this handsome stranger while singing the cavatina "Tacea la notte placida ... di tale amor."

Johann Strauss (1825-1899) **The Gypsy Baron (Overture)**

Johann Strauss (the younger) wrote some sixteen operettas between 1871 and 1897. Of these, *Der Zigeunerbaron* (The Gypsy Baron) remains one of the most popular and is only second in order of popularity to *Die Fledermaus*. Strauss wrote *Der Zigeunerbaron* – an operetta in three acts – in 1885 to a libretto by Ignaz Schnitzer after Mor Jokai's novel. Its first performance took place at the Theater an der Wien in Vienna on October, 24 that same year. The operetta combines comedy, costumes and love stories with complete operatic performances and enjoyable orchestra numbers. The storyline follows Sandor Barinkay, who left home as a young boy and returns to find everything abandoned and controlled by gypsies. And through his trials and tribulations with love and war, he tries to prove himself a worthy gypsy baron. Strauss introduces *Der Zigeunerbaron* with an overture of the expected brilliance while the rest of the operetta uses gypsy melodies and exotic harmonies to capture the Hungarian flavour of its subject.

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) **"Sono giunta! ... Madre, pietosa Vergine"**

"Chi siete? Chiedo il Superiore" , "Chi mi cerca? Son io ... Infelice, delusa, reietta" from *La Forza del Destino*

La Forza del Destino is an opera in four acts with a libretto by Francesco Maria Piave after 'Don Alvaro o La Fuerza del Sino' by Angel de Saavedra. Located in Italy and Spain around the mid-19th century, the story reveals Leonora (the daughter of the Marquis of Calatrava) and Don Alvaro (her half-Indian suitor) preparing to elope when her father enters the room to stop them. He has opposed their marriage because of Don Alvaro's mixed ancestry. As a sign of surrender Alvaro throws his pistol to the floor which discharges and the Marquis is wounded fatally. Leonora escapes and goes to a monastery to repent and spend her last days. Her brother, Don Carlo, has vowed to hunt her and Alvaro down and kill them to vindicate his father's death. Carlo and Alvaro meet in Italy during the war, and before the former can extract his vengeance, Alvaro escapes. In anguish, Leonora – disguised as a man – seeks refuge at the Convent of our Lady of Angels and while giving thanks to God, she calls upon the merciful Virgin to forgive her sins ("Sono giunta! ... Madre, pietosa Vergine"). Leonora then goes to the convent and is welcomed by Fra Melitone ("Chi siete?"). She asks to see the guardian father ("Chiedo il Superiore") and her wish is fulfilled. Padre Guardiano asks who the stranger is ("Chi mi cerca?") and Leonora reveals her true identity to him ("Son io ... Infelice, delusa, reietta"). She goes to a hermitage not far from the convent. The guardian father warns the friars that no one may go near that place and he exhorts the others not to violate the girl's secret.

A.M. MANGION GROUP OF COMPANIES

AM Mangion Ltd

A. M. Mangion Ltd. was founded in 1978 and since then has grown into a leading Healthcare company in Malta. Since its early days of activity, the company's objective has always been one of improving the quality of life of all patients who require medical attention. Thanks to the quality of its professional representatives as well as the innovative products of research marketed by its principals, A. M. Mangion Ltd. has managed to achieve this leading position in a relatively short time.

A. M. Mangion Ltd. provides the medical profession with the best products and technology available, thus facilitating the diagnosis and treatment of any life-threatening illness at an early stage. This professional service also reaches pharmacists and other healthcare professionals, both in the private and public sectors. A.M. Mangion Ltd.'s vertical integration into pharmacy ownership also provides it with an extension of its services directly to the community. The beauty and bodycare section of A.M. Mangion Ltd. enhances this overall aspect of individual well-being.



Amacol Ltd. is concerned with the manufacture and export of Veterinary Medicated Specialities to a variety of countries around the world.

Amacol started as a joint venture with Hoffman-La Roche in 1989 to market its medicated speciality range of products in North Africa. After a period of considerable growth, the company has invested heavily and matured into an independent manufacturing concern, with its own range of branded products and a greatly increased portfolio.

Amacol supplies a comprehensive range of standard multivitamin and anti-infective products in liquid and powder form, disinfectants, as well as customised formulations. Amacol products are of a high quality with excellent stability characteristics geared towards maximizing animal performance and reducing losses due to disease and the variety of stresses encountered by commercial livestock.



Alphamed Ltd. was established in 1995 and is concerned with the supply of products and services to health care markets overseas. Today, Alphamed provides client-oriented solutions to healthcare professionals in the form of one-stop shopping as well as providing advice on how to utilise budgets without compromising on quality. Alphamed's long established relationships with leading multinational manufacturers ensures that we can offer a broad product base which meets the varied requirements of the modern hospitals and health centres. The services and maintenance support team is composed of professionals being either engineers or university-trained people with numerous years of experience in the various medical and medical-engineering fields. Alphamed provides its services to various types of healthcare institutions, such as Ministries of Health, Public as well as Private Clinics, General and Specialised Hospitals and Medical Laboratories.

A.M. MANGION GROUP OF COMPANIES



Established in 1978, Amacol Consult has provided a complete range of Consultancy Services to the pharmaceutical and Medical industry in overseas territories, particularly North Africa.

Amacol Consult is actively involved in organizing conferences, seminars, workshops, clinical assessments and other educational activities mainly directed at the medical profession. This scientifically based education provides constant information to doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals and ensures that the patient obtains the best medical attention provided by the world's leading pharmaceutical and medical suppliers.



Amatech Limited is a Total Solutions Provider of Information Technology, operating both in Malta and overseas. By utilising market leading products and an innovative approach to service, Amatech has earned a reputation for providing clients with comprehensive solutions to all their Information Technology requirements.

Amatech takes pride in offering a complete range of services including: Consultancy, Hardware Supply, Migration, Project Management, Network Design and Implementation, Training and various Support Services. Due to the extensive market knowledge, product specialization and experience of Amatech's sales and technical teams, clients are guaranteed to acquire the latest technological solutions.

This is further enhanced by the excellent partnerships with world-class manufacturers, providing affordable equipment at the cutting edge of technology.

Using Amatech's many years of experience in networking design, information systems, business critical applications and Internet / Intranet connectivity, Amatech Limited can offer comprehensive consultancy services at all levels within these sectors.



Keyworld Ltd. is one of Malta's leading Internet service providers. It was in fact the first ISP to commence operations in Malta after being granted a licence in 1995. A founder member of the Malta Internet Exchange, the organisation was also awarded the "Quality in People" award in December 1997.

Keyworld constantly invests in a young, well trained and extremely motivated workforce. Each member of its staff derives personal pride in consistently listening to customers' needs and resolving their problems. Keyworld's focal point is its customer base. Keyworld makes it a point to treat its customers as partners, thereby encouraging them to grow with the Company. This approach has been successful to the point that Keyworld performs several support functions not usually undertaken by ISP's.

Entry into the Voice Telephony market with its ONE VOICE brand has been a success and Keyworld is currently the market leader in this field.



ORKESTRA NAZZJONALI

The present orchestra – formerly known as the Manoel Theatre Orchestra – was founded in April 1968. This was constituted of a number of musicians who previously formed part of a chamber orchestra in the employ of the Commander-in-Chief of the British Navy (Malta) that was disbanded that same year. The Manoel Theatre Orchestra became the orchestra in residence of the same theatre and regularly performed opera and symphonic concerts under the direction of its resident conductors Joseph Sammut and later Michael Laus.

As from September 1997 this orchestra became an independent body and subsequently known as the National Orchestra of Malta. It is the only official full-time orchestra in Malta. The National Orchestra's main events consist of a concert season at the Manoel Theatre and the Mediterranean Conference Centre. It also participates frequently in opera productions held in the Maltese islands.

The National Orchestra made its first appearance

abroad in November 2001 in Belgium where it performed a concert at the City Hall in Brussels under the direction of Michael Laus. This event was one of the various cultural activities organised by the Malta Tourism Authority to coincide with Belgium's European Union presidency.

In December 2001 the National Orchestra, in collaboration with the Manoel Theatre and Operalaboratorio (Palermo), marked its second successful appearance abroad when it performed in a production of Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* at Palermo's Teatro Orione.

The orchestra has worked with a number of guest conductors such as Peter Stark, Paolo Ponziani Ciardi, Rene Clement and Jonathan Butcher.

Numerous prestigious soloists who have appeared with the orchestra include Ghena Dimitrova, Alexander Rudin, Miriam Gauci, Sergei Glavatsky, David Campbell and Cecilia Gasdia.

Orchestra Members

Flutes

Rebecca Hall,* Helen Wills

Oboes

John McDonough,* Federico Comoli

Clarinets

Joseph Camilleri,* Tony Galea

Bassoons

Archibald Mizzi,* Mario Micallef

Horns

Emanuel Spagnol,* Alfred Spagnol,
Etienne Cutajar, Bernardette Cassar

Trumpets

Kevin Abela,* Sigmund Mifsud

Trombones

Roderick Bugeja,* Dennis Camilleri,
Jesmond Azzopardi

Tuba

Paul Borg*

Timpani

Joseph Camilleri*

Percussion

Renzo Spiteri, Emanuel Busuttil

Harp

Caroline Calleja

Organ

Simone Attard

1st Violins

Nadia DeBono,** Stephen Galea, Andrew
Borg, Mario Micallef, Rosanne Dimech, Fiona
Giambra, Natalia Filipenko, Roberta Attard

2nd Violins

Stephen Zammit,* Susan Borg, Mario Ciantar,
Stephen Debattista, Graziella Mizzi, Matthew
Fenech

Violas

AnnMarie Chetcuti,* Guido Mamo, Savio
Debono, Mario Frendo

Violoncellos

Valeriu Popovici,* Mario Psaila, Freddie
Tonna, Angelica Galea

Double Bass

Carmel Lino Cremona

** Orchestra Leader * Section Leaders

