



# A Look Inside La Vincitrice Band Club 1871 And The Surrounding Area



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**A** strong part of Maltese culture is bonded with band clubs. These form an integral part of every city, town and village within the Maltese Islands. Senglea boasts one of the oldest; officially, La Vincitrice was formed in 1871 however, the forming of bands in our city goes back further. The historic, maritime city of Senglea (Isla) has welcomed new residents to its moorings for hundreds of years. In more recent time the non-Maltese community is growing very fast. People moving to a new area, especially from abroad, must often wonder what makes their chosen new home tick.

Of course, without a shadow of doubt, the Church holds the main umbrella for the spiritual needs, closely following are all the clubs and organisations. The Football Club, which this year is going to be playing in the top tier of Maltese football, the Regatta Club with so much history relating to the sea, two Political Clubs which obviously serve as a platform for their parties, the Museum, a religious organization for both girls and boys started by Malta's very own Saint, Dun George Preca, with strong Senglea connections, the Catholic Action Group, the Salesians' community which has become an integral part of our community and assists within the Parish as well as running a very successful Youth Club. It is well to note that the Salesians have always been in the forefront for hosting events organized by the Foreigners Group. Altogether these clubs make Senglea what it is, a jewel in the crown of the Maltese Islands. Soċjeta' Filarmonika La Vincitrice AD 1871, stands as the Flagship of Senglea located, as it is, in the centre of the City.

The Band has seen some very great times, becoming renowned as one of the top on the Island.

There is no getting away from the fact that our Band has suffered especially during the 2nd World War when the club, like the majority of the City, was bombed and destroyed. Many treasures within it, including historic data, were lost forever. Luckily a number of the elderly statesmen and historians born and bred in Senglea have recorded facts and memories for us and posterity. La Vincitrice prides itself as being also a philanthropic society and is always in the forefront in fund raising for deserving causes. Through the year, a number of concerts and exhibitions are held which yield substantial amounts for deserving causes. Our Club boasts one the best snooker tables on the Island with a number of top Maltese players registered with the Club. Its two international standard billiard tables are open for use by everybody for very modest fees. The Club President, Committee and all members always welcome visitors to our social hub within our City; all residents are welcomed to become members. This can be done by a direct approach to anyone connected with the Club; in the very near future we are planning events which would involve the community as a whole.

Senglea's titular feast of our Lady of Victories on the 8th of September demands a lot of work from the Band Club.

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The now well established free concert to honour our Bambina, which is held on the 5th of September, is becoming renowned all over the Maltese islands. This should be marked on the social calendar of every resident. The days leading to the feast include the traditional parade of Malta standing Victories' Statue which is led by our Band through the streets till it is hoisted onto its platform. This symbolizes the victory of Malta in the Great Siege of 1565. The day before the feast, the morning band march known as

tat-Te Deum takes place. This is a joyful, traditional, and colourful event - hundreds follow and make merry.

I have just given a flavour of La Vincitrice's standing within our community. I encourage all the non Maltese speaking residents, who have made our maritime historic City their home, to integrate within our community so that, by bringing together different social skills, we can improve the quality of life of our unique Walled City.

***Il-President, flimkien mal-Kumitat tas-Socjeta Filarmonika La Vincitrice A.D. 1871, jixtiequ jistiednu lil kulhadd biex jfehvu schem fil-festa ta' din is-sena u b'mod speċjali fil-programm tal-banda tal-5 ta' Settembru li jsir j1-8.30 p.m., kif ukoll fil-marc tat-Te Deum, nhar is-7 ta' Settembru, li jsir j1-10.00 a.m.***



***The President and Committee of the Socjeta Filarmonika La Vincitrice A.D. 1871, would like to extend their invitation to everybody to participate in this year's feast celebrations and in particular in the band's programme which will be held at 8.30 p.m. of the 5th September as well as the tad-Te Deum band march which will be held on the 7th September at 10.00 a.m.***

