



Manoel Baroque Festival 2001

From 4-11 May 2001, the Manoel Theatre hosted a series of exciting events in connection with the Manoel Baroque Festival, which included a wide range of activities of all things Baroque - two opera concerts, recitals, lectures, and a tour of Mdina.

The setting was perfect - a Baroque theatre in one of the finest Baroque cities, bursting at its seams with Baroque tradition. When Baroque music is making a comeback in Europe, it is so appropriate for this theatre to be poised on the crest of this new wave, luring local and foreign music lovers to the island, and giving a boost to its cultural tourism.

The festival was a collaborative effort between Malta's national theatre, Teatru Manoel, the International Institute for Baroque Studies, and supported by the Istituto Italiano di Cultura.

The events of the festival included an exhibition on Baroque theatre which featured original designs and drawings by Romano Carapecchia. Among the musical events was the Johann Adolf Hasse (1699-1783) Concert by the Affetti Musicali of Budapest on period instruments and a concert of sacred music by Carissimi, Hasse and Scarlatti at the Basilica of St George in Rabat, Gozo.

The two popular operas *Tracollo* and *La Serva Padrona* by Pergolesi were performed by L'Offerta Musicale di Venezia, directed by Riccardo Parravicini. ■