

FESTIVAL

MANOEL BAROQUE FESTIVAL 2003

The Manoel Baroque Festival is a biannual event that was organised for the first time in May 2001. Following the success of the first festival, a second edition is now scheduled for May 2003.

The festival will take place over a period of 10 days, and consists of a selection of artistic events related to the Baroque period, including musical concerts, drama, a choir performance, an opera, vocal concerts, and walking tours of Baroque sites of interest.

Three cultural bodies have joined forces to organise these events - the Manoel Theatre, the International Institute for Baroque Studies at the University of Malta (IIBS), and the Koperativa Kulturali Universitarja (KKU), which is the cultural arm of the University of Malta. The festival is being planned and organised together with a committee that includes four official foreign representatives in Malta. Dr Petra Bianchi, research assistant at IIBS, is co-ordinating the project.

The festival theme in 2003 is 'Triumph over Death: a Baroque Celebration'. As part of the festival, IIBS is organising a one-day seminar on this topic on Monday 5 May at St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity in Valletta.

The Festival Programme is printed on page 19 of this newsletter.

DRAMA

Play to be staged at the Manoel Theatre on 2,3 May 2003 performed by Theatre Anon (Malta) and directed by Jes Camilleri 'The Knight of Malta'

by Philip Massinger, John Fletcher & Nathaniel Field

Philip Massinger was one of the great British Jacobean dramatists, and a direct contemporary of William Shakespeare. The drama 'The Knight of Malta' was jointly written by Massinger, Fletcher & Field, and first appeared in print in 1646. 'The Knight of Malta' is set in Malta and centres around a fight between Grand Master Valette and the Turks. The plot is not based on real historical events, but instead adapted from Boccaccio's Filiciclo to Hospitaller Malta. The hero of the drama is the young Knight Miranda, and the plot revolves around the theme of betrayal and a lady named Oriana - described as the sister of the Grand Master 'Valletta'.

VOCAL CONCERT

Vocal Concert to take place at the Manoel Theatre on 5 May 2003 performed by the Ensemble Baroque de Nice (France)

"autour de la Mort de Didon"

Cantate de Michel Pignolet de MONTECLAIR (1667-1737)

Violon, flute, violoncelle, ou viole de gambe, theorbe, clavecin

Soliste: Claire Brua, mezzo-soprano

5 musiciens, 1 soloiste

Director: Gilbert Bezzina

OPERA

Opera to be performed at the Manoel Theatre on 10,11 May 2003

Conductor: Petr Wagner (Czechoslovakia)

'Dido and Aeneas' by Henry Purcell (1659-95)

'Dido and Aeneas' was first produced in 1689 with a libretto by Nahum Tate, and is widely regarded as the greatest English opera to emerge from this period. It tells the story of a queen abandoned by her lover, and the superb score blends French-style music with Italian formal arias, as well as a recitative style drawing on English declamatory traditions. Dido's famous final lament follows the model for such compositions established by Monteverdi some 80 years earlier.

CONCERT

Vocal Concert to be performed at the Manoel Theatre on 8 May 2003

Conductor: Petr Wagner (Czechoslovakia)

'Actus Tragicus'

Mourning cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach

- Trauer-Ode 'Lass, Fürstin, lass noch einen Strahl' BWV 106
- Actus Tragicus 'Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit' BWV 198
- 'Der Herr denket an uns' BWV 106

Soprano, alt, tenor, bass

VOCAL CONCERT

Vocal Concert to be performed at the Manoel Theatre on 4 May 2003 by the London Baroque Ensemble (UK), with Emma Kirkby

Henry Purcell (1658-1695)

Pavanne and Chaconne (Z 752, 730)

Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

Seconde Lecon de Tenebres pour le Mercedy

Saint pour soprane et basse continue

J.J. Froberger (1616-1667)

Tombeau (fait a Paris sur la Mort de Monsieur Blanchrocher)

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Coelestis dum spirat aura

Motet for soprano, two violins and basso

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Trio sonata in g (Dresden)

Andante - Allegro - Largo - Allegro

Marin Marais (1656-1728)

Tombeau pour Mr de Ste Colombe

Deuxieme Livre 1701

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Agrippina condotta a morte

Cantata for soprano and strings

CONCERT

Organ Recital to be performed at the Mдина Cathedral on 6 May 2003

By Marco Fornaciari & Francesco Finotti (Italy)

3 Sonate di J.S. Bach

Concerto per Violino (Marco Fornaciari) e Clavicembalo (Francesco Finotti)

THEATRE & MUSIC

Staged Concert to be performed at the Manoel Theatre on 7 May 2003

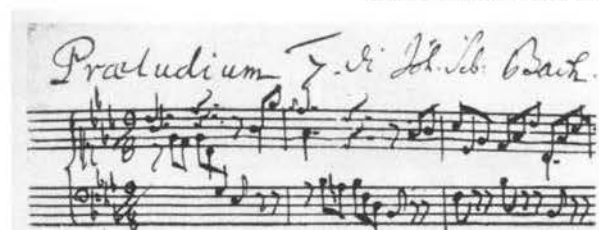
Directed by Guido Barbieri and Sandro Cappelletto (Italy)

'FARINELLI':

the life and song of Carlo Broschi

Admired and almost acclaimed as divine during his career ("one God, one Farinelli", enthused the English public), Farinelli is old and in poor health, surrounded by small objects, such as a snuff box and a letter, which remind him of the past. These memories evoke his Voice, which materialises by his side and sings the arias that gave him his greatest successes.

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CONCERT

Concert to be performed at St. John's Co-Cathedral on 7 May 2003

Conductor: Joseph Vella (Malta)

This concert of sacred music by Maltese composers spans the years 1600 to 1750, and includes representative works from the Early, Middle and High Baroque. The music is scored for a wide variety of vocal combinations – solos, duets, trios, quartets, chorus and double chorus – and is indicative of the high standard of music making existing in Malta at the time. It flourished mostly in the two most prestigious capellas on the Island – that of St. John's Co-Cathedral in Valletta (the seat of the Grandmasters) and that of St. Paul's Cathedral in Mdina (the seat of the Bishops).

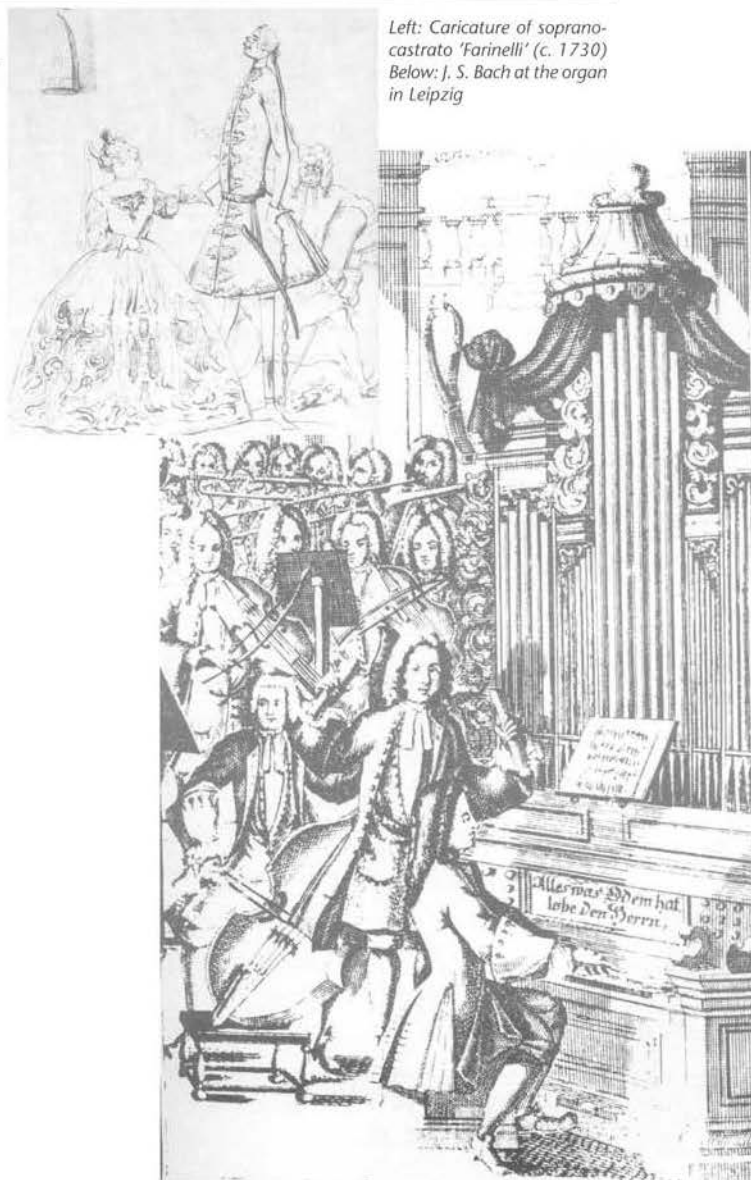
Not surprisingly, the compositions betray a close affinity to contemporary Italian musical styles and ideals. At that time, not only were well-known Italian singers and musicians regularly 'imported' to give their services in either one of the afore-mentioned cappellas, but talented Maltese students were invariably sent to finish off their musical studies in Italy. During the Baroque period, Malta can almost be regarded as another centre of Italian music making, in the same way as Naples and Palermo.

- G. Balzano *Ego Ille* (Soloists, Choir & Ensemble)
 G. Balzano *Adiuvo Vos* (Soloists, Choir & Ensemble)
 G. Balzano *Jesu Redemptor Omnium* (Choir)
 Anon *Curre ad Virginem* (Cantus Solo)
 A. Mataron *Salve Regina* (Cantus, Altus, Tenor)
 Anon *Jubila Propera Festina* (2 Cantus & Ensemble)
 M.A. Vella *Salve Sancta Parens* (Choir)
 P. Gristi *Kyrie* (Choir & Ensemble)
 P. Gristi *Beatus Vir* (Bassus Solo, Choir & Ensemble)

WALKING TOURS

Three walking tours are being organised during the festival by the International Institute for Baroque Studies:

- 'Mdina', on 6 May 2003
- 'Baroque Churches of Valletta', on 7 May 2003
- 'Baroque Gozo', on 9 May 2003



Left: Caricature of soprano-castrato 'Farinelli' (c. 1730)
 Below: J. S. Bach at the organ in Leipzig

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Programme

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
Fri 2 May 2003	Play: 'The Knight of Malta'	Teatru Manoel
Sat 3 May 2003	Play: 'The Knight of Malta'	Teatru Manoel
Sun 4 May 2003	Concert: London Baroque, UK	Teatru Manoel
Mon 5 May 2003	1. Symposium 2. Exhibition Opening 3. Ensemble Baroque de Nice	1. St James Cavalier 3. Teatru Manoel
Tues 6 May 2003	1. Walking Tour: 'Mdina' 2. Organ Recital: Finotti & Fomaciari	2. Mdina Cathedral
Wed 7 May 2003	1. Walking Tour: 'Baroque Churches of Valletta' 2. Choir concert: Mro Joseph Vella 3. 'Farinelli'	2. St John's Co-Cathedral 3. Teatru Manoel
Thurs 8 May 2003	Concert: Petr Wagner	Teatru Manoel
Fri 9 May 2003	1. Walking Tour: 'Baroque Gozo' 2. Concert	2. Gharb Church, Gozo
Sat 10 May 2003	Opera: Purcell – 'Dido & Aeneas'	Teatru Manoel
Sun 11 May 2003	Opera: Purcell – 'Dido & Aeneas'	Teatru Manoel