



# KorMalta Programme 21/22



## Riccardo Bianchi

Artistic Director  
& Chorus Master



# Welcome to the new season of KorMalta - Malta National Choir

It is an immense pleasure to present this season, which flourishes after a challenging period for everyone.

I would like to briefly underline the most characteristic features of this season, and mark some important news.

This year we have organised choir artist auditions, receiving 63 applications from Malta and abroad, a truly encouraging response.

On the local level, we are proud to have received renewed trust from the choir artists who have worked with us over the years and agreed to audition again, a process that marks the will to grow with ever greater professional involvement.

On the international level, we have selected some choristers from abroad, a testament to the fact that KorMalta is seen with interest even overseas.

In general, through its National Choir, Malta is professionally recognising its talents, a process which is still in its embryonic phase, but which must absolutely grow in the future. There are great professionals in the musical field that with the further growth offered by KorMalta could find a fair recognition of their acquired skills.

Another important reality in this regard is the introduction of a Program of Voice Leaders in

our choir. We are proud that the choir works with professionals in the field in the most technical aspects of vocality, so as to be able to work with specificity of sound on each type of repertoire.

The season we present is the result of an intense activity of the artistic team and the working committee. The most important result achieved for the choir is that every concert for this season will be a collaboration with another body or artistic institution. On this point, I would like to put a strong emphasis, since it is the practical demonstration that the choir is a cultural infrastructure that meets the interest of different partners and therefore of different sectors of society.

This is what a choir must be: an organism of cultural representation and an artistic infrastructure that is useful for everyone. Given these premises, our program is naturally based on three fundamental pillars: Education, Internationalisation, and Community. The ground on which these pillars rest is the professional and professionalising approach that leads the choir to be able to sustain a varied season in which all types of choral repertoire are faced.

With all our strength we wish to contribute to nourishing the cultural and spiritual progress of the nation.

**Enjoy the Music.**





# Requiem op. 48

by Gabriel Fauré

*"Everything I managed to entertain by way of religious illusion I put into my Requiem, which moreover is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest."*  
(G. Faure)

KorMalta, in collaboration with the Malta International Organ Festival, presents this choral masterpiece in its string orchestra version, without violin, organ and harp.

**DATE** 20 NOVEMBER 2021

**TIME** 8.00PM

**VENUE** ST. FRANCIS' CHURCH, VALLETTA

**Genre & year of composition**

Romantic period, 1889

**Formation**

Version for Chamber Orchestra, Choir (SATB)

**Soloists**

Soprano, Baritone, Organ

**Conductor**

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

**Malta International Organ Festival**





**DATE** 26 NOVEMBER 2021  
**TIME** 8.00PM  
**VENUE** SPAZJU KREATTIV, STUDIO B,  
VALLETTA

# Dante Project

## The “Commedia” in Music

On the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the death of the “Divine Poet”, KorMalta presents an allegorical musical journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise.

The Choir will sing from the choral repertoire pieces that directly use Dante's lyrics while declaiming the original verses of the comedy. An experimental project, the Dante Project is a crossover of musical genres and art forms.

### **Genre**

A Cappella, from renaissance to contemporary

### **Formation**

A Cappella

### **Soloists**

Baroque Guitar & Baritone: Albert Buttigieg

### **Conductor**

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

**Spazju Kreattiv**





# Messiah HWV 56

by George Friedrich Händel

KorMalta is proud to return to the prestigious Valletta International Baroque Festival. At the direction of the orchestral and choral team, we will have one of the most renowned experts of the English Baroque repertoire, for a production that promises to deliver an accurate and exciting performance.

**DATE** 18 JANUARY 2022  
**TIME** To be confirmed  
**VENUE** ST JOHN'S CO-CATHEDRAL, VALLETTA

**Genre & year of composition**  
Baroque, 1741

**Formation**  
Orchestra, Choir (SATB) and continuo

**Soloists**  
Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass

**Conductor**  
Christian Curnyn

In collaboration with  
**Valletta International Baroque Festival,**  
**Valletta International Baroque Ensemble**





# The Birthday of King Oberon

A Musical Fantasy based on  
**THE FAIRY QUEEN**  
by Henry Purcell

KorMalta will embark on an interesting collaboration that marks the Choir's first steps in the world of motion picture industry, through The Musical Fantasy, with the working title The Birth of King Oberon, written by Lydia Steier.



## **DATE & TIME**

FEBRUARY & MARCH: To be confirmed

## **VARIOUS VENUES**

To be confirmed

## **Genre**

Movie Soundtrack

## **Formation**

Choir (SATB)

## **Music Consultant**

Jorn Andersen

## **Chorus Master**

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

**LyRa Production Limited**

# Membra Jesu Nostri Bux WV 75

by Dieterich Buxtehude

KorMalta will perform Dietrich Buxtehude's Membra Jesu Nostri Patientis Sanctissima ("The Most Holy Limbs of Our Suffering Jesus") accompanied by the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble. The piece is a contemplation of seven parts of Christ's crucified body: his pierced feet, bent knees, bleeding hands, wounded side, revered breast, loving heart, and thorn crowned face. Combining vivid texts with intensely expressive music, they were, according to the title page, a personal act of piety where pain is felt through sounds, moments of total peace and abandonment.



**DATE** 25 MARCH 2022  
**TIME** 8.00PM  
**VENUE** SPAZJU KREATTIV, VALLETTA

#### **Genre & year of composition**

Early Baroque, 1680

#### **Formation**

Orchestral Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble (SSATB) and continuo

#### **Soloists**

Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto, Tenor, Bass

#### **Conductor**

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

**Spazju Kreattiv,  
Valletta International Baroque Ensemble**



# Membra Jesu Nostri BuxWV 75 by Dieterich Buxtehude

On the occasion of the second performance of the famous oratorio of Buxtehude, KorMalta proposes a complete performance with a choral team of 15 elements, 5 soloists, and a complete baroque orchestra. At the end of the performance will be available to the public as an exhibition, the works of seven artists who have worked on the seven corresponding parts of the body, for a crossover and a synergy between different forms of art.



**DATE** 2 APRIL 2022  
**TIME** 8.00PM  
**VENUE** MDINA CATHEDRAL

#### **Genre & year of composition**

Early Baroque, 1680

#### **Formation**

Chamber Orchestra: 2 Violins, Violas, "Viole da gamba", Lute, Chamber Choir (SSATB) and continuo

#### **Soloists**

Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto, Tenor, Bass

#### **Conductor**

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

**Mdina Cathedral,  
Valletta International Baroque Ensemble**







**DATE** 19 APRIL 2022  
**TIME** 8.00PM  
**VENUE** ST PAUL'S PRO CATHEDRAL  
ANGLICAN CHURCH, VALLETTA

**Genre & year of composition**

A Cappella, Historical twentieth century

**Formation**

Mixed Choir (SATTBB)

**Soloists**

Flamenco Guitar, Soprano, Tenor

**Conductor**

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

**International Spring Orchestra Festival**



A refined programme of 20th century vocal music from the Mediterranean basin; Italy, Spain, Greece and Malta.

Half the repertoire is based on poetry by Gabriele D'Annunzio, Saffo and Federico Garcia Lorca set by Pizetti, Castelnuovo Tesco and Clausetti, while the second consists of adaptations from Luciano Berio's acclaimed Folk Songs and rearrangements from Andrew Alamango's Malta's Lost Voices project by Karl Fiorini.



# Edith Cavell,

## an Opera by Paolino Vassallo

KorMalta is proudly involved in this local high quality opera production of Paolino Vassallo's "Edith Cavell". This is a masterpiece featuring the choir as an important dramaturgical character in the participative collaboration of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.

**DATE** 14 MAY 2022  
**TIME** To be confirmed  
**VENUE** PJAZZA TEATRU RJAL, VALLETTA

**Genre & year of composition**  
Opera, first performance 1927

**Formation**  
Symphonic Orchestra, Soloists, Choir

**Soloists**  
Opera Cast

**Conductor**  
Dario Salvi

In collaboration with  
**Pjazza Teatru Rjal,**  
**Malta Philharmonic Orchestra**







# Musical Banquet

Music and food have always had a very close relationship, not only for the most obvious association of banquet music, but also for the most refined sense of musical composition that can be compared to the creation of a haute cuisine menu. This double relationship has been investigated over the centuries, and KorMalta would like to recreate this synergy, using historical recipes combined with music of the period, offering the public music and food for a certainly tasty evening.

**DATE** 27 MAY 2022  
**TIME** To be confirmed  
**VENUE** SPAZJU KREATTIV, VALLETTA

**Genre**  
Multidisciplinary

**Formation**  
Vocal Ensemble (SAATB)

**Conductor**  
Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with  
**Spazju Kreattiv,**  
**Valletta International Baroque Ensemble**





# Sunrise Mass

by Ola Gjeilo

**DATE** 18, 19 JUNE 2022  
**TIME** 5.20AM  
**VENUE** MNAJDRA TEMPLES, QRENDI

## Genre & year of composition

Symphonic, Multidisciplinary,  
Contemporary, 2007

## Formation

String Orchestra, mixed Choir (SSAATTBB)

## Conductor

Riccardo Bianchi

In collaboration with

**ZfinMalta,**  
**Heritage Malta,**  
**Malta International Arts Festival**  
**Festivals Malta**

Sunrise Mass is a project which for the first time brings national entities KorMalta, Zfin Malta, and Heritage Malta together to promote Malta's status as a cultural tourism destination through a common artistic project of high symbolic value.

Ola Gjeilo's renowned Sunrise Mass for chorus and string orchestra is an exceptionally light and moving piece; it conveys the composer's modern and original take on the centuries-old tradition of sacred music. The event will take place at dawn at the Mnejdra Temple during the summer solstice.







# International Masterclass for Choir Conductors

Another important initiative on the sides of education and internationalisation, KorMalta will be the workshop choir for young international choir directors for an intense week of study with an international Maestro for a Masterclass of High Specialization.

## **DATE & TIME**

JULY: To be confirmed

**VENUE** MIKIEL ANTON VASSALLI COLLEGE,  
MALTA SCHOOL OF MUSIC, HAMRUN

## **Formation**

20 choristers

In collaboration with

**ECA – European Choral Association**





[www.kormalta.mt](http://www.kormalta.mt)

