



The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra

For half a century, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra has been Malta's leading musical ensemble.

The orchestra was founded in April 1968, when musicians from the defunct "C-in-C" orchestra of the Malta-based British Mediterranean Fleet regrouped as the Manoel Theatre Orchestra. It continued to serve as the theatre's resident

orchestra until September 1997 when it became independent, taking up the name National Orchestra of Malta in the process. The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra assumed its present name in 2008, when it was expanded into a full-size symphony orchestra bringing together the best of Maltese talent and musicians from Europe and beyond.

Joseph Sammut, the C-in-C's last conductor, became the Manoel Theatre Orchestra's first conductor, remaining at the helm until 1992. Since then, the orchestra has been under the direction of Joseph Vella, Michael Laus, and Brian Schembri, with Mro Laus continuing to serve as the MPO's resident conductor. The MPO also works with local and international guest conductors including; Lawrence Renes, Michalis Economou, Sergey Smbatyan, and Gergely Madaras.

As Malta's leading cultural institution and only professional orchestra, the MPO is in high demand, averaging more than one performance a week. These include; symphonic concerts, opera productions in Malta and Gozo, community outreach and educational initiatives, as well as various concerts of a lighter nature.

The MPO is proud to represent Maltese art and culture on the world stage. Since first touring abroad in 2001, the orchestra has performed in 11 countries across 3 continents. The MPO presently embarks on at least one international tour each season, with recent tour concerts in prestigious halls such as the Berliner Philharmonie Germany, and the Musikverein Austria. In late 2018, the MPO will tour the USA and Russia, with concerts including Carnegie Hall, New York, and the Mariinsky Theatre, St. Petersburg. 2018 tour concerts have been broadcast on Mezzo TV.

At home and abroad, the MPO collaborates with international soloists, conductors, and ensembles on both musical and multidisciplinary projects. Recent collaborations include Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with the choir of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and 'Crystal Palace' with the dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet.

The MPO has a number of recordings to its name. These include a CD featuring works by Maltese composer Charles Camilleri for record label Naxos, as well as two CD series published by Cameo Classics; Music of the 19th Century Jewish German Composers, and British Composers Premiere Collection. Its' latest recording is a CD featuring the music of Polish composer Alexandre Tansman, released by the CPO Label earlier this year.

The MPO is a keen exponent of Maltese composers. Apart from regularly performing their works in Malta and overseas, it also frequently premieres and commissions new compositions.

Through the MPO Academy and the Malta Youth Orchestra - which itself regularly gives concerts across Malta, the MPO is also responsible for the training and professional development of the next generation of Maltese musicians. At the same time it is actively involved in organising educational programmes for children, through workshops and special performances.

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