

17th Edition  
*Gaulitana*  
A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC



23<sup>RD</sup>  
MAR  
21<sup>ST</sup>  
APR  
2024

IMMERSE  
YOURSELF  
IN A TIMELESS<sup>S</sup>  
MUSICAL  
EXPERIENCE



WEEK 2

# <sup>17th Edition</sup> *Gaulitana* A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Gaulitana: A Festival of Music is an annual springtime international festival, now established as a major artistic endeavour in Malta. Organized by the Gaulitanus Choir, the festival's *raison d'être* is to create a platform seeking to enrich Gozo's cultural output in the leaner months of the year.

The festival's team, spearheaded by Artistic Director Colin Attard, yearns to contribute towards transforming Gozo into an island of creativity. Presenting a multifarious programme of events, the month-long event is held in localities around Gozo. International and local artists star in an eclectic mix of musical styles as the multi-dimensionality of Gaulitana extends to the non-musical artistic disciplines involved.

Boasting an impressive list of performing artists of international repute along the years embodying the ethos of quality, the festival's Artist-in-Residence concept is particularly apt for an arts organization aspiring to inspire and promote collaboration. This edition joins celebrations around the world commemorating the musical legacy of Giacomo Puccini on his 100th death anniversary.

Gaulitana features an OPERA+ Weekend, a 3-day cultural bonanza of quality events intrinsically linked with an operatic production. Evening and lunchtime concerts, vocal and instrumental recitals, talks, and exhibitions are some of the others formats explored. GAULearn is the educational holistic programme running in parallel alongside the festival kindling a cultural ecology.

Gaulitana is supported by the Investment in Cultural Organizations – Gozo of Arts Council Malta and the Ministry for Gozo and Planning.

***“Gozo’s main classical music festival” The Sunday Times of Malta***

***“A major classical music festival” Musical Opinion magazine (UK)***

***“Gaulitana and Gozo absolutely deserve a visit” OperaClick portal (Italy)***

17th Edition  
*Gaulitana*  
A FESTIVAL OF MUSIC



SAT  
20<sup>TH</sup>  
APR  
19:30



100 *Puccini* / *a* BOHÈME  
COLIN ATTARD Conductor ENRICO CASTIGLIONE Director

[www.teatruaurora.com](http://www.teatruaurora.com)



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
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AND PLANNING



March not only brings back Spring but also Gaulitana: A Festival of Music. Indeed, the month-long festival returns with a 17th edition which promises to be yet another exciting journey!

As always, whilst visiting 11 locations around Gozo, exposing contrasting yet charming heritage landmarks, the festival aims to engage with a wide array of patrons, presenting a most-varied

programme. Concerts aimed for the more “traditional” aficionados are interspersed with events targeting broader audiences. We will bridge over to different, at times exotic, cultures with a line-up of artists and music from afar, even from Kazakhstan and China, - whilst offering a showcase platform for local talent.

Our endeavour culminates with an event that stretches a small organisation as ours to its limits - the production of Puccini’s best-loved opera *La Bohème*. The work is a tale of love, youthful exuberance, hardship, sacrifice, sickness – indeed a celebration of life and death ... no wonder its timeless appeal!

This operatic production, no doubt, mirrors the festival’s international outlook. We shall also join the musical world in commemorating the 100th anniversary of Puccini’s death by presenting an exhibition of the composer’s memorabilia in collaboration with Lucca’s Fondazione Giacomo Puccini.

Whereas the festival has been regularly managing to reach out and collaborate in a number of successful ventures abroad, the Gaulitanus Choir’s and its Gaulitana Festival’s ethos remains firmly rooted in aspiring to enrich the local creative ecology. This is, perhaps, mostly evident in the festival’s intensive educational programme, GAULearn, through which we encourage youngsters to enjoy, appreciate and perform music. Surely, offering all events for free (except the opera obviously) contributes in no small way towards our mission to attract new and wider audiences to the cultural scene.

Yet, offering this exciting cultural bonanza should not be taken for granted. It entails lots of foresight, planning, commitment, and endless hours of commitment to actually make it happen. Indeed, I have to express my gratitude to all our partners and collaborators for their unwavering support, whilst at the same time extending my heartfelt and sincere thanks to all my colleagues for their disinterested efforts.

We have given our all; now it is your turn to “immerse yourself in a timeless musical experience”!

*Colin Atford*  
Artistic Director

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# OPERA @ GAULITANA

## MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION

*(Open until 21 April, Viewing Hours: All Day)*

*Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz*

As Gaulitana joins celebrations around the world commemorating the 100th death anniversary of Puccini, this multimedia presentation trails the journey of the festival in opera along the years, showcasing the full-scale productions and audio-visual online series produced by the festival as well as related activities to the genre.

A milestone for Gaulitana was the full-scale production of the opera *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini as part of the 2014 edition. Heralding a new scope and outlook from a local and international perspective, this endeavour bolstered the festival's status as a pioneering force within the local creative ecology.

Becoming a staple feature within the cultural bonanza offered during the festival, the opera represented the zenith of the festival's activities, as the concept of OPERA+ Weekend was developed, presenting three days of quality events intrinsically linked to the production.

Following on *Tosca*, Gaulitana explored a number of renowned and less-interpreted oeuvres, from *Madame Butterfly* to *Manon Lescaut*, from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* to *Norma*. Memorable highlights include the grand scenery for *Tosca*, Rigoletto's costumes, Nico Darmanin in the title role for *Il Barbiere* alongside Marina Comparato – casted together again earlier this year at La Fenice (Venezia)-, the return of Miriam Gauci to live opera starring as *Madame Butterfly*, the Ggantija-inspired sets for *Norma*, presenting *Manon Lescaut* after an absence of 30 years and last year's *Traviata* “greeted by an enthusiastic audience”.

The pandemic-induced hiatus offered the festival the opportunity to exploit digital platforms. The audio-visual productions *Viva Verdi* and *Viva L'Opera* presented operatic scenes filmed around Gozo, adding a further perspective to the island's intrinsic link with the genre. Streamed online, the series garnered 210,000 and 228,000 views respectively.

Another landmark in the activities of the festival was the performance of the Gaulitanus Choir for *La Bohème* at the prestigious Teatro Antico in Taormina in 2017. Marking the first ever participation of a Maltese choir in a production held overseas, the opera was transmitted live in 580 European cinemas to a viewership of over 60,000 people.

Hence, taking cue from Italian magazine OperaClick, Gaulitana and this presentation “absolutely deserves a visit”.

# SOIRÉE MUSICALE

## FORTE TRIO Piano Trio

Mon 1 April, 19.30hrs, Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

### PROGRAMME

**Trad Kazhak song**

**Yapurai**

**Ludwig van Beethoven**  
(1770-1827)

**Piano Trio in B Flat Major, Op. 11**  
*Allegro con brio | Adagio | Tema con variazioni*

**Bedřich Smetana**  
(1824-1884)

**Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 15**  
*Moderato Assai | Allegro, Ma Non Agitato | Presto*

**Ilia Bashkatov**  
(b.1992)

Ән шашы (Musical Fantasy on Kazakh songs)



# FORTE TRIO

## PIANO TRIO



The State Trio of the Republic of Kazakhstan comprises international competition prize-winning artists Maksat Jussupov (violin), Murat Narbekov (cello) and Timur Urmancheev (piano, founder/ Artistic Director of the ensemble).

The Trio's repertoire ranges from baroque music to modern jazz compositions as well as Kazakh folk and classical music, an intrinsic part of the artistic endeavours of the ensemble.

They have graced the stage in international music festivals, performing in prestigious venues such as the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatoire, the Berliner Philharmonie and the Shanghai Concert Hall within an intense touring schedule with concerts in France, Italy, Finland, Malta, Germany and China, amongst others.



# DIALOGHETTI

PIERRE LOUIS ATTARD Violin

MILICA LAWRENCE Piano

*Fri 5 April, 11.15hrs, Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz*

## PROGRAMME

**Carl Maria von Weber**  
(1786-1826)

**Violin Sonata in F Major, Op. 10 No. 1**  
*Allegro | Romanze. Larghetto |*  
*Rondo. Amabile*

**Maria T. von Paradis (attr.)**  
(1759-1824)

**Sicilienne**

**Marlene Moore**  
(b.1946)

**Shouts From An Old, Rosewood Piano**

**David F. Urrows**  
(b.1957)

**Sarabande** from A Midsummer Night's Dream

**Siegfried Strohbach**  
(1929-2019)

**4 Kleine Geigenstücke**  
*Tanzende Dreiklänge | Solveigs Abendlied |*  
*Der Fünferpizz | Parademarsch*

**Bohuslav Martinů**  
(1890-1959)

**Intermezzo, H.261**  
*Moderato | Poco Allegro | Lento | Poco Allegro*

**Pawlu Grech**  
(1938-2021)

**Due Melodie**  
*In Sol Maggiore | In Mi Minore*

**Alexander Vella Gregory**  
(b.1984)

**Violin Sonata**  
*Allegro Molto | Hemda | Tema u Varjazzjonijiet*

# PIERRE LOUIS ATTARD

## VIOLIN



Born in a highly-musical family, Pierre Louis Attard has been defined as “one of the most promising and accomplished local violinists of his generation”. Graduating as an Ian Tomlin scholar with first-class honours from the Edinburgh Napier University, he received the Hebberts Prize awarded to string players. A BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation scholar, he subsequently graduated with a Master of Music degree with Distinction in violin performance at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama.

With a busy performing schedule, Attard appeared as a soloist both locally with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra as well as abroad, including in Italy, Romania and Austria. He regularly plays with the MPO, and in the past years formed part of the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra and led the Royal Welsh Chamber Orchestra and the Malta Youth Orchestra, amongst others. He features regularly as soloist with the Gaulitanus String Orchestra under the musical direction of his father Colin Attard.

Attard also plays the viola and currently teaches violin at the Gozo Visual & Performing Arts School as well as reading for a masters degree in education. 2023 also marked his debut as a conductor, leading an all-strings programme.

# MILICA LAWRENCE

## PIANO



Milica Lawrence completed her piano and harpsichord studies at the Faculty of Music Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, specializing in chamber music and receiving her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree (DMA). She attended masterclasses with many distinguished Serbian and international artists such as Sergei Dorensky, Jegor Chugaev, Pavel Nersessian, Huguette Dreyfus, Egon Mihajlovic, Olivera Djurdjevic, Yuri Kot and Maria Luisa Baldassari.

Milica has won many prizes for solo and ensemble performances at domestic and international competitions. She has also held a great number of solo recitals and chamber music concerts both in the country and abroad (Italy, Switzerland, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Macedonia, Libya, etc.). Notably, her recital at the Italian Cultural Centre in Tripoli is noted as the first concert by a Serbian pianist in Africa. She has participated in reviews of modern classical music as well as in festivals *BEMUS*, *OKTOH*, *Cello Fest* and *Basomanija* amongst others.

Milica has performed extensively as orchestral pianist and throughout her career collaborated with many renowned artists - Sreten Krstic, Uros Lajovic, Dmitry and Alexander Sitkovetsky, Charles Zachary Bornstein, Milos Petrović. With the Chamber Orchestra Mokranjac, the FILUM Orchestra, and the Schlesinger Orchestra, Milica also performed as a soloist.

Milica has worked for fifteen years as an independent artistic collaborator at the String Department at the Faculty of Philology and Arts in Kragujevac, Serbia.

In 2019 she moved to Malta and opened *The Malta Piano Academy* while maintaining an active soloist career at the same time and working at the *Mikiel Anton Vassalli*. In August 2022, Milica organised the first ever *Malta Piano Festival* in Gozo. She is currently working on her very first digital and printed magazine in Malta, *Pianist.mt*.

# 6-STRING RHYTHMS

GIORGIO ALBIANI | ADRIANO RULLO Guitar Duo

*Sat 6 April, 20.00hrs, Sant' Antnin Church, Ghajnsielem*

## PROGRAMME

**Federico M. Torroba**  
*(1891-1982)*

**Suite Castellana**  
*Fandanguillo | Arada | Danza*

**Joaquín Turina**  
*(1882-1949)*

**Sevillana (Fantasia), Op. 29**

Adriano Rullo

**Santiago de Murcia**  
*(1673-1739)*

**Fandango**

**Francisco Tárrega**  
*(1852-1909)*

**Capricho árabe**

**Roland Dyens**  
*(1955-2016)*

**Saudede No. 3**

Giorgio Albani

**Dilermundo Reis**  
*(1916-1977)*

**Vê Se Te Agrada**

**Dilermundo Reis**

**Magoado**

**Egberto Gismonti**  
*(b.1947)*

**Agua y vino**

**Astor Piazzolla**  
*(b.1947)*

**Lo Que Vendrá**  
**Adiós Nonino**  
**Oblivion**  
**Zita**

**Eduardo Timpanaro**  
*(b.1957)*

**Marea**

Guitar Duo

# GIORGIO ALBIANI | ADRIANO RULLO

## GUITAR DUO



Giorgio Albani is a guitarist, composer and multimedia artist with academic training in Paris and at the Conservatoire Luigi Cherubini in Florence, winning first prize with distinction at the Concours d'Exécution and Concours de Concertisme in composition and electronic music.

Albani has performed in numerous theatres around the world, including the Salle Cortot in Paris, the Morgan Library in New York and the Sala Nervi in the Vatican, performing the Concerto de Aranjuez. Additionally, he participated as soloist in the 2019 Eurovision Christmas Concert. He is arranger and guitarist of the vocal trio i Viulàn, with whom he won the EMI Silver Disc for ethnomusicological research.

Albani has collaborated with many renowned musicians and groups, including the string quartet Fonè, the ensemble Guitares de Paris, the guitar quartet Opera Nova and the DuotanGO. He has also composed soundtracks for productions of well-known houses such as Garzanti, Materiali Sonori, CGD, Rai and Mediaset.

Albani is carrying out artistic and scientific research projects with Marco and Monica Morricone's Armonica Onlus, the Department of Rare Diseases at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, the Nemo Foundation in Milan, the Galileo Museum and the Polo delle Arti in Florence. He is currently the director of cultural and research activities at the DIMA International Music Academy, based in Francesco Petrarca's birthplace in Arezzo, and holds the chair of guitar and delegate for internationalisation at the conservatoire in Florence.

# GIORGIO ALBIANI | ADRIANO RULLO

## GUITAR DUO

Adriano Rullo studied guitar in Rome, Barcelona and Paris, winning the Concours d'Exécution in 1992 and receiving recognition at the prestigious Concours International de Radio France.

His extensive concert career includes solo and orchestral performances at notable festivals across France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, and Argentina, including a memorable solo recital at Rome's Parco della Musica. He has recorded for Italian television (RAI), French radio (Radio France), and released the album *Danze* for EM Recording.

Rullo also pursued composition studies, becoming a member of the Parco della Musica Contemporary Ensemble in 2008 whilst founding the Ensemble Nonurno Concertante, premiering works by Italian composer Fabio Vacchi. He has also served as Artistic Director for events such as Incontri Musicali di Primavera and Insieme Musica.

As a pedagogue, Rullo held positions in a number of French conservatoires and currently teaches in Avellino. He has been featured in a number of international publications including *Les Cahiers de la Guitare*, *La Repubblica* and *Classic Voice*.

# A JOURNEY ACROSS CULTURES

ALEKSANDRA HAŁAT Piano

JULIA MILLER Piano

*Sun 7 April, 19.30hrs, Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz*

## PROGRAMME

**Moritz Moszkowski**  
(1854- 1925)

**Polnische Volkstänze** (4 Polish Folk Dances)  
*Mazurka | Mazurka | Polonaise | Krakowiak*

**Maurice Ravel**  
(1875- 1937)

**Ma mère l'Oye (*Cinq Pièces Enfantines*)**  
*Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant: Lent |*  
*Petit Poucet: Très modéré |*  
*Laideronnette, impératrice des pagodes:*  
*Mouv't de march | Les entretiens de la belle*  
*et de la bête: Mouv't de valse très modéré |*  
*Le jardin féérique: Lent et grave*

**Francis Poulenc**  
(1899-1963)

**Sonata for Piano Four Hands FP8**  
*Prelude | Rustique | Final*

**Alexandre Tansman**  
(1897-1986)

**Danse de la Sorcière** from *Le Jardin du Paradis*

**Astor Piazzolla**  
(1921-1992)  
(arr. P. Petrof)

**Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas**  
*Verano Porteño | Invierno Porteño |*  
*Primavera Porteña | Otoño Porteño*

**Karl Fiorini**  
(b.1979)

**Maltese Quicky** for piano duet



# ALEKSANDRA HAŁAT

## PAINO



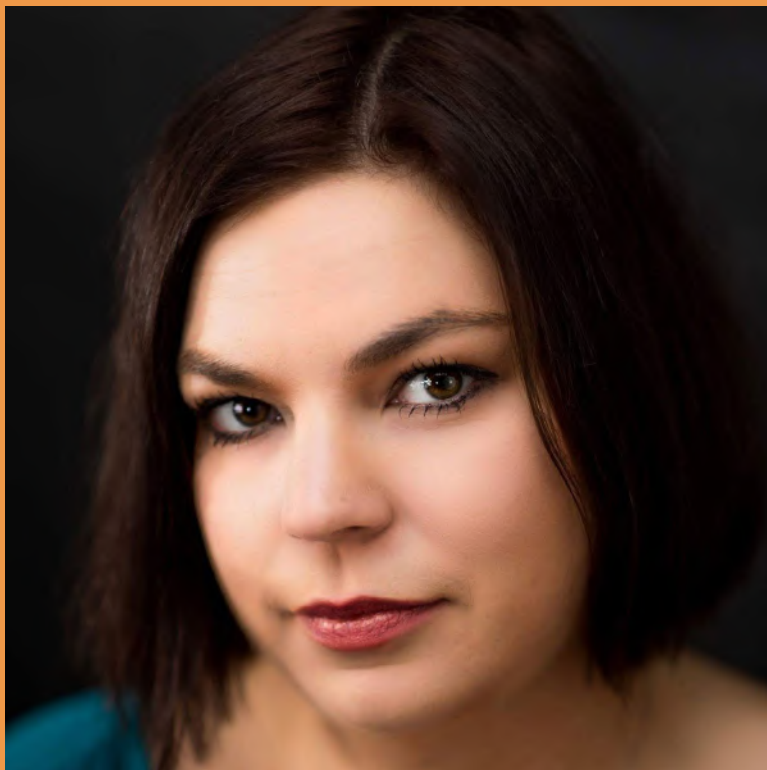
Aleksandra Hałat is a pianist, chamber musician, researcher and lecturer at the Institute of Musical Arts at the University of Silesia (Poland). Pursuing her musical studies in Katowice and Graz, she was awarded scholarships from the American Institute for Musical Studies and Vienna International Pianists.

Hałat is a member of European Chamber Music Teacher Association based in Estonia and authored the publication: *Transcription in Chamber Music as a Space for Pianistic Interpretation*. She initiated the Karol Rathaus Project, seeking to disseminate his works through concerts, lectures and album releases, and co-founded the Karol Rathaus Foundation aspiring to establish “music as a space for creating an interpersonal dialogue”. In 2023, she received a scholarship for her research on the heritage of Jerzy Fitelberg.

Aleksandra Hałat has collaborated with eminent artists performing in New York, Zakopane, Warsaw and Newcastle among others. Her last album, *Illusions*, recorded with pianist Agata Hołdyk and influenced by Balkan and Jazz music was pre-selected for the Fryderyk Award Nomination in Poland.

# JULIA MILLER

## PIANO



Polish-born pianist Julia Miller graduated in piano performance and chamber music from the Music Academy of Lodz. A finalist in a number of competitions, she moved to Malta in 2012 and established herself as a soloist and musical collaborator. She collaborated with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, KorMalta, the Manoel Theatre Youth Opera and performed in several festivals, including the Malta Baroque Festival and the Malta International Spring Festival as well as serving as repetiteur for the Miriam Gauci Vocal Masterclass at Gaulitana.

Since 2019, Miller commenced a series of solo recitals titled 'Julia Miller Plays', playing a wide-ranging repertoire of classical piano pieces, particularly from the Romantic Period. Besides, she teaches at the Malta School of Music working in the piano, vocal and chamber music departments.

In 2022, she created the Valletta-Varsavja-Vjenna project, performing Mozart's D minor Piano Concerto with the Apertus Quartet as well a specifically-commissioned piano quintet by Karl Fiorini.

Currently, Miller reading her DMus at the University of Malta under the supervision of Prof. Michael Laus and Dr Max Erwin focusing on American and Swedish female composers from the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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# FESTIVAL TEAM

## **Executive Chair & Artistic Director**

Colin Attard

## **Director of Strategy**

Marvic Bajada

## **Festival Managers**

Pierre Louis Attard

Jean Noël Attard

## **Administration**

Josianne Callus

## **Operations & Education Programme**

Paul Rapa

## **Arts Consultant**

Joseph Calleja

## **PR & Marketing**

Jamie Buttigieg PR & Comms

Oliver Saliba Digital Marketing

Joanna Pullicino Bookings

## **Design & Publications**

George Mario Attard (Azeegonën Studios) Artwork

Patricia Borg Booklet

## **FOH**

Marie Louise Attard

## **Festival Assistants**

Betty Bugeja

Joanna Sultana

Robert Xerri



## **FURTHER INFO**

[bookings.gaulitana@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.gaulitana@gmail.com) | [www.gaulitanus.com](http://www.gaulitanus.com)

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## FESTIVAL FRIENDS

Betty Berry  
Harald & Julia Winkler  
Tony & Susanne Blogg  
Otto & Laura Dobbeck



# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

SAT 23 MAR - PIE JESU - A SACRED OPENING - St Francis Church, Victoria

SUN 24 MAR - PASSION, LAMENT & GLORY - Sacred Heart Seminary Chapel, Victoria

MON 25 MAR - EUPHONIC PIPES - Rotunda Church, Xewkija

MON 27 MAR - THE GENIUS OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM\* - Hotel Ta' Ċenċ, Sannat

SAT 30 MAR - PIETÀ, SIGNORE - Savina Church, Victoria

SUN 31 MAR - ARIAS FOR EASTER - Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

SUN 31 MAR - OPERA @ GAULITANA<sup>™</sup> - Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

MON 1 APR - SOIRÉE MUSICALE - Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

FRI 5 APR - DIALOGHETTI - Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

SAT 6 APR - 6-STRING RHYTHMS - St Anthony of Padova Church, Għajnsielem

SUN 7 APR - A JOURNEY ACROSS CULTURES - Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

TUE 9 APR - SONATA A DUE - Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

THR 11 APR - EASTERN HUES - Don Bosco Oratory Chapel, Victoria

FRI 12 APR - PUCCINI100\* - Teatru tal-Opra Aurora, Victoria

SAT 13 APR - PIANO DANCES - Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

SUN 14 APR - TIMELESS - Kempinski Hotel San Lawrenz

FRI 19 APR - SUITE A CAPPELLA - Basilica of the Visitation, Għarb

SAT 20 APR - LA BOHÈME by G. PUCCINI\* - Teatru tal-Opra Aurora, Victoria

SUN 21 APR - FINALE - Basilica of the Nativity of Our Lady, Xagħra

Lecture-Recital\* Multimedia Presentation<sup>™</sup> Exhibition\* with Pre-Opera Talk\*

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