

Department of Cultural Affairs, Monaco

## Concerts of Baroque Music 2020

Saint Charles' Church – Monaco – 7.30 p.m.

### Programme

Tuesday 1 December 2020

#### *Misteri Gloriosi*

*The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary in Baroque Italy*

By the *La Fenice Ensemble*

Conductor: Jean Tubéry

Kristen Witmer, soprano

Jean Tubéry: cornett (cornett/cornetto muto) & recorder (flauto)

Sue-Ying Koang: Baroque violin

Jean-Baptiste Valfré: Baroque cello

Mathieu Valfré: positive organ & harpsichord

The *La Fenice Ensemble* will perform works by Frescobaldi, Merula, Fasolo, Cazzati, Cima, Grandi, Florimi and Monteverdi.

Reciting the prayers of the Rosary in honour of the Virgin Mary dates back to courtly practice in the Middle Ages.

Tradition required that a crown or hat ("string") of roses be braided in honour of the beloved and revered Lady. This gave rise to the term *corona* in Italy and *Rosenkrans* in Germanic-Catholic countries, referring to the string of beads or "Rosary," which is counted during the prayers *Ave Maria gratia plena* and *Pater noster*.

In the year 1573, an annual feast day for Our Lady of the Rosary was instituted by Pope Pius V as a sign of thanksgiving for the victory of the Venetian fleet over the Ottoman armada in Lepanto in 1571. This devotion is of medieval origin, dedicated to the joyful mysteries of the Virgin, and would find particular resonance in the Baroque period, for which the painful and glorious mysteries, from Holy Week to the Assumption of the Virgin, represent the very essence of *chiaroscuro*.

The music evokes the Italian Baroque paintings that depict the *Gloriosa Vergine Maria*, surrounded by miniatures representing the five glorious mysteries, from the Resurrection to the Assumption.

The plainsong of the *Laudi del Rosario*, the hymns *per Organo solo* and the motets of the *Stil moderno concertato* will shed light on this period of Marian devotion, which would contribute to the glory of sacred art in Baroque Italy, especially in the Venice of the Doges of the *Primo Seicento*.

*La Fenice* is the name taken by a group of musicians who were brought together in 1990 by the cornett player Jean Tubéry, driven by a desire to share their passion for the sumptuous Venetian music of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The ensemble's repertoire nevertheless extends throughout Europe, covering more than two centuries of music. The members of the *La Fenice* Ensemble are all internationally renowned soloists, who also collaborate with today's leading ensembles.

**Thursday 3 December 2020**

***L'Assunzione della Beata Vergine* - Alessandro Scarlatti**  
**By the *Ensemble Baroque de Monaco***  
**Conductor: Matthieu Peyrègne**

Soloists: Béatrice Gobin, soprano - Aurora Peña, soprano - Mélodie Ruvio, alto.

The *Assunzione della Beata Vergine* is **Alessandro Scarlatti's** last oratorio. Not the last one he composed before he died, but the last one that remained to be discovered, to be resurrected. Matthieu Peyrègne, conductor of the *Ensemble Baroque de Monaco*, discovered a copy of the original manuscript in Germany and undertook to publish it. As the transcription progressed, it became clear to him that it was his duty to immortalise this piece, which turned out to be a true masterpiece.

The completion of this work culminated in 2019 with the release of a disc, which was highly acclaimed by the critics; in particular, it was awarded **5 Diapasons** by the magazine of the same name.

**The *Ensemble Baroque de Monaco*** promotes the most beautiful music from the repertoire of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, striving to recreate forgotten or little-known works that abounded in their hundreds in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century musical scene.

Monaco was a notable place for the Baroque, particularly during the reign of Antoine I, a great art and music lover, who shared his passion with his close friend King Louis XIV.

Monaco was also an essential stopover for artists and composers travelling between France and Italy. One of the primary aims of the *Ensemble Baroque de Monaco* is to recall this aspect of the Principality's musical past.

In 2013, the Ensemble was placed under the direction of Matthieu Peyrègne, a singer and conductor who specialises in early music. It has given many concerts featuring masterpieces from the repertoire, including Handel's *Alcina*, Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes* and Purcell's *Fairy Queen*.

The *Ensemble Baroque de Monaco* draws upon professional instrumentalists and singers from the Monegasque region, as well as from the best Baroque ensembles in Europe (*Les Arts Florissants*, the Namur Chamber Choir, *Concert Spirituel*, *Douce Mémoire*, etc).

*This concert is held with the support of SOGEDA Monaco.*

**Friday 4 December 2020**

**A Musical journey into the Europe of the Enlightenment by Charles Burney (1726-1814).**  
Charles Burney (1726-1814) in Paris and in Venice in 1770

**Nicolas Vaude**, narrator

**Pierre-Éric Nimyłowycz**, violin

**Olivier Baumont**, harpsichord and programme design

Charles Burney (1726-1814) was an English musician, composer and musicographer. His travels in the musical Europe of the Enlightenment have remained famous thanks to his publications, in which he describes his meetings with the composers and performers of his time with great wit and humour. His analysis of the various European artistic styles is often very fine and insightful.

During his first trip in 1770, he visited a large number of French and Italian cities - Paris, Lyon, Geneva, Turin, Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome and Naples ... to name only the best known. Each time, he met fascinating musicians, such as Claude Balbastre, Armand-Louis Couperin, George Frideric Handel, Baldassarre Galuppi and Antonio Vivaldi.

Nicolas Vaude, Pierre-Éric Nimyłowycz and Olivier Baumont have chosen to recall Charles Burney's stays in Paris and Venice on this long journey. This concert with readings intersperses his own personal stories with the music he heard at the time.

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Saint Charles' Church - 8, Avenue Saint-Charles – Monaco

Admission free, subject to the availability of seats

Further Information: +377 98 98 83 03

*In the absence of a special dispensation due to the lockdown in France, this programme is reserved for members of the public who are resident in Monaco. The concert schedule has been adapted to enable residents to attend in compliance with the regulations in force.*