

Rudolf Hradil, Porta Flaminia, watercolour, ca. 2000.

ROMA ÆTERNA

Salzburg Whitsun Festival **21 – 24 May 2021**

(SF, 20 August 2020) ROMA ÆTERNA – in 2021 Cecilia Bartoli and the Salzburg Whitsun Festival pay homage to Rome, the eternal city and her hometown. Rome has long inspired poets, composers, film-makers and painters as a metropolis of many faces: for 150 years Rome has been the capital of modern Italy and has retained its contradictory identities, of proud splendour on the one hand and decadence and decay on the other.

“As someone born in this city, I have always been exposed to these contrasts. When you leave your apartment in the morning in Rome, you never know when your bus will arrive or whether it will arrive at all. Nor can you foresee anything the day will bring. When I was young, I was not aware of the particular fascination Rome has for visitors. For me, it was normal to walk my dog in the park of the Villa Doria Pamphili, to drive my red Fiat Cinquecento around the Colosseum on my way to the Conservatoire, to pass an ancient aqueduct when my train left

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Künstlerische Leitung: Cecilia Bartoli



Termini station. I did not notice the pieces of white marble set into an ancient red-brick wall near my house. Nor did it cross my mind as a ten-year-old singing the shepherd in *Tosca* at the Rome Opera that each of the three acts was set in an actual building I had passed on my way to the theatre. Or rather, I had realized it but did not think of it as anything unusual. The awareness grew when I started to leave Rome for longer periods to follow my profession and as I deepened my knowledge of the arts and music. Suddenly, I felt the intensely moving frisson of being in touch with history when leafing through the autograph manuscript of Bellini's *Norma* at the Santa Cecilia library, when first meeting living members of the Pamphili family, when singing at a church located literally in the Forum Romanum, or when I became the first woman to work with the Sistine Chapel Choir," says the **artistic director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival, Cecilia Bartoli.**



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George Frideric Handel composed his first **oratorio, *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno***, during a voyage to Italy, which brought him to Rome in 1707. The libretto was written by the influential Cardinal Benedetto Pamphili. Handel set the feelings, thoughts and actions of four allegorical persons to music in this oratorio: Beauty (Bellezza), sung by Mélissa Petit – Pleasure (Piacere), sung by Cecilia Bartoli – Disappointment (Disinganno), embodied by Lawrence Zazzo – and Time (Tempo), sung by Charles Workman. Despite the religious and allegorical concept, Pamphili tells the story of Bellezza with psychological realism. *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* is a moving, profoundly human *Jedermann* drama.

The new production of George Frideric Handel's oratorio will be staged by Robert Carsen, who was responsible for the 2004 production of Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Salzburg Festival. Gianluca Capuano conducts, having enjoyed great acclaim for the opera *Alcina* at the 2019 Whitsun Festival. The orchestra, Les Musiciens du Prince-Monaco, was founded by Cecilia Bartoli. The premiere takes place on 21 May at 7 pm at the Haus für Mozart; the second performance on Sunday, 23 May, at 5 pm.



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Poema sinfonico is the title of the **orchestral concert** at the Großes Festspielhaus on Saturday at 11 am, featuring works by Ottorino Respighi and Felix Mendelssohn. Ottorino Respighi paid homage to his adopted hometown Rome: *Pini di Roma – Poema sinfonico* of 1924 is part of his “Roman trilogy” alongside *Fontane di Roma* and *Feste Romane*, and one of his most important works. In four movements, the symphonic poem tells a programmatic tale of the city’s silent witnesses, the Roman pines. The “Italian”, Felix Mendelssohn’s Fourth Symphony which he composed during a tour of Italy, will also be performed during this matinee, just like his Violin Concerto Op. 64 of 1833.

Maestro Zubin Mehta conducts the Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; Maxim Vengerov plays the solo part.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s **opera seria** *La clemenza di Tito* will be performed in concert at the Haus für Mozart on Saturday evening. The opera is set in Rome in AD 79. When the false news of the death of Emperor Tito makes the round at the beginning of the opera, the Capitol is in flames. After Mozart’s music allows the listeners to empathize with the protagonists’ painful inner processes for two acts, during the finale they witness the Emperor’s decision to remain true to his maxim of goodness and mercy. Gianluca Capuano conducts Les Musiciens du Prince-Monaco. The role of Emperor Tito Vespasiano is sung by Charles Workman. Sesto, whose subservience toward the much-desired Vitellia is so blind that he is prepared to have his closest friend Tito killed, is portrayed by Cecilia Bartoli. Alongside the artistic director of the Whitsun Festival, Mélissa Petit appears as Servilia, Lea Desandre as Annio and Peter Kálmán as Publio.

Entitled **Dixit dominus**, a **sacred concert** at the Felsenreitschule on Whitsunday features works by Arcangelo Corelli, George Frideric Handel and Domenico Mazzocchi. Arcangelo Corelli, who worked in Rome, invented the Concerti grossi, in which the principle of duets between the group of soloists and the large ensemble offered an entirely new form of chamber music. Shortly before his death, Corelli encountered a young composer from Saxony who hoped to gain new inspiration from Rome, the metropolis of the arts: George Frideric Handel. He arrived in the Holy City bearing sketches of his first Italian composition, a setting of the psalm *Dixit Dominus*, in his luggage. His Marian cantata *Donna, che in ciel* was presumably commissioned by the Senate of Rome. Domenico Mazzocchi enriched Roman oratorio practice with his *Sacrae concertationes* – including the last of his 19 settings of Biblical texts, *Concilio de’ Farisei*.

John Eliot Gardiner conducts his English Baroque Soloists and the Monteverdi Choir.

Heinz Beck – chef at the restaurant *La Pergola* in Rome and winner of three Michelin stars – and the winery *Ômina Romana* owned by the Börner family in Velletri near Rome invite guests to a **Gala Dinner** with the artists of the 2021 Salzburg Whitsun Festival at the Felsenreitschule on Sunday at 8 pm.

For the Palermo-born Alessandro Scarlatti, Rome became the main centre of his working life early on in his career. Opera and theatre performances had been banned in Rome by a Papal decree in 1698, so that dramatic subjects could only be set to music if they were camouflaged

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as oratorios. Thus, Scarlatti's oratorio output flourished between 1703 and 1708 and was supported by Roman cardinals. With his *Cain, ovvero Il primo omicidio*, written in 1707, Scarlatti created a masterly interpretation of the Old Testament story of the first murder in the history of humankind. Set in Italian, the language of opera, instead of the customary Latin, it renders the human drama of fraternal resentment, remorse and redemption as the consequence of the expulsion from Paradise.

This **oratorio in concert** is performed on Whitsun Monday at the Mozarteum Foundation's Main Auditorium at 11 am, under the baton of Philippe Jaroussky. He conducts the Ensemble Artaserse. Kresimir Spicer sings the role of Adamo, Inga Kalna that of Eva. Bruno de Sá is heard as Abelle, Filippo Mineccia as Caino, Paul-Antoine Bénos-Dijan as Voce di Dio and Yannis François as Voce di Lucifero.

The 2021 Salzburg Whitsun Festival ends with another **opera in concert**, Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, performed at the Großes Festspielhaus on Monday at 3 pm. Hardly any other opera is so closely bound up with the city of Rome as Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*. Embedded in the contemporary historical background of Napoleon's victory at the battle of Marengo in June 1800, a fictive intrigue plays out at the heart of Rome. The drama of love, jealousy and abuse of power is located in three real settings: in the church of Sant'Andrea della Valle, the Palazzo Farnese, and in the Castel Sant'Angelo. Puccini contents himself not simply with a description of the external milieu but also gives the music touches of local Roman colour: the melody of the *Te Deum* in the finale of Act I follows Roman liturgical use; the original pitches of the church bells around the Castel Sant'Angelo were incorporated into the prelude to Act III, and Puccini had the text of the shepherd boy's folksong specially written in the dialect of the Campagna, the hilly region around Rome. Alongside all the opera's extensive references to Rome it is often forgotten that it also premiered in the city, at the Teatro Costanzi on 14 January 1900.

Zubin Mehta conducts the Orchestra and Chorus of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and the Salzburger Festspiele und Theater Kinderchor. Anja Harteros, Jonas Kaufmann and Bryn Terfel appear in the main roles of Floria Tosca, Mario Cavaradossi and Barone Scarpia. In further roles, Francesco Milanese (Cesare Angelotti), Alfonso Antoniozzi (Sagrestano), Francesco Pittari (Spoletta), Giulio Mastrototaro (Sciarrone), Ernesto Panariello (Carceriere) appear, as well as Cecilia Bartoli as Un pastorello, a role she first performed at the age of ten at the Opera in Rome.

As a multi-faceted metropolis, Rome inspired not only poets, composers and painters, but also film-makers, and many important cinematic productions were set in the city. The **film series Roma Amor** – a collaboration with DAS KINO and the Austrian Film Museum – allows the viewer to explore many different traces the city left in cinematic masterworks. The detailed programme will be announced at a later time. Tickets will be sold exclusively by DAS KINO.

www.daskino.at/Programm

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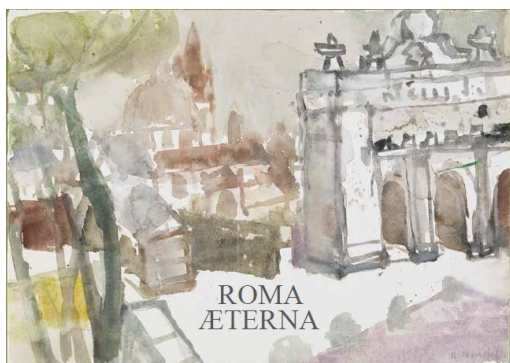


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Rolex's commitment to the arts dates back to the 1970s when New Zealand soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawa became the brand's first arts Testimonee. Since then, Rolex has extended its support to many other renowned artists, prestigious institutions and festivals. Other arts Testimonees include stars like Cecilia Bartoli, Jonas Kaufmann, Juan Diego Flórez, Sonya Yoncheva and Benjamin Bernheim.

In 2012 Rolex became a partner of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival, giving the Festival the opportunity to also cover opera for the first time. The Festival is very grateful for this partnership which has been extended to 2027.

Illustrations



Rudolf Hradil, Porta Flaminia, watercolour, ca. 2000.

Born in Salzburg in 1925, Rudolf Hradil studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, taking classes with Robin Christian Andersen, Herbert Boeckl and Albert Paris Gütersloh, in Paris with Fernand Léger, and at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London. In 1953 Rudolf Hradil came to Rome for the first time — and was immediately and enduringly fascinated. ‘He cherished the city with all its positive and negative aspects’, explains his wife Gundl Hradil, ‘the rumbling traffic and the superb food, the taciturn Romans and the wonderful colours of the houses, the palaces, the gardens and the sky.’ The Salzburg painter, print-maker, draughtsman and watercolourist died in 2007. In 2015 a volume of his work entitled *Rudolf Hradil: Roma — Amor. Ölbilder, Aquarelle, Zeichnungen, Lithographien und Radierungen* was published by müry salzmann.

We thank Gundl Hradil for her permission to reproduce works by Rudolf Hradil.

SALZBURGER FESTSPIELE PFINGSTEN Künstlerische Leitung: Cecilia Bartoli



Cecilia Bartoli at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival

Since 2012 Cecilia Bartoli has been the artistic director of the Salzburg Whitsun Festival; from the beginning, she has designed programmes focusing on female figures.

In 2012 the theme was **Cleopatra** – Cecilia Bartoli sang the role of the Queen of Egypt in Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*.



The motto of the 2013 Whitsun Festival was **Sacrifice – Opfer – Victim**. The staged new production of Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma* was honoured with the International Opera Award for best new production in London in 2014.



SALZBURGER FESTSPIELE PFINGSTEN Künstlerische Leitung: Cecilia Bartoli



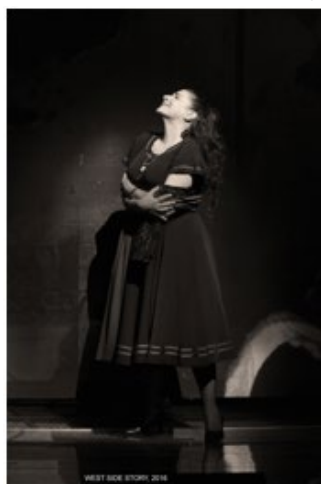
2014 saw a veritable Rossini celebration – the motto **Rossinissimo** says it all, and Cecilia Bartoli sang the leading role in the new production of *La Cenerentola*.



Thus will I call upon the gods was the theme of the 2015 Whitsun Festival. Christoph Willibald Gluck's *Iphigénie en Tauride* received standing ovations from the audience after each performance.



In 2016, the story of **Romeo and Juliet** ran through the programme of the Whitsun Festival like a red thread, with a new production of *West Side Story* as the pivotal work.



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Joy of Grief – under this heading, George Frideric Handel's *Ariodante* was performed in 2017. Cecilia Bartoli in the trouser role of Ariodante was transformed from a knight in armour into a woman over the course of the opera's three acts.



2018 saw the 150th anniversary of Gioachino Rossini's death. The 2018 Salzburg Whitsun Festival was dedicated to his memory, choosing the motto **1868 – Year of Ruptures**. Cecilia Bartoli took on the role of Isabella in the musical comedy *L'italiana in Algeri*.



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2019 was dedicated to **Voci celesti – Heavenly Voices**, and George Frideric Handel's *Alcina* was the focus of attention at the Salzburg Whitsun Festival, exploring the memory of great castrato voices of the past.



The title of the 2020 Salzburg Whitsun Festival was ***La couleur du temps – The Colour of Time***, and its programme was designed to explore the life of Pauline Viardot-Garcia, a singer, musical ambassador of Europe, an excellent pianist and composer. Gaetano Donizetti's opera buffa *Don Pasquale* would have featured Cecilia Bartoli in the role of Norina. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 Salzburg Whitsun Festival had to be cancelled.



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SALZBURG WHITSUN FESTIVAL 2021

Friday, 21 May

19:00 | Haus für Mozart

STAGED ORATORIO

GEORG FRIEDRICH HÄNDEL

IL TRIONFO DEL TEMPO E DEL DISINGANNO

Gianluca Capuano · Robert Carsen

Mélissa Petit · Cecilia Bartoli ·

Lawrence Zazzo · Charles Workman

Les Musiciens du Prince-Monaco

Saturday, 22 May

11:00 | Großes Festspielhaus

ORCHESTRA CONCERT

POEMA SINFONICO

OTTORINO RESPIGHI · FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Zubin Mehta

Maxim Vengerov

Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

19:00 | Haus für Mozart

OPERA SERIA

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

LA CLEMENZA DI TITO

Gianluca Capuano

Charles Workman · Mélissa Petit ·

Cecilia Bartoli · Lea Desandre · Peter Kálmán et al.

Les Musiciens du Prince-Monaco

Sunday, 23 May

11:00 | Felsenreitschule

SACRED CONCERT

DIXIT DOMINUS

ARCANGELO CORELLI · GEORG FRIEDRICH HÄNDEL ·

DOMENICO MAZZOCCHI

John Eliot Gardiner

English Baroque Soloists · Monteverdi Choir



SALZBURGER FESTSPIELE PFINGSTEN

Künstlerische Leitung: Cecilia Bartoli

17:00 | Haus für Mozart

IL TRIONFO DEL TEMPO E DEL DISINGANNO

see 21 May

20:00 | Felsenreitschule

GALA DINNER

Heinz Beck · Winery Ômina Romana

Monday, 24 May

11:00 | Stiftung Mozarteum – Großer Saal

ORATORIO IN CONCERT

ALESSANDRO SCARLATTI

CAIN, OVERO IL PRIMO OMICIDIO

Philippe Jaroussky

Kresimir Spicer · Inga Kalna · Bruno de Sá · Filippo Mineccia ·

Paul-Antoine Bénos-Djian · Yannis François

Ensemble Artaserse

15:00 | Großes Festspielhaus

OPERA IN CONCERT

GIACOMO PUCCINI

TOSCA

Zubin Mehta

Anja Harteros · Jonas Kaufmann · Bryn Terfel et al.

Orchestra e Coro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino

Salzburger Festspiele und Theater Kinderchor

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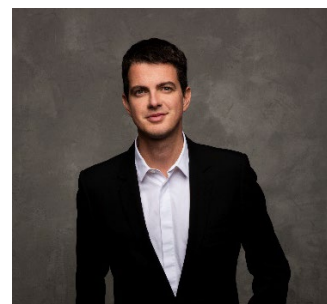
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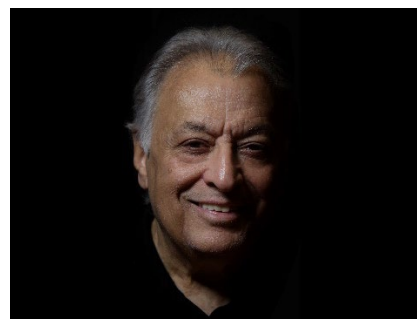
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Cecilia Bartoli
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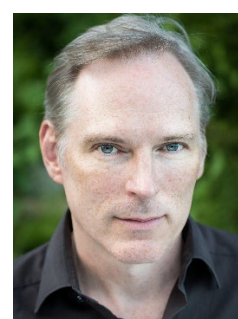
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