THE VICENZA OPERA FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 2019
PALLADIO’S LEGACY

THE TEATRO OLIMPICO

The beautiful Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, Andrea Palladio’s last masterpiece, is a towering achievement of the Renaissance. Vincenzo Scamozzi, who completed the theatre after Palladio’s death, contributed the trompe l’oeil stage design. Built in 1585 of wood and stucco it is perfectly preserved after more than four centuries. The building’s form, resembling a Roman amphitheatre, was inspired by the Florentine Camerata group of humanists, musicians and artists.
“Monteverdi’s L’Orfeo is not only one of the most beautiful operas ever written but it relates very strongly to the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza. The theatre was built in 1585, a few years before ‘L’Orfeo’ was first performed in Mantova. It is the perfect opera for the perfect theatre.

But there is an important aspect: I am fascinated by the finale. Originally (in the libretto and in the classic Greek-Roman sources) Orpheus returns from the underworld and is killed by mad, ecstatic women who are angry with him. Why? Because Orpheus denounces women - he never wants to fall in love again after having lost his ‘perfect’ Euridice twice. The insulted mad women (followers of Dionysus who perform a wild bacchanalia) tear him to pieces.

Usually this opera is performed with a revised ending composed by Monteverdi a few years after the first performance. Here, there is no bacchanalia but Apollo appears from heaven and elevates Orpheus to the skies. We have a happy ending, with a conventional finale.

I am obsessed by performing L’Orfeo with the bacchanalia. I will compose the missing music in style of Monteverdi. It will be a world premiere of the original concept 500 years after it was written!”
THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME
OCTOBER 2019

PERFORMANCES:

October 20  Private Concert / Gala Dinner
October 21  Premiere La favola d’Orfeo
October 22  Concert
October 23  La favola d’Orfeo
October 24  La favola d’Orfeo

La favola d’Orfeo
by Claudio Monteverdi
Libretto: A. Striggio
First version, completed by Iván Fischer

A production of the Iván Fischer Opera Company
co-produced by Budapest Festival Orchestra, Műpa Budapest,
Grand Théâtre de Genève

CAST:

Euridice/La Musica
Orfeo
Pastore/Speranza
Pastore/Spirito
Pastore/Spirito
Pastore/Plutone
Ninfà/Proserpina/Baccante
La Messagiera/Baccante
Caronte/Spirito

Emőke Baráth
Valerio Contaldo
Michal Czerniawski
Cyril Auñty
Francisco Fernández-Rueda
Peter Harvey
Núria Rial
Luciana Mancini
Antonio Abete

PROGRAMME OF THE SYMPHONIC CONCERT
OCTOBER 22, 19:30
TEATRO OLIMPICO

Joseph Haydn: Symphony No. 88 in G major, Hob. I:88

Georg Friedrich Handel: Ariodante, HWV 33
– Invida sorte avara misero in questo dì
Peter Harvey, baritone

Georg Friedrich Handel: Lotario, HWV 26
– Scherza in mar la navicella
Emőke Baráth, soprano

INTERMISSION

Georg Friedrich Handel: Orlando, HWV 31
– Lascia Amor e segui Marte
Antonio Abete, bass

Georg Friedrich Handel: Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno, HWV 46a – Tu del Ciel ministro eletto
Núria Rial, soprano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Symphony No. 41
in C major (“Jupiter”), K. 551

BUDAPEST FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
CONDUCTED BY IVÁN FISCHER
SUNDAY TIMES
4 November 2018

“Iván Fischer and his Budapest Festival Orchestra are turning opera on its head with their bold and joyous attitude. And the crowds are loving it.”

“Even purists now acknowledge the BFO as one of the world’s best. Yet it is unlike any other orchestra. The players are creators alongside the conductor – they contribute to repertoire and interpretation.”

“Everything about it feels deliriously forbidden. There was a pause when it ended, as if everybody was too stunned or breathless to applaud. Then we all went wild, and then much wilder. Palladio would have been proud.”

TAGESSPIEGEL
19 October 2018

“Die Musik allein bewegt die Szene, das Ensemble mit wunderbaren Musikdarstellern wie Eva Mei, Sylvia Schuartz und Tassis Christoyannis gewinnt eine Autorität, wie man ihr nur selten begegnet. Nie klang der Glühwein, mit dem sich der pilschnasse dicke Ritter zurück ins Leben trinkt, so vitalisierend.”

OPER!
December 2018

“Dieser Falstaff hat das generelle Sein und Wollen Fischers auf dem Gebiet der Oper deutlich gemacht, überdies an einem speziellen Ort – dem Teatro Olimpico.”

“Im krisengeschüttelten Italien ist dieses neue Festival ein starkes Signal der Hoffnung”, so Paolo Pigato, Präsident der Società del Quartetto di Vicenza.

VICENZA OPERA FESTIVAL 2018
IN THE MEDIA
The Gramophone magazine called the BFO, founded 36 years ago by Iván Fischer, one of the top 10 orchestras in the world.

The BFO is the resident orchestra of the Vicenza Opera Festival.

---

ENSEMBLE OF EXCELLENCE

---

THE IVÁN FISCHER OPERA COMPANY

The company was founded in 2017 by Maestro Iván Fischer and the Budapest Festival Orchestra Foundation to mount exclusive opera productions, emphasising organic unity of music and theatre. One of its priorities is to bring productions to the annual Vicenza Opera Festival.

The BFO: "...might be the best orchestra in the world..." (The New York Times)
How to Support

We are extremely grateful to the more than 80 opera lovers from around the world who supported the inaugural season of our festival in 2018. In addition to a great production of Verdi’s “Falstaff”, they were treated to special tours of Vicenza, the exquisite Ville Venete and splendid gardens, making the first year an unforgettable experience.

We would like to follow up on that success and create another great occasion. Please help us to build and sustain the festival in October 2019!

The Teatro Olimpico is relatively small; seats for the premiere of “La favola d’Orfeo” will be reserved mainly for the Circle of Friends Members, who make this festival possible with their generous annual membership fee.

All members will receive a ticket for a house concert and a gala dinner in Villa Valmarana ai Nani, a ticket for the opera premiere and a ticket for a symphony concert in the Teatro Olimpico.

Honorary Committee Members and Founding Patrons receive additional benefits.

Become a Friend of the Vicenza Opera Festival
A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

MEET THE MAESTRO AND THE ORCHESTRA

In the spirit of the festival, Circle of Friends Members will be invited to Villa Valmarana ai Nani for a house concert and exclusive dinner. The friends will meet Maestro Fischer, the musicians and singers, and will have the chance to talk and exchange ideas. Villa Valmarana is the home of Countess Carolina di Valmarana and her family. The 18th-century villa was frescoed by Giambattista and Giandomenico Tiepolo, who were commissioned in 1757 by Count Giustino di Valmarana.

EXPERIENCE THE VENETO REGION

In addition to great music, we are offering three days of special tours of the region. On Sunday, October 20, after a welcome drink at hotel Villa Michelangelo, you can visit either Villa La Rotonda, one of Palladio’s best-known architectural legacies, or Monte Berico basilica, one of the region’s most important Marian shrines. This will be followed by an evening gala at Villa Valmarana. On Monday, October 21, we offer three options: an excursion to Padova, a trip to Marostica and Thiene or a wine tasting in La Montecchia followed by a visit and lunch at the magnificent Villa dei Vescovi. On Tuesday, October 22, we will offer a second excursion to Padova or to Marostica and Thiene and a Vicenza tour.

PLACES FOR THESE INDIVIDUALISED TOURS ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE REGISTER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.
• Individual arrival at Hotel Villa Michelangelo or Palazzo Otello in the afternoon

Hotel Villa Michelangelo  
Via Sacco 35  
36067 Arcugnano, Vicenza  
+39 04444 550300

Palazzo Otello  
Corso Fogazzaro 4  
36100 Vicenza  
+39 0444 546576

www.palazzootello.it

We have reserved rooms at both hotels. Please contact us directly for more information.

* 4:00 pm: Welcome drink at the Hotel Villa Michelangelo

* 5:00 pm: Departure to

A Villa La Rotonda: Private visit of one of Palladio’s best-known legacies to the architectural world with owner Count Nicolò di Valmarana

B Monte Berico: Guided tour through la Basilica di Monte Berico and its cloister: frescoes, a painting by Veronese; ex voto to the Madonna di Monteberico

* 7:00 pm – 10:30 pm: Cocktails, chamber music concert and seated dinner in Villa Valmarana ai Nani, the home of Countess Carolina di Valmarana and her family

* 11:00 pm: Return to the hotels Villa Michelangelo / Palazzo Otello
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 21**

- **Individual breakfast in Hotel Villa Michelangelo / Palazzo Otello**

  A  **10:00 am – 3:30 pm**: Wine tasting in La Montecchia, visit to Villa dei Vescovi including lunch

  B  **9:30 am – 4:00 pm**: Tour to Marostica and Thiene, including lunch in Castello di Thiene, hosted by Countess Francesca di Thiene

  C  **9:30 am – 4:00 pm**: Tour to Padova, including lunch at Palazzo Papafava, hosted by Countess Francesca Papafava Sforza

- **6:00 pm**: Opera introduction at Hotel Villa Michelangelo

- **6:30 pm**: Transfer to Teatro Olimpico

- **7:30 pm – 9:45 pm**: Premiere of Monteverdi’s L’Orfeo at Teatro Olimpico

- **10:00 pm**: Return back to Hotel Villa Michelangelo

- **10:30 pm**: Dinner buffet in Hotel Villa Michelangelo (optional)

- **10:00 pm – 12:00 am**: exclusive dinner at Villa Valmarana (Founding Patrons and Honorary Committee Members only)
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22**

- **Individual breakfast in Hotel Villa Michelangelo / Palazzo Otello**

  A 10:00 am – 3:30 pm: City tour through Vicenza, including lunch at Sala Palladio in the Loggia of Palazzo Bonin Longare

  B 9:30 am – 4:00 pm: Tour to Marostica and Thiene, including lunch in Castello di Thiene, hosted by Countess Francesca di Thiene

  C 9:30 am – 4:00 pm: Tour to Padova, including lunch at Palazzo Papafava, hosted by Countess Francesca Papafava Sforza

- **6:00 pm:** Concert introduction at Hotel Villa Michelangelo

- **6:30 pm:** Transfer to Teatro Olimpico

- **7:30 pm – 10:00 pm:** Concert of the Budapest Festival Orchestra conducted by Iván Fischer

- **10:15 pm:** Return back to Hotel Villa Michelangelo

- **11:00 pm:** Dinner buffet in Hotel Villa Michelangelo (optional)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23**

- **Individual departure**

  Please understand that start and end times may vary slightly. Exact times will be communicated in time before the tour.
VILLA LA ROTONDA
BY ANDREA PALLADIO

“Perhaps architecture has never reached such a level of magnificence”
(J. W. Goethe, after a visit to La Rotonda on September 22, 1786)

La Rotonda is not a villa, it’s something more. Over the centuries it has fired the imaginations of poets and artists, sovereigns and statesmen, scholars and art amateurs, travellers and tourists. After 500 years, La Rotonda remains a place of pure beauty.

Our special tour of this architectural masterpiece of the Renaissance will be conducted by Count Nicolò Valmarana, one of the owners.

MONTE BERICO

The Sanctuary of Monte Berico was originally built in 1426 when a local peasant, Vincenza Pasini, during an epidemic of the the plague, had a vision of the Madonna. She promised that if a church were built on top of the hill, the epidemic would end. Upon its construction, the Pest left Vicenza.

In addition to being a place of devotion, the sanctuary is a site of great architectural and artistic merit. The church hosts a moving “Pietà” by Bartolomeo da Montagna (early 1500); the Gothic cloister is full of “ex voto” to the Madonna and the old refectory displays a magnificent “The Feast of St Gregory” by Paolo Veronese (1572).
VILLA VALMARANA (1720)

• Villa Valmarana is the only place in the world where the art of Giambattista and that of his son, Giandomenico, who both frescoed the Villa’s Palazzina and Foresteria, can be admired side by side.

The Gala Dinner under the frescoes is a unique and thrilling experience and Countess Carolina di Valmarana is delighted to share it with you.

PADOVA

• The morning in Padova will focus on the visit of the Cappella degli Scrovegni. A masterpiece of 14th-century painting, it contains the most complete series of frescoes executed by Giotto in his maturity. A short walk through the center of Padova will take us to Palazzo Papafava (1763) where Countess Francesca Papafava Sforza will host us for lunch.

MAROSTICA AND THIENE

• For a morning in the Province of Vicenza we offer an example of a fortified town, Marostica, with a passeggiata through its medieval centre. This will be followed by lunch at the Castello di Thiene hosted by Countess Francesca di Thiene.

The Castle of Thiene is considered the most notable 15th-century Gothic building in the Vicenza area. It is an extraordinary example of a pre-Palladio villa, the only one of its kind and a benchmark in the evolution of the Veneto villa.
LA MONTECCHIA

• The estate of Count Emo Capodilista produces high quality wines that are esteemed around the world and praised by wine guides. Bordering the Regional Park of Euganean Hills, a few kilometres from Padova, La Montecchia welcomes you to an extraordinary and very special wine tasting.

VILLA DEI VESCOVI

• Built in the first half of the 16th century as a summer retreat for the bishops of Padua, the Villa dei Vescovi is considered a masterpiece by the Veronese architect and painter Giovanni Maria Falconetto (1468-1535). Set on a hilltop, it commands attention and provides a contrast to the villas of Andrea Palladio (1508-1580), which became the standard of excellence in the next generation. Falconetto’s villa design was well known in its day and admired as a high point of 16th-century architecture in the region.

VICENZA

• Vicenza is Palladio. The city tour will include a visit to the Teatro Olimpico and a walk through palaces and churches that were made by the great architect, inspired by him or dedicated to him. The tour ends with lunch at Palazzo Bonin Longare, designed in 1572 by Palladio and built by Vicenzo Scamozzi after Palladio’s death.
FINANCIAL DETAILS

MEMBERSHIP FEES

FOUNDING PATRONS
50,000 USD / 45,000 EUR / 40,000 GBP

HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

10,000 USD (incl. 8,800 USD donation)
9,000 EUR (incl. 8,000 EUR donation)
8,000 GBP (incl. 7,100 GBP donation)

FRIENDS

2,900 USD (incl. 1,700 USD donation)
2,500 EUR (incl. 1,500 EUR donation)
2,300 GBP (incl. 1,400 GBP donation)

Donations are eligible for Gift Aid in the UK, US tax exemption, and Spendenabzugsbescheinigung in Germany.

THE FEE PER PARTICIPANT INCLUDES:

• One ticket for an opera performance and a concert
• All visits and private visits, including museum entries
• English-speaking guide
• Luncheons, dinners and receptions as listed
• All transportations by private bus

THE PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

• Hotel accommodation
• Airfare to and from Vicenza
• Any kind of personal insurance

CONTACT: JULIANE TEGTMeyer, COORDINATOR OF THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
VICENZA@IVANFISCHER.COM