

THE ORCHESTRA

The Teatro Lirico “Giuseppe Verdi” Trieste Orchestra has been a permanent ensemble since 1944, when it took on the name of “Filarmonica Triestina”; in 1964 it was named after the theatre it operates in. It is capable of performing a vast opera and symphonic repertory and has been conducted over the years by internationally renowned maestros, including Herbert von Karajan, Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Muti, Paul van Kempen, Thomas Schippers, Mario Rossi, Carlo Maria Giulini, Laslo Somogyi, Leonard Bernstein, Sergiu Celibidache, Gianandrea Gavazzeni, Daniel Oren, Gary Bertini, Gustav Kuhn, Jean Claude Casadesus, Sir Neville Marriner, Nello Santi, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Donato Renzetti. It has often been invited to perform abroad, holding cycles of symphonic concerts in France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia. The Orchestra was a notable feature at the Festival of

the Two Worlds of Spoleto from 1958 to 1969. The Verdi Orchestra commitment to spreading the culture of music in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (the symphonic season is currently being held in the nearby city of Pordenone) as well as in neighbouring Istria goes back several years. The Teatro “Giuseppe Verdi” Orchestra is featured in record catalogues with the complete symphonies by Mendelssohn, Schumann and, in addition, with the *Stabat Mater* by Dvorjak, conducted respectively by Lü Jia and Julian Kovatchev. Besides the historic recordings of its concerts at the Festival of the Two Worlds during the Fifties and Sixties, the Verdi repertoire includes live recordings of several operas, namely *Il Campiello* by E. Wolf Ferrari; *La Straniera* by Bellini (for the Fonit-Cetra/Ricordi label); *Attila* and *Stiffelio* by Verdi (for the Dynamic label); *Ginevra di Scozia* by Simon Mayr (for Opera Rara); a DVD of *Tan-*

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credi by Rossini; as well as a DVD and CD of the opera *I Cavalieri di Ekebù* by Riccardo Zandonai, a CD of *Lohengrin* by Richard Wagner, both produced in 2005; the last release is a DVD of *Battaglia di Legnano* by Giuseppe Verdi recorded for the collection *Tutto Verdi – The complete Operas* (for the Unitel Classica label), which includes all the productions of the great composer performed by the

THE CHOIR

The Teatro Verdi Permanent Choir of Trieste is divided into the eight registers of first and second sopranos, mezzo-sopranos, altos, first and second tenors, baritones and basses and has been conducted since the end of the war by choir masters of the calibre of Roberto Benaglio, Adolfo Fanfani, Giorgio Kirschner, Gaetano Riccitelli, Andrea Giorgi, Ine Meisters, Marcel Seminara, Luigi Petrozziello, Emanuela di Pietro, Lorenzo Fratini, Alessandro

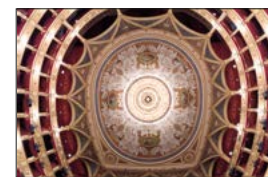
most prestigious European Opera Houses. It has just returned from a tour in Oman where it opened the new season at the Royal Opera House Muscat (ROHM) with a stunning and successful production of Verdi’s *Macbeth* “resulting in an unforgettable opera that left one shivering long after the curtain came down” (*Times of Oman* review).

Zuppardo and Paolo Vero whilst intensifying its involvement in the area of symphonic music over the past years. Universally acknowledged by critics as one of the best formations in Italy, the Choir has been invited to perform not only in Italy (in particular as a long-time featured guest at the Festival of the Two Worlds of Spoleto), but also abroad, in Austria, France, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Korea, Japan and Oman both on its own or on tour in conjunction with the Trieste Opera Society.

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The Verdi Theatre, founded as “Teatro Nuovo”, is one of the oldest running opera houses. It was constructed between 1798 and 1801 by architects Gian Antonio



Selva (who built the Fenice in Venice) and Matteo Persch. The structure of the building resembles that of “La Scala” in Milan, which was designed by architect Piermarini, who was also consulted for the internal layout.

The inauguration took place on April 21, 1801, with *Ginevra di Scozia* by Simone Mayr.

Refurbishment and restoration work was carried out several times over the years, in 1819, 1834, 1848, 1881/84, when the original seating capacity of 1,400 was increased to 2,000; gas lighting was replaced by electricity in 1889. In more recent times a radical restoration, including structural consolidation and the renovation of technical facilities in order to comply with current safety standards, took place between 1992 and 1997.

The opera house – which has a Ridotto, or foyer, with a former capacity of 700 – was dedicated to Giuseppe Verdi by an extraordinary meeting of the City Council, just a few hours after the death of the great composer on January 27, 1901.

Transformed into a private law foundation in 1999, it is currently administered by the Fondazione Teatro Lirico “Giuseppe Verdi” as the most important venue, increasingly being identified with the life of the city.

The opera house has in fact been the focal point of the civil and cultural life of Trieste during its two-century history. The theatre has been the symbol of Trieste’s Italian cultural identity, spreading the knowledge

of Italian musical culture in neighbouring German and Slavic-speaking regions, whilst at the same time interpreting the city’s cosmopolitanism by spotlighting the works of Mittel European composers. Rossini was premiered in Trieste with *L’Italiana in Algeri* (1816), Donizetti with *L’Ajo nell’imbarazzo* (1826) and Bellini with *Il Pirata* (1831), Auber with *La Muta di Portici* (1832) and Thomas with *Mignon* (1870). Verdi debuted with *Nabucco* (January 11, 1843), followed by the others, most of which staged soon after the premiere; two works were, in fact, composed by Verdi for the “Nuovo”: *Il Corsaro* (October 25, 1848) and *Stiffelio*, starring the singer Giuseppina Strepponi, that the Master personally conducted (November 16, 1850).

Alongside the opera and ballet season, the Verdi Theatre program also includes a vast range of symphonic and chamber music concerts as well as Operetta. The Orchestra and the Choir have been on several tours: Spoleto (Festival dei Due Mondi), Wiesbaden, Paris, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Budapest, Tokyo, Osaka, Seoul, Yeosu, Paphos, Muscat.



Royal Opera House Muscat (Oman)

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Teatro
Verdi Trieste
FONDAZIONE TEATRO LIRICO GIUSEPPE VERDI DI TRIESTE

