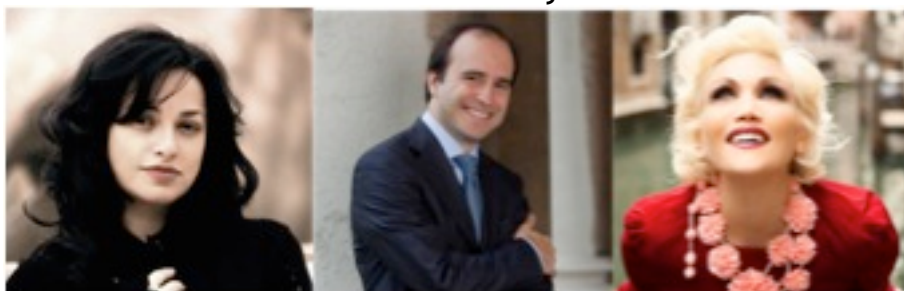


2015 Al Bustan festival hosts the Middle East's first performance of Bellini's *Norma* conducted by Gianluca Marciano



17 February - 22 March 2015
Al Bustan Hotel, Beyt Meri, Lebanon

Full programme announced:
<http://albustanfestival.com/whats-on/festival-programme/>



Artistic director **Gianluca Marciano** and president **Myrna Bustani** announce the full programme for the **2015 Al Bustan Festival**, which is taking place between **17 February** and **22 March** above Beirut. The highlight of the festival are two concert performances of **Bellini's *Norma***, starring **Carmen Giannattasio** in her debut in the title role and **Nino Surguladze** alongside the **State Youth Orchestra of Armenia**, conducted by **Gianluca Marciano**. The performance will be the first time *Norma* has been performed in the Middle East.



Georgian pianist **Khatia Buniatishvili** returns to the festival to perform two concerts, one with the **State Youth Orchestra of Armenia** conducted by **Gianluca Marciano** and another doing duets with her sister - **Gvantsa Buniatishvili**. Other performers taking part in the festival are pianists **Oliver Poole**, **Paolo Restani** and **Veronika Ilinskaya**, violinists **Ana Tifu**, **Arabella Steinbacher** and **Sergei Krilov**, cellists **Lizi Ramashvili** and **Alexander Buzlov**, accordionist **Richard Galliano** and guitarist **Sylvain Luc**. The festival also includes jazz musicians such as saxophonists **Nikita Zimin** and **Avo Tutunjian** and the **Marly Marques Quintet**.

Set in a quiet suburb on a picturesque hillside overlooking Lebanon's vibrant capital, the Al Bustan Festival presents an annual programme of world-class music, dance and theatre - the most innovative and high-profile music festival in the Levant. Enterprising Myrna Bustani, Lebanon's first female Member of Parliament, founded the Festival in February 1994 as the Middle East's most high-profile platform for international classical virtuosi, symphony orchestras and opera companies. Bustani received an IAMA Award in 2014 for her valuable work and dedication to promoting music in the Middle East through the Al Bustan Festival for the last two decades. The festival takes place in the Emile Bustani Auditorium and the Crystal Garden conservatory at Al Bustan Hotel in Beyt Meri and at some of Lebanon's historic churches. A few minutes walk from the hotel, there is an

ancient archaeological site with Roman ruins, thermal baths and Byzantine mosaics.

The Al Bustan Festival has enjoyed 20 years of the highest quality music making. Over the years, the Festival has invited artists such as **Maria Ewing, Angelika Kirschlager, Evelyn Glennie, Helikon Opera, the Jacques Loussier Trio, Irek Mukhamedov, June Anderson, the Labeque sisters, Sumi Jo, Gautier Capuçon, Emmanuel Pahud, Anna Tifu, Boris Berezovsky, Antonio Meneses, Vadim Repin, Gidon Kremer, Antoni Wit and the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.** The Festival has a history of commissioning contemporary composers such as **John Tavener, Naji Hakim and Roxanna Panufnik.**



Presenting around 30 performances each year spanning opera, dance, orchestral and chamber music over five weeks, with additional workshop and educational programmes for the Lebanese National Conservatoire, it provides a further draw to visit Lebanon's capital in a country already brimming with historic sites from the Assyrians to Ancient Romans, to the glories of Baalbek.

Gianluca Marciano - Artistic Director



Young Italian conductor Gianluca Marciano has been increasingly in demand since his operatic debut with Croatian National Opera in 2007. He is Principal Guest Conductor of the Tbilisi State Opera & Ballet Theatre in Georgia and Artistic Director of the Al Bustan Festival in Beirut.

Since taking over the theatre in Tbilisi in 2011, Marciano's operatic performances in Georgia have included *La Forza del Destino, Cavalleria Rusticana, Nabucco, Attila, Il Trovatore, Mitridate, Re di Ponto* and *Aida*, as well as concerts with *Andrea Bocelli* in Georgia and *Nina Ananiashvili* at the Avery Fisher Hall, New York.

Marciano's operatic work in the UK has centred around Grange Park Opera (with whom he has conducted a gala concert with *Simon Keenlyside* and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, *Madama Butterfly, I Puritani, Eugene Onegin*, and a critically acclaimed *Tosca*), Longborough Festival Opera (*Die Zauberflöte, Le Nozze di Figaro, Don Giovanni, Così fan Tutte* and *La traviata*) and the Chelsea Opera Group (*Manon Lescaut, La traviata, La Favorite* and *Verdi's Alzira*).

Marciano also has strong ties with the opera houses in Zagreb, Minsk, Sassari and Prague. During his time in Zagreb as the principal conductor, he conducted *Nabucco, La traviata, Turandot, Carmen, La Cenerentola* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. In Minsk, he has performed *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *La traviata*, and at the Teatro

Verdi in Sassari, La Pietra del Paragone, Poulenc's Les mamelles de Tirésias and the Italian premiere of Debussy's La Damoiselle Elue. In 2011 he conducted La traviata at the Prague State Opera. Other recent engagements include a major new production of Turandot at the Ópera de Oviedo.

On the concert platform, Marciano has worked with instrumentalists including Gautier Capucion, Steven Isserlis, Khatia Buniatishvili, Sergei Krylov, Nina Kotova and Denis Kozhukin. His recent work includes concerts with the George Enescu Philharmonic and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, with whom he performed Mahler's Symphony No.1 in 2011. He has a close relationship with the English Chamber Orchestra, opening their 2011/12 London season in a programme including Mozart's Symphony No.39 and Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No.2 at the Cadogan Hall.

Marciano's engagements in the 2013/14 season included Ernani at Lithuanian National Opera, Madam Butterfly for English National Opera and La traviata for Grange Park Opera. Highlights this season include Marciano's Opera North debut conducting La traviata, a return to ENO for Madam Butterfly, Pagliacci in Moscow, and a return to Grange Park for both Samson et Dalila and Eugene Onegin.

2015 Al Bustan Festival Programme

Tuesday 17 February

SUPER STARS AND SUPER MUSIC

Beethoven *concerto for piano, violin and cello*

Saint Saens *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*

Sarasate *Gypsy airs*

Bizet/Sarasate: *Carmen Fantasy*

Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra

Gianluca Marciano conductor

Oliver Poole piano

Ana Tifu violin

Lizi Ramashvili cello

Nikita Zimin saxophone

Thursday 19 February

THE SAME WITH A SURPRISE

Same program as Tuesday 17

Saturday 21 February

INSPIRATION AND CREATIVITY

Robert Schumann *Fantasiestücke*

Sergei Rachmaninoff *Select piano works*

Igor Stravinsky *Trois mouvements de Petrouchka*

Oliver Poole *Live Improvisations*

Oliver Poole, piano

Monday 23 February

INSPIRATION

The Festival Lecture

Miguel Angel Estrella Ambassador

Tuesday 24 February

MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM

Schubert *Sonata in A Minor D821*

Beethoven *Sonata No.3 in A Major, Op. 69*

Brahms *Sonata No. 1 in E Minor, Op.38*

Alexander Buzlov, cello

Veronika Ilinskaya, piano

Thursday 26 and Saturday 28 February

NORMA OPERA IN CONCERT PERFORMANCE

Carmen Giannattasio (Norma)

Nino Surguladze (Adalgisa)

Arturo Chacón-Cruz (Pollione)

Gocha Datusani (Oroveso)

State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA)

Notre Dame University and Antonine University Choir, Father Rahme

Choir Master

Gianluca Marciano conductor

Toufic Maatouk Assistant conductor

Sunday 1 March

AN ORIENTAL NIGHT

The music of Ziad Ahmadieh

Wednesday 4 March

KHATIA IS BACK!

Glinka *Overture Ruslan and Ludmila*

Rachmaninoff *Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op18*

Tchaikovsky *Polonaise from Evgenij Onegin*

Tchaikovsky *Francesca da Rimini, Op.32*

Tchaikovsky *Swan Lake Suite op.20*

Khatia Buniatishvili, piano

State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA)

Gianluca Marciano Conductor

Friday 6 March

ONE PIANO, TWO GIRLS, FOUR HANDS

Mozart *Overture from "The Magic Flute"*

Schubert *Fantasia in f moll*

Czerny *Variations (n?)*

Brahms *Hungarian Dances*

Liszt *Hungarian rhapsody n.2*

Khatia Buniatishvili piano

Gvantsa Buniatishvili piano

Saturday 7 March

PASSION AND GENIUS

Mozart *overture La Clemenza di Tito, k621*

Mozart *violin concerto n.5 in A major, K. 219*
Beethoven *Symphony n. 4 in B flat major, op.60*
Arabella Steinbacher, violin
State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA)
Gianluca Marciano Conductor

Sunday 8 March
MUSIC OF TWO CULTURES
Accentus Austria Early Music Ensemble

Tuesday 10 March
THE BRILLIANCE OF THE TWO SERGEIS
Paganini Concerto n. 5 in A minor
Tchaikovsky Symphony n. 5 in E minor op.64
Sergei Krilov violin
State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA)
Sergei Smbatyan conductor

Thursday 12 March
THE ARTHUR SATYAN ACOUSTIC ENSEMBLE
Avo Tutunjian Alto Saxophone
Khatchadour Savzyan Contrabass
Paolo Orlandi Drums
Jazz

Friday 13 March
OUR BELOVED CHOIR, REMEMBERING THE BLUE EYED SINGER
The Festival Choir sings Frank Sinatra repertoire

Saturday 14 March
A SENSUOUS VOICE
Marly Marques Quintet
Late night Jazz

Sunday 15 March
LA MOME DE PARIS - EDITH PIAF
Richard Galliano accordion
Sylvain Luc acoustic guitar

Tuesday 17 March
HEAVENLY INSPIRATION
Beethoven Mass in C Minor
Valentina Farcas soprano
Eva Vogel mezzo soprano
Mark Milhofer tenor
David Shipley bass
The World Orchestra

Notre Dame University and Anonine University Choir, Father Bahme
Choir Master
Gianluca Marciano conductor
Toufic Maatouk assistant conductor

Wednesday 18 March
Mount Lebanon Orthodox Choir

Friday 20 March
LATE NIGHT IN A TAVERNA
Bouzouki traditional Greek Music

Saturday 21 March
MUSIC INSPIRED BY ANCIENT GREECE
Beethoven Creatures of Prometheus Overture
Saint Saens Le Rouet D'Omphale
Liszt Prometheus Symphonic Poem
Liszt Piano Concerto n2
Mozart, Jupiter Symphony n. 41
Paolo Restani piano
The World Orchestra
Gianluca Marciano conductor

Sunday 22 March
LA DIVINA, A TRIBUTE TO MARIA CALLAS
Remembering Maria Callas with twelve of her favourite opera arias
Rossini, Il Barbiere di Siviglia Overture
Bizet, Carmen Overture
Valerie Sepe soprano
Anna Kasyan soprano
Elena Xanthoudakis soprano
Sofio Janelidze mezzo soprano
The World Orchestra
Gianluca Marciano conductor

www.gianlucamarciano.com

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