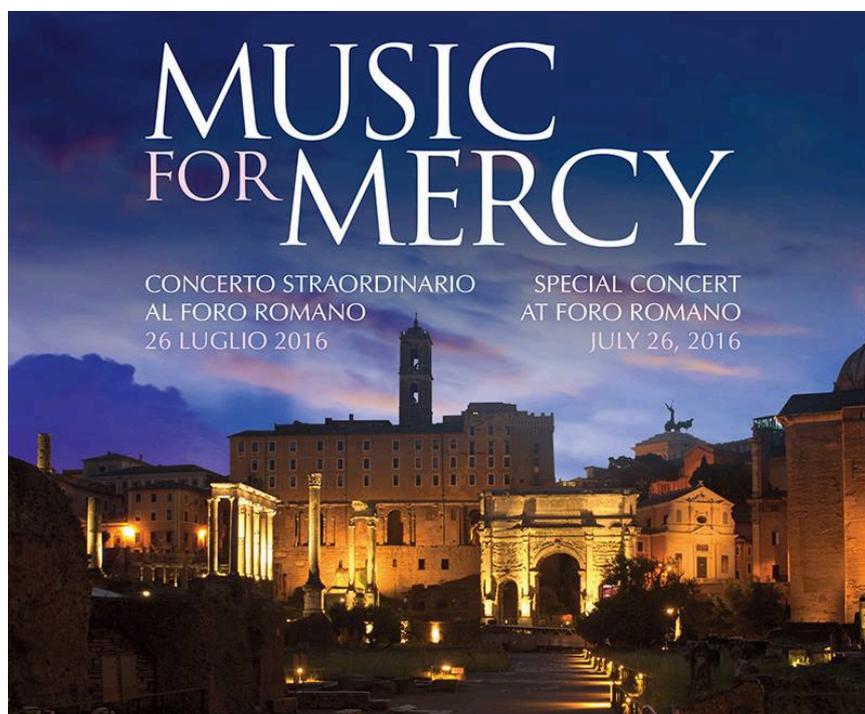


Gianluca Marciànò to conduct the Roma United Orchestra  
in first-ever public concert at the Foro Romano



**26 July, Roman Forum, Rome**

**Gianluca Marciànò** *conductor*  
**Coro Musicanova**  
**Roma United Orchestra**

**Andrea Bocelli** *tenor*, **Carly Paoli** *mezzo-soprano*, **Elaine Paige** *singer*,  
**David Foster** *piano*, **The Tenors**, **Zainal Abidin** *singer*, **Kinan Azmeh**  
*clarinet*, **Giovanni Caccamo** *singer*, **Federico Paciotti** *guitarist*

Italian conductor **Gianluca Marciànò** leads the first open-air concert to be held in the Roman Forum - **Music for Mercy** - on Tuesday 26 July, which will be televised across the world and projected on a big screen on the church of Santa Maria Antiqua. **Music for Mercy** marks the Pope's *Jubilee of Mercy*. It boasts a line-up of star musicians from across the globe including tenor **Andrea Bocelli**, musical star **Elaine Paige**, multiple Grammy-Award-winning pianist **David Foster** and **The Tenors**. From the *Ave Maria* and *Mater Misericordiae* to Morricone's music to the film *Cinema Paradiso*, Marciànò will conduct Malaysian singer **Zainal Abidin**, Syrian clarinetist **Kinan Azmeh** and two Italian pop stars, **Giovanni Caccamo** - winner of the Best Newcomer at the 2015 Sanremo Festival - and rock guitarist **Federico Paciotti**.

Marciànò comments: *"I am extremely excited to be able to come back to Italy surrounded by amazing artists in one of the most beautiful places in the world for such a meaningful and extraordinary event. As an artist, I feel obliged to bring a message of peace and tolerance and spread it to the world. The recent visit of Pope Francis to Armenia, a nation that became so close to me for many reasons, and his words about the genocide and any form of hatred and violence, are very important for me. This*

*concert is definitely sending a strong message of peace and I feel privileged to be part of it!"*

**Gianluca Marcianò**, who is Principal Guest Conductor of the Armenian State Opera and Music Director of the Al Bustan Festival in Beirut, sees music as a powerful antidote to conflict and suffering. Last year, he conducted the Genocide Memorial Concert in Yerevan on 24 April 2015 creating a newly formed orchestra with musical colleagues from 43 different countries who volunteered to join the ensemble in solidarity with Armenia. This year, Marcianò instigated the Al Bustan Festival Orchestra along similar lines in Lebanon.

Maya Jaggi writing for The Guardian said: *"His (Gianluca Marciano's) conviction that music has a role in the aftermath of war gained credence from a powerfully cathartic performance of Norma. Many were in tears...but the emotive crux was the priestess who pulls back from the brink, realizing that that the pursuit of vendetta is a crime against the innocent."*

The **Music for Mercy** concert is the pinnacle of a series of events happening throughout the Year of Mercy, to mark the Jubilee, which was initiated by Pope Francis in December 2015. Inspired by the Pope's words, the concert also sees the world première of a new song written by Romano Musumarra with text by Grant Black – *A Time for Mercy*. Italian-British mezzo-soprano Carly Paoli – whose debut single *Ave Maria* has been chosen as the official song at the start of the Pope's 2016 Jubilee celebrations – will perform Musumarra's new song under the baton of Marcianò.

This concert is the first time the Italian Ministry of Culture has granted permission for a public event at the archeological site at the heart of the Eternal City. The site couldn't be more significant for this event, taking place near the Carcer Tullianum, the Mamertine Prison, which houses one of the earliest depictions of a Madonna of Mercy in a fresco dated from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The concert will be broadcast live on Rai Uno on 26 July.

**Music for Mercy** is hosted by ABIAH Music Production and receives the support of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Activities and Tourism (MiBACT), the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, the Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi and the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma.

## Gianluca Marcianò



Marcianò is a conductor of great agility and astuteness with a particular interest in bringing the Italian operatic repertoire to the most varied corners of the world. He is Artistic Director at the Al Bustan Festival in Beirut, Artistic Advisor of the Tokyo New City Orchestra and in October 2016 he takes up the position of Principal Guest Conductor of the Armenian State Opera in Yerevan.

As Artistic Director of the five-week long Al Bustan Festival in Beirut, Marcianò hosted and conducted the first performance of the Bellini's *Norma* in the Middle East in 2015. Bursting with energy and committed to nurture young talent, he created the Al Bustan Festival Orchestra last Spring, aiming to set up an apprentice scheme for next year's festival.

Previous posts have included the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb and the Tbilisi State Opera & Ballet Theatre in Georgia where he conducted *La Forza del Destino*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Nabucco*, *Attila*, *Il Trovatore*, *Mitridate*, *Re di Ponto* and *Aida*, as well as the New Year's Concert with Andrea Bocelli in Batumi. Marcianò also has strong ties with the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet in Vilnius.

Much of Marcianò's operatic work in the UK has centred around ENO, Grange Park Opera and Longborough Festival. He has returned to Grange Park annually for the past 6 years, conducting *Eugene Onegin*, *Samson et Dalila*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *I Puritani* and *La traviata* as well as a gala concert with Simon Keenlyside and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. At ENO, Marcianò has conducted revivals of Jonathan Miller's production of *La bohème* and Anthony Minghella's *Madame Butterfly*. He has also conducted at Longborough Festival Opera on several occasions and at the Chelsea Opera Group

Recent highlights within the 2015/16 season included a successful run of a new production of Verdi's *Don Carlo* at Grange Park Opera and the return to Opera de Oviedo to conduct a new production of *Nabucco* by director Emilio Sagi, also touring to Gijon and Pamplona. Marcianò conducted Verdi's *Ernani* and *La Traviata* at the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Vilnius, and made his debut appearance with the Tokyo New City Orchestra for their New Year's concert.

On the concert stage, Marcianò has welcomed collaborations with top soloists such as Gautier Capuçon, Steven Isserlis, Khatia Buniatishvili, Sergei Krylov, Nina Kotova and Denis Kozhukin, and conducted many notable orchestras including the Moscow City Russian Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, English National Opera, Oviedo Filarmonia, Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra di Padova e del Veneto, State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, The World Orchestra, Macau Orchestra and Beijing Symphony Orchestra.

Born in Lerici in Italy's Liguria, Marcianò was a piano prodigy and graduated in politics before being trained as a conductor by Loris Voltolini.

***"Behind the boyish charm, he is clearly a little wild at heart. His career has been entirely and delightfully unconventional to date, and his music-making is infused with a wide-eyed sense of discovery."***

Opera Now

***"Gianluca Marcianò conducted the BBC Concert Orchestra with a bright, clear, highly-energized zest that was Italian to the core."***

Opera

**[www.gianlucamarciano.net](http://www.gianlucamarciano.net)**

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**For more information please contact:**

**Nicky Thomas Media**

**+44 (0) 203 714 7594 | +44 (0) 207 258 0909**

**[info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)**

**[www.nickythomasmedia.com](http://www.nickythomasmedia.com)**

