



SUONI DAL GOLFO

**GIANLUCA MARCIANÒ'S FESTIVAL IN LERICI ON
LIGURIA'S POETIC COASTLINE
HOSTS THE ITALIAN PREMIERE OF
LISZT'S OPERA *SARDANAPALO*
AND POSITIONS ITSELF AS A CAPITAL OF CULTURAL DIPLOMACY
THURSDAY 16 AUGUST – FRIDAY 31 AUGUST 2018**

www.suonidalgolfo.com

Italian conductor **Gianluca Marciànò**, together with co-artistic director **Maxim Novikov**, launches the second year of his new festival of music and poetry - ***Suoni dal Golfo*** - in his hometown of Lerici from 16 till 31 August. The festival programme is inspired by the sea and by the poets who were drawn to this emerald coastline.

There will be a return to Villa Shelley for a recital of poems by the Lebanese poet Nadia Tueni on 17 August.

A highlight of this year's festival will be Liszt's recently rediscovered Italianate opera, ***Sardanapalo***, based on Lord Byron's tragedy of 1821, a verse play entitled *Sardanapalus*. It will receive its Italian premiere at the festival, in the place where Byron conceived the story.

Suoni dal Golfo provides a summer residency for the recently formed ***Orchestra Excellence*** as a training academy for young musicians from across the globe, including some from Damascus conservatoire in war torn Syria. Following an intense fortnight of concerts with world-class soloists, ***Suoni dal Golfo*** closes with Marciànò conducting ***Orchestra Excellence*** on San Terenzo Beach.

Marciànò is positioning Lerici as a **Capital for Cultural Diplomacy** with a series of talks in conjunction with EMMA for Peace on ***Music, Diplomacy and Peace*** on 24-26 August. The panellists include **Carla Ortiz**, Hollywood actress who spent time in Syria, **Katharine Cooper**, a photographer who's worked extensively in Syria, **Carla Canales**, America Mezzo-Soprano and her husband **David Rothkopf**, International Relations, **Karma Ekmekji**, Head of International affairs of the Lebanese Prime Minister, **Ed Vulliamy**, war reporter for the Guardian, **Alfredo Macchi**, journalist for TG5, **Missak Bagboudarian**, Conductor of the Syrian National Orchestra, and **Nabeel Abboud Ashkar**, Founder of Polyphony Foundation.

Making their debut at the festival will be **Polyphony Quartet**, which has evolved out of **Polyphony Foundation**, established by **Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar**. The mixed group of Arab students from Polyphony Education and Jewish students from the Jerusalem Music Center perform at Castello di Lerici on **22 and 23 August**. Polyphony Foundation is an organisation that bridges the divide between Arab and Jewish communities in Israel by uniting young people to perform



classical music. Nabeel's brother Saleem Ashkar spoke in 2014 to The Arts Desk explaining the foundation's work: "*What we do is not symbolic, is not cosmetic, what we do is real work in the service of this youth, in the service of educating*". It has an extensive programme in primary schools across Israel and a conservatoire in Nazareth that have reached over 250,000 students nationwide.

The poetry recital devoted to Nadia Tueni shows how her poetry remains a *tour de force* of passion that describes not only the politics of places like Lebanon both then and now but a woman's place in that, often male dominated, environment. Her collection *Lebanon: Poems of Love and War* ideally reflects the conflicting ideals of the two cultures of West and Middle East society and includes some forty poems produced over her lifetime. Tueni became more active in political circles after the war in 1967 and much of her poetry reflected the damage and tragedy that came to Lebanon after this tumultuous event. Works such as *Nothing Like a Man* provide a stark reminder of the brutality that war brings to the world and the terror that the Middle East, particularly Lebanon has battled with for so long.

The festival also includes a photo exhibition "*Aleppo, mon amour*" by **Katharine Cooper**.

As Marcianò explains: "*My work as a conductor has drawn me across the globe to many former conflict zones in the Balkans and Caucasus. I have always wanted to return to Lerici and give something back to my hometown. What better way to do so than providing a haven for young talent to be enriched and inspired by the natural beauty of the bay? These concerts will provide the backdrop for discussions on the role of music as a symbol of hope for the new generation especially in times of strife and strained diplomacy.*"

One of the centrepieces of the festival is the Italian premiere of the recently rediscovered opera **Sardanapalo** by **Franz Liszt**. In 1849, Franz Liszt began composing an Italian opera. It was central to his ambition to attain status as a great European composer. However he abandoned it half way through and the music he completed has lain silently in an archive for 170 years. This opera is being brought to life for the very first time after being deciphered by scholars at Cambridge University.

Young Artists from the Royal Opera House, **Anush Hovhannisyan**, who was nominated for International Opera Awards 2018 in the Young Singer award, and **Sam Sakker** first explored the music with the lead scholar **Dr David Trippett**, whose work captured the attention of two visionary conductors, Kirill Karabits and Marcianò. The Italian premiere will be presented in Lerici on the **27 August**. Soprano Hovhannisyan, tenor Sakker and conductor Marcianò are joined by bass **Vazgen Ghazaryan** and **Orchestra Excellence**.



Set on the famous coastline of the *Golfo dei Poeti*, the seaside town of Lerici has been a magnet for poets and composers alike, from Shelley, Byron and DH Lawrence to Wagner. Lerici lies just beyond the famous Cinque Terre between La Spezia and Massa Carrara, where the Apuan Alps rise up on the Tuscan boundary. With a series of concerts in the most stunning sites of the Venere Azzurra - Lerici, San Terenzo and Tellaro - *Suoni dal Golfo* pays tribute to those who drew inspiration from the wonderful seaside.

The festival provides a platform for exceptional young talent including Anglo-Russian soprano **Betty Makharinsky**, currently studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and violinist **Katya Tsukanova**, student of Zakhar Bron.

Makharinsky performs a homage to Nadezhda von Meck, patron of Tchaikovsky, while **Armine Grigoryan** and **Tsukanova** performs Bach's Double Concert with the violinist **Karen Shahgaldyan**.

Suoni dal Golfo opens on **16 August** at Chiesa di San Francesco with a performance of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* marking the 150th anniversary of the composer's death. The festival continues to celebrate the anniversaries of Rossini and Debussy with symphonic concerts and chamber recitals, including an *aperitivo in concert* with mezzosoprano **Jelena Končar** and **Gianluca Marcianò** on **18 August**. The centenary of Debussy's death is marked on **29 August** at the Chiesa di San Francesco with a performance of Debussy's *Rhapsody for Alto Sax and Orchestra* and *La Mer*, with saxophonist **Valentina Renesto** and pianist **Gloria Campaner**.

The second evening, on **17 August** at Piazzetta San Giorgio, features music of salsa and jazz with pianist **Cesar Correa**. The festival includes appearances from a number of celebrated soloists including **Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi**, **Gloria Campaner**, **Alexander Toradze** and **Sergei Krylov**.

On **23 August**, **Melinda Hughes** sings **Weimar**, with arrangements by pianist **Jeremy Limb**. The show explores the very best of Weimar cabaret songs, focusing on social satire and the work of writers such as Hollaender, Spoliansky, Heymann as well as Hughes & Limb. The satirical songs were reactions to current events, the equivalent of modern-day *Have I Got News For You*.

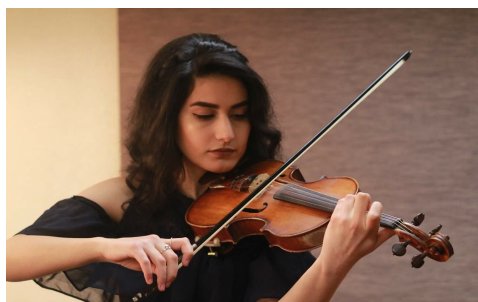
This year the festival features a number of world premieres: Russian-Tajik composer Tolib-khon Shakhidi's *Viola Concerto Novikov* and Khachaturyan's *Viola Suite* with **Maxim Novikov** on **20 August**, and **Anna Segal**'s new work dedicated to Debussy on **30 August**. There will be the Italian premiere of **David Toradze**'s *Symphony No. 2* on **24 August**, who is the father of pianist Alexander Toradze.

The festival closes on **31 August** with the a concert on the San Terenzo Beach with a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto op.35* and *Manfred Symphony* with violinist **Sergei Krylov**.

Orchestra Excellence

Together with viola player **Maxim Novikov**, Marcianò has founded *Orchestra Excellence* as a new initiative for emerging musicians. The festival has provided a summer residency for the musicians carefully selected to join the orchestra. More than 150 applications have been entered from 17 countries and the selected musicians will all be featured on *Orchestra Excellence*'s website with YouTube videos.

Orchestra Excellence is an orchestral concept offering emerging musicians from all over the world a chance to get together and make music in a collaborative way. Each member gets the chance to express their ideas, to propose programmes, create an ensemble, perform as a soloist and to be a mentor to pupils. To nurture the sense of responsibility, the musicians are also encouraged to set up their own festival in different parts of the world and connect with local authorities.



The orchestra's ethos:

- A place to which young musicians feel drawn

- Promote excellence in music through positive attitude, teamwork and individual responsibility
- Sustain the thrill and motivation of young musicians after completion of studies, as they emerge into the professional environment
- To attract a young public with a new image of the "classical musician"
- Musicians will actively propose programmes and shape the direction of their ensemble and perform as soloists

“Our aim is to banish the scourge of every orchestral musician’s life – routine! The project brings them hope that music is still the answer! Music will be the job and not the job will be the music.”

Gianluca Marcianò

LERICI



A sprinkling of brightly coloured houses lines the medieval streets that wind up to Lerici’s castle, which overlooks the entrance to the Gulf of Poets. The castle is thought to be the inspiration for Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. From May 1822 the Shelley family was living in a dilapidated boat house, Casa Magni, with the sea lapping the doors, near the tiny village of San Terenzo. Between San Terenzo and Lerici lies the eighteenth century Villa Marigola, offering stunning views on Porto Venere.

ADVISORY BOARD:

Myrna Bustani, Maurizio Roi, Gintautas Kevisas, Carol El Khazen, Nakako Watanabe Homma, William Relton, Paolo Petrocelli, Andrejs Zagars, Manuela Dviri

2018 PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Thursday 16 August

Chiesa di San Francesco, 21:30

Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle*

Betty Makharinsky soprano

Jelena Končar mezzosoprano

Baltazar Zuniga tenor

Laurence Meikle bass

**Collegium Musicum Almae Matris
Choir**
Giuseppe Bruno,
Armine Grigoryan piano
Gianluca Marcianò conductor

Friday 17 August

Villa Shelley, 19:00
**The poetry of Nadia Tueni "La
terra immobile"**
Margot Sikabonyi actress

Piazzetta S. Giorgio, 21:30
Salsa/Jazz recital
Cesar Correa piano

Saturday 18 August

Castello di Lerici, 21:30
**"Aperitivo in concerto" "Venice in
Russian Poetry"**
Basinia Shulman piano
Margot Sikabonyi actress

Castello di Lerici, 21:30
"Le Posate di Rossini"
Jelena Končar mezzosoprano
Gianluca Marcianò piano

Sunday 19 August

Castello di Lerici, 19:00
Associazione Musica con le Ali
Schumann *Carnaval op.9*
Liszt *Sonetto del Petrarca*
Scriabin *Sonata n. 3 op. 23*
Lavinia Bertulli piano

Chiesa di San Francesco, 21:30
Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi
bandoneon
Khaled Mouzanar piano
Lone Madsen clarinet
OE String Quintet

Oratorio En Selaa Tellaro, 21:30
Orchestra Excellence Ensemble

Monday 20 August

Castello di Lerici, 19:00
**Aperitivo in Concerto - Soirée
musicale**
Teona Dvali soprano
Mikhail Shilyaev piano

Chiesa San Francesco, 21:30
Tolib-Khon Shakhidi *Suite from the
ballet 'The Death of a Usurer'*

Tolib-Khon Shakhidi *Viola
Concerto* **WORLD PREMIERE**

Aram Khachaturian *Viola
Suite* **WORLD PREMIERE**
Excerpts from ballets *Gayane,*
Spartacus and *Masquerade*
Maxim Novikov viola
Orchestra Excellence
Gianluca Marcianò conductor

Tuesday 21 August

Castello di Lerici, 19.00
OE Woodwinds Ensemble
Mikhail Shilaev piano

Chiesa San Francesco, 21:30
Associazione musica con le ali
Schumann *Fantasiestücke op. 73*
Beethoven *Sonata n. 3 op. 69*
Brahms *Sonata n. 1 op. 38*
Erica Piccotti cello
Costanza Principe piano

Chiesa La Serra, 21:30
Bach, Bottesini, Woody
**Orchestra Excellence Chamber
Orchestra**
**Katya Tsukanova, Karen
Shahgaldyan** violins
Saar Talaal Hafez double bass
Cathy Schule trombone

Wednesday 22 August

Castello di Lerici, 19:00
**Aperitivo in Concerto Homage to
Percy Bysshe Shelley**
Respighi *Il Tramonto, Aretusa, La
Sensitiva*
Jelena Končar mezzosoprano
Poliphony Quartet
Gianluca Marcianò piano

Chiesa Stella Maris - Tellaro, 21:30
G. Puccini *Crisantemi*
Hugo Wolf *Italian Serenade*
P. Tchaikovsky *Souvenir de Florence*
Orchestra Excellence Ensembles

Rotonda Vassallo, 21:30
VesuviOpera Jazz
Feat. **Vincenzo Costanzo** tenor

Thursday 23 August

Castello di Lerici, 19:00
Polyphony Foundation
Polyphony Quartet

Castello di Lerici, 21:30
Melinda Hughes sings Weimar
(100 years of Weimar Republic)
Music by Weill and Spoliansky
Melinda Hughes voice
Jeremy Limb piano
Lone Madsen clarinet
Valentina Ciardelli double bass

Friday 24 August

Castello di Lerici, 11:00
Opening of the Cultural
Diplomacy Forum

Castello di Lerici, 19:00
Aperitivo in Concerto - Alexander
Pushkin, his life literature and
legacy
Lola Ganzarolli voice
Samson Tsoy piano

Chiesa di San Francesco, 21:30
Bruch *Double Concerto*
Shostakovic *Concerto n. 2 for piano*
and orchestra
David Toradze *Symphony n.*
2 **ITALIAN PREMIERE**
Alexandre Toradze piano
Orchestra Excellence
Gianluca Marcianò conductor

Saturday 25 August

Castello di Lerici, 11:00
Cultural Diplomacy Forum

Castello di Lerici, 19:00
Rossini, Puccini, Zappa, Bach,
Anderson, Mascagni & Bottesini
Valentina Ciardelli double bass
Alessandro Viale piano

Rotonda Vassallo, 21:30
Spettacolo di danza
Thiago Soares (star of The Royal
Opera Ballet)
Marcelo Bratke piano

Sunday 26 August

Castello di Lerici, 11:00
Cultural Diplomacy Forum

Castello di Lerici, 19:00
Liszt, Rubinstein
Ludovico Troncanetti piano

Chiesa Santa Maria dell'Assunta -
San Terenzo, 21:30
Vivaldi and Piazzolla *8 Seasons*
Philippe Quint violin/director
Orchestra Excellence String
Orchestra

Piazza Mottino, 21:30
Brass and Percussions of
Orchestra Excellence

Monday 27 August

Castello di Lerici, 11:00
Lecture on Liszt's *Sardanapalo* **by**
Cambridge scholar Dr David
Trippett

Castello di Lerici, 19.00
Aperitivo in Concerto
Samson Tsoy piano

Castello di Lerici, 21.30
F. Liszt *Sardanapalo* **ITALIAN PREMIERE**
Anush Hovhanissyan soprano
Sam Sakker tenor
Vazen Ghazaryan bass
Orchestra Excellence
Gianluca Marcianò conductor

Tuesday 28 August

Castello di Lerici, 19:00
Aperitivo in Concerto
Liszt *Années de Pèlerinage*
Vsevolod Dvorkin piano

Castello di Lerici, 21.30
Carla D. Canales sings Bernstein
(100 years anniversary)
Bernstein and Beyond

Oratorio en Selaa - Tellaro, 21:30
Bach Cello Suites
Miriam Prandi cello

Wednesday 29 August

Castello di Lerici, 19:00

Aperitivo in Concerto Lady in the dark

An homage to Nadezhda von Meck

Betty Makharinsky soprano

Armine Grigoryan piano

Chiesa San Francesco, 21:30

Evening with Debussy

Debussy "Rhapsody" for Alto Sax and Orchestra

Ravel Concerto in G

Debussy "La Mer"

Orchestra Excellence

Gloria Campaner piano

Valentina Renesto sax

Pablo Urbina conductor

Thursday 30 August

Castello di Lerici, 19:30

Trio Khachaturyan celebrates

Claude Debussy

Anna Segal world premiere dedicated to Debussy

Trio Khachaturyan

Maxim Novikov viola

Maria Mikhaoilovskya harp

Betty Makharinsky soprano

Castello di Lerici, 21:30

Metaphysics of Love

Turgenev/Viardo

Sati Spivakova, Vladimir

Koshevoy actors

Alexey Goribol piano

Friday 31 August

Chiesa S. Maria Assunta - S.

Terenzo, 19:00

Violin-Viola Duel

Karen Shahgaldyan violin

Maxim Novikov viola

San Terenzo Beach, 22:00

Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto op. 35

Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony

Orchestra Excellence

Sergei Krylov violin

Gianluca Marcianò conductor

GIANLUCA MARCIANÒ

Gianluca Marcianò is a conductor of great agility and astuteness with a particular interest in bringing the Italian operatic repertoire to the most diverse corners of the world. He is the Artistic Director of the Al Bustan Festival in Beirut and was recently appointed as Music Director of the Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad. He is increasingly in demand as an opera conductor and has strong ties with the opera houses in Zagreb, Minsk, Oviedo and in the UK with English National Opera, Longborough Opera and Grange Park Opera, where he has just conducted a new production of *Tosca* for the inauguration of the new theatre in Horsley.

MAXIM NOVIKOV

Maxim Novikov is a keen advocate of performing new works for his instrument, the viola. The former pupil of Yuri Bashmet currently works as a producer at the State Opera of Armenia, forms a duo with harpist Valentina Borisova and is a freelance sound engineer. As a soloist Maxim has performed with the Mariinsky Orchestra, Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra and many other orchestras in his native Russia. He is keen to guide the Orchestra Excellence on its way.

Suoni dal Golfo has been supported by the following partners:



For more information please contact:

Nicky Thomas Media
+44(0)20 3714 7594 | +44(0)7768 566 530
info@nickythomasmedia.com
www.nickythomasmedia.com