



## Press Release

### ROF 2024 KICKS OFF ON 7TH AUGUST

### Five Operas and a Full Calendar in Pesaro as Italy's Capital of Culture

The 45th edition of Rossini Opera Festival will take place in Pesaro **from 7th to 23rd August 2024**. This year's extensive programme, spanning 17 days, four more than usual, provides ample opportunities for attendees and visitors from all over the world to enjoy the performances, coinciding with events of Pesaro as Italian Capital of Culture 2024.

The programme will feature five operas: two new productions, *Bianca e Falliero* and *Ermione*, and three revivals, *L'equivoco stravagante*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *Il viaggio a Reims* performed by the young talents of the Accademia Rossiniana "Alberto Zedda". The concert schedule includes the world premiere of the revised *Messa di Ravenna*, the cantata *Il vero omaggio*, two opera-symphonic concerts and five belcanto concerts. The festival will conclude with a concert performance of *Il viaggio a Reims*, celebrating the 40th anniversary of its first modern premiere at ROF in 1984.

The festival will be inaugurated on 7th August at Auditorium Scavolini, a newly reopened theatre within the famous PalaFestival, with the opera *Bianca e Falliero*, last performed at ROF in 2005. The performance will be recorded by Rai Cultura and broadcast live on Rai5 at 21:15.

Roberto Abbado will conduct the Rai National Symphony Orchestra and the Ventidio Basso Theatre Choir. The cast includes Jessica Pratt (Bianca), Aya Wakizono (Falliero), Dmitry Korchak (Contareno), Giorgi Manoshvili (Capellio), Nicolò Donini (Priuli), Carmen Buendía (Costanza), Dangelo Díaz (Chancellor) and Claudio Zazzaro (officer/usher). The production is directed by Jean-Louis Grinda, with sets and costumes by Rudy Sabounghi and lighting by Laurent Castaingt. Performances will be repeated on 11th, 14th and 19th August.

On 8th August, *L'equivoco stravagante*, a success at ROF 2019, will premiere at Teatro Rossini. Michele Spotti will conduct the Filarmonica Gioachino Rossini and the Teatro della Fortuna Choir in a production by Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier, featuring sets by Christian Fenouillat, costumes by Agostino Cavalca and lighting by Christophe Forey. The cast includes Maria Barakova (Ernestina), Nicola Alaimo (Gamberotto), Pietro Adaini (Ermanno), Carles Pachón (Buralicchio),

Rossini Opera Festival

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Patricia Calvache (Rosalia) and Matteo Macchioni (Frontino). Repeat performances are scheduled for 12th, 16<sup>th</sup> and 21st August.

The second new production, *Ermione*, which hasn't been performed in Pesaro since 2008, will be staged at Vitrifrigo Arena on 9th August. Michele Mariotti will lead the Rai National Symphony Orchestra and the Ventidio Basso Theatre Choir. The production, directed by Johannes Erath, will feature sets by Heike Scheele, costumes by Jorge Jara, videos by Bibi Abel and lighting by Fabio Antoci. The cast includes Anastasia Bartoli (Ermione), Victoria Yarovaya (Andromaca), Enea Scala (Pirro), Juan Diego Flórez (Oreste), Antonio Mandrillo (Pilade), Michael Mofidian (Fenicio), Martiniana Antonie (Cleone), Paola Leguizamón (Cefisa) and Tianxuefei Sun (Attalo). Performances will be repeated on 13th, 17th and 20th August.

*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, highly acclaimed at ROF 2018 and again during the autumn edition in 2020, will return to Vitrifrigo Arena on 10th August. The production, conceived by Pier Luigi Pizzi, will be conducted by Lorenzo Passerini, leading the Symphonic Orchestra G. Rossini and the Ventidio Basso Theatre Choir. The cast includes Maria Kataeva (Rosina), Andrzej Filonczyk (Figaro), Jack Swanson (Conte d'Almaviva), Carlo Lepore (Don Bartolo), Michele Pertusi (Don Basilio), Patrizia Biccirè (Berta) and William Corrà (Fiorello/Officer). Performances will be repeated on 15th, 18th and 22nd August.

All four operas will be broadcast live on Rai Radio 3, with *Bianca e Falliero* also airing on the Euroradio network. On the mornings of 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th August, ROF Talks will be held in the Sala della Repubblica of Teatro Rossini, discussing current topics and presenting the evening's opera performances.

The students of the Accademia Rossiniana 'Alberto Zedda', held in July, will star in *Il viaggio a Reims* on 16th and 19th August at Auditorium Scavolini. The production, originally by Emilio Sagi and revived by Matteo Anselmi, will be conducted by Davide Levi. The first performance of *Il viaggio a Reims* will be broadcast live on Opera Vision, a free platform funded by the European Union, which will host the two performances on 16th and 19th August for the following six months. Additionally, the Accademia's singers will perform concerts at the Museo Nazionale Rossini on 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th and 17th August.

The packed concert schedule, with ten events at Teatro Rossini, begins on 11th August with the world premiere *Messa di Ravenna*, performed after a revision of the sources conducted by Ferdinando Sulla, who is also the conductor of Filarmonica Gioachino Rossini and Teatro della Fortuna Choir, with soloists Jorge Juan Morata, Tianxuefei Sun and

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Alejandro Baliñas. On 15th August, *Il vero omaggio*, conducted by Giulio Cilona with the Filarmonica Gioachino Rossini and the Teatro della Fortuna Choir, will feature Sara Blanch, Victoria Yarovaya, Ruzil Gatin and Alejandro Baliñas.

There will be two opera-symphonic concerts: on 18th August, Alessandro Cadario will conduct Gregory Kunde and the Filarmonica Gioachino Rossini; on 20th August, Jacopo Brusa will conduct Giorgio Caoduro and the Symphonic Orchestra G. Rossini. The programme also includes five Belcanto concerts: Eleonora Buratto (12th August), Pietro Spagnoli (13th August), Ramón Vargas (14th August), Sara Blanch (17th August) and Daniela Barcellona (21st August). On 22nd August, Delphine Constantin-Reznik (harp) and Roman Reznik (bassoon) will headline the concert titled 'Rossinimania'.

The ROF 2024 will close on 23rd August at Scavolini Auditorium with a concert performance of *Il viaggio a Reims*, conducted by Diego Matheuz with Rai National Symphony Orchestra and Ventidio Basso Theatre Chorus. The cast includes Vasilisa Berzhanskaya (Corinna), Maria Barakova (Marchesa Melibea), Nina Minasyan (Contessa di Folleville), Karine Deshayes (Madama Cortese), Jack Swanson (Cavalier Belfiore), Dmitry Korchak (Conte di Libenskof), Mihael Mofidian (Lord Sidney), Erwin Schrott (Don Profondo), Nicola Alaimo (Barone di Trombonok), Vito Priante (Don Alvaro), Alejandro Baliñas (Don Prudenzi), Tianxuefei Sun (Don Luigino), Paola Leguizamón (Delia), Martiniana Antonie (Maddalena), Vittoriana De Amicis (Modestina), Nicolò Donini (Antonio) and Jorge Juan Morata (Zefirino/Gelsomino).

The ROF's founding organisations are the Municipality of Pesaro, Intesa Sanpaolo and Fondazione Scavolini. The Festival is supported by the Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Pesaro, the Marche Region, EBWorld and Fondazione Meuccia Severi. Gruppo DiBa is the Green Partner for 2024, while media partners includes Rai Cultura, Rai 5, Rai Radio 3, Classica TV, Opera Vision and Up TV.

Pesaro, 30th July 2024

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