



**Press Release**  
**THE 46° EDITION OF THE ROF COMES TO A CLOSE**  
**WITH THE *MESSA PER ROSSINI***

The ROF closes its 46th edition with another rarity. On Friday 22 August at 8.30 p.m. at the Teatro Rossini, the *Messa per Rossini* will be given its premiere performance. The concert will be dedicated to the memory of Gianfranco Mariotti, founder of the Festival and its Intendant for the first 38 editions, who passed away at the end of 2024. Donato Renzetti will conduct the Orchestra of the Teatro Comunale di Bologna and the Chorus of the Teatro Ventidio Basso, joined by a distinguished cast featuring Vasilisa Berzhanskaya, Caterina Piva, Dmitry Korchak, Misha Kiria, and Marko Mimica.

As is tradition, the Festival's final concert will also be broadcast live in Piazza del Popolo, in collaboration with the Municipality of Pesaro. The video projection will be free to attend.

Composed to mark the first anniversary of the death of the Pesaro-born composer on 13 November 1869, the *Messa per Rossini* was conceived by Giuseppe Verdi as a grand Requiem Mass to which the leading Italian composers of the time would contribute. Verdi did not intend the Mass to be a unified work, but rather a testament to a nation built on deep and shared bonds such as unity, generosity, and vitality. The financial demands of a production involving large instrumental, vocal, and choral forces proved too great, and the Mass was not performed in its entirety until 1988, first in Stuttgart and later in Parma. Following its rediscovery, the Mass saw only limited circulation. More recently, it has been performed at La Scala and in the Basilica of San Petronio — the very venue for which it was originally conceived in 1869.

The *Messa per Rossini* will be the focus of the final event of the *Incontri* curated by the Fondazione Rossini, taking place on the day of the concert at 11 a.m. in the Sala della Repubblica at the Teatro Rossini. Musicologist Alessandro Roccatagliati, introduced by Andrea Malnati, Scientific Associate of the Rossini Foundation, will offer insights to guide the audience's listening ahead of this concluding event of the Festival.

Pesaro, 21 August 2025.

**Rossini Opera Festival**

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