



Press Release
ROSSINI OPERA FESTIVAL 2025 CLOSSES IN MEMORY
OF GIANFRANCO MARIOTTI

The *Messa per Rossini*, conducted by Donato Renzetti and dedicated to the memory of Gianfranco Mariotti — founder and long-time Intendant of the Festival, who passed away at the end of last year — brought the 46th edition of the Rossini Opera Festival to a close at the Teatro Rossini. The event was supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Pesaro, the Marche Region, Intesa Sanpaolo, ASPES Spa – Farmacie Comunali, EBWorld, Pesaro Parcheggio, the Meuccia Severi Foundation, and Green Partner Gruppo Diba.

A total of 42 events, including performances and talks, featured in this year's programme. The schedule offered a new production of *Zelmira* — a work absent from the ROF stage since 2009 — conducted by Giacomo Sagripanti and staged by Calixto Bieito, making his Festival debut. This was followed by another new production, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, conducted by Dmitry Korchak and directed by Rosetta Cucchi. Two revivals were also presented: *La cambiale di matrimonio*, previously seen at ROF 2020 and during the subsequent tour in Oman, originally conceived by Laurence Dale and now conducted by Christopher Franklin; and *Il viaggio a Reims*, in the well-known staging by Emilio Sagi, conducted by Alessandro Mazzocchi and performed by the young artists of the Accademia Rossiniana "Alberto Zedda".

The concert programme featured several rarities: the three cantatas *Il pianto di Armonia sulla morte di Orfeo*, *La morte di Didone*, and *Il pianto delle Muse in morte di Lord Byron* were performed for the first time ever in the critical editions curated by the Fondazione Rossini. The Festival concluded with the *Messa per Rossini*, proposed by Giuseppe Verdi shortly after Rossini's death and composed in 1869 by various authors, including Verdi himself, Lauro Rossi, Carlo Pedrotti, and Carlo Coccia. The Festival's first three evenings were broadcast live on RaiRadio3.

The *ROF Talks* were held once again — a series of themed discussions hosted by RAI journalist Susanna Franchi — alongside the *Salons Rossini*, hugely popular musical evenings which this year took place in six historic towns across the province: Mercatino Conca, Vallefoglia, Mercatello sul Metauro, Gradara, Sassocorvaro and Urbino. During the first of the ROF Talks, the ceremony for the 44th Abbiati Prize took place, with the ROF receiving the award for Best Production for *Ermione*, staged in Pesaro last summer.

The box office recorded 15,559 attendees, generating revenue of €841,000. The proportion of Italian visitors saw a significant increase, reaching 63%. Among international attendees, France, Germany, the USA, Austria, Japan,

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Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Spain, Belgium and Romania were the most strongly represented nations. Spectators also came from Ireland, the Netherlands, China, Slovakia, Russia, Canada, Norway, Bulgaria, Denmark, Taiwan, Croatia, Australia, Sweden and Hong Kong, as well as Greece, Israel, Morocco, South Korea, Turkey, Hungary, Central and South America, the Baltic States, Kazakhstan and others — a total of 54 foreign countries.

Media coverage was particularly significant, with 176 accredited journalists — a figure surpassed only by last year's Festival, which was four days longer. These journalists represented publications from Italy and 22 foreign countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the USA. Among the many international publications covering the ROF 2025 were renowned newspapers such as the *Financial Times* (United Kingdom), *Die Welt* (Germany), *Mainichi Shimbun* (Japan), *The Irish Times* (Ireland), and *The Jewish Chronicle* — the world's oldest Jewish newspaper. The Russian TV channel Russia-Kultura produced a 39-minute episode of the programme *Enigma Cycle* in Pesaro, entirely dedicated to this year's Festival.

The final concert featuring the students of the Accademia Rossiniana "Alberto Zedda" was broadcast live for the first time on OperaVision.eu, the free platform managed by Opera Europa and co-funded by the Creative Europe programme as part of the Opera Europa Next Generation project. The concert will also be available on the platform for the following six months.

The 47th Rossini Opera Festival will take place from 11 to 23 August 2026, presenting a total of twenty-two performances. The Festival will open at the Auditorium Scavolini with a new production of *Le Siège de Corinthe*, conducted by Carlo Rizzi and directed by Davide Livermore, marking his fifth staging at the ROF. This will be followed at the Teatro Rossini by two revivals of operas that have become landmarks of the Festival's history: *L'occasione fa il ladro*, staged in 1987 by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, one of the great Rossini directors, and conducted by Alessandro Bonato; and *La scala di seta*, conducted by Iván López-Reynoso. This production, originally conceived in 2009 by Damiano Michieletto — one of contemporary opera's leading directors — was restaged at La Scala in 2013 and at the Royal Opera House Muscat in 2019. The programme will be completed by *Il viaggio a Reims*, performed by the young artists of the Accademia Rossiniana, four *Concerti di Belcanto*, two *Concerti lirico-sinfonici*, and the final *Stabat Mater*, conducted by Domingo Hindoyan.

Pesaro, 23 August 2025.

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