



Press Release

**MITO SETTEMBREMUSICA 2020**

***SPIRITS***

*An ode to the sacred and the secular, the 14th edition of MITO SettembreMusica has slated over 80 concerts in host cities Torino and Milano*

*This year's "all-Italian" festival opens with the Giuseppe Verdi Symphony Orchestra of Milano, conducted by Daniele Rustioni, featuring violinist Francesca Deگو, and closes with Torino's Teatro Regio Orchestra, conducted by Sesto Quatrini, featuring pianist Giuseppe Albanese*

*Artists include conductors Ottavio Dantone, Michele Mariotti and Alessandro Cadario; cellists Mario Brunello, Enrico Dindo and Giovanni Sollima; pianists Andrea Lucchesini, Benedetto Lupo, Emanuele Arciuli, Filippo Gamba, Davide Cabassi, Filippo Gorini, Bruno Canino and Antonio Ballista*

*5 world premieres, including a new piece commissioned by MITO SettembreMusica*

*For the first time, Rai Radio3 will be broadcasting all evening concerts live and on podcasts*

***Torino – Milano, September 4-19***

“We’ve always been accustomed to welcoming in the return of MITO SettembreMusica as a way to mark the start of a new season of music in Torino and Milano at the end of each summer,” say **the mayors of Torino and Milano, Chiara Appendino and Giuseppe Sala**. “The festival has always been a very special way of bringing the two host cities back to life with sounds and ideas. As far as 2020 is concerned, the presence of MITO takes on a whole new meaning. Making music once again really does mean coming back to life, and taking a stand as we overcome the difficulties we’re faced with. But even in these troubled times, MITO pledges to bring us the high quality that has always been this festival’s hallmark, and promises to engage audiences more than ever. MITO has opted to resist and exist, turning constraints into challenges. MITO is aware of its own highly symbolic value, for both the artistic quality of its performances and its history as a festival embraced by the people of the two host cities and their guests. And it is definitely a plus for the international images of Torino and Milano.”

**The fourteenth edition of MITO SettembreMusica, entitled “Spirits”, takes place in Torino and Milano, September 4-19, 2020.** Due to circumstances, we’ve had to make some changes, but the festival goes on, and its look and identity remain faithful to a consolidated standard of excellence. Each of the over **80 concerts** in both cities will last an hour, without intermission, in venues where all health and safety regulations will be mandatory and enforced. Main venues: Teatro Regio and the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Torino, and Teatro Dal Verme in Milano. In Torino the main evening performances will be at 8 pm, with repeat performances at 10:30 pm, to allow greater audience access. In Milano, where regional regulations allow for higher density gatherings, single performances get underway at 9 pm. Afternoon performances are slated for 4 pm in Torino and 4:30

pm in Milano. In decentralized venues in both host cities, performances start at 9 pm. This year, **ticket prices** are even lower than usual. All evening concerts: € 10 (€ 5 for children 14 and under). Afternoon and children's performances: € 5. Concerts at decentralized venues: € 3.

This edition's performances have all been selected based on this year's theme, **Spirits**. Keeping in mind, of course, the health and safety precautions in place when it comes to the number of musicians appearing on stage at one time. It's a program rife with sacred music, and sounds that harken to a **spiritual dimension** of existence. Among this year's novelties: An **all-Italian cast of musicians**, with a major contribution from those based in Piemonte and Lombardia. A great chance to hear some of today's top Italian musicians at work. **Brief introductions before performances**, a MITO classic, will be provided by Stefano Catucci and Carlo Pavese in Torino, and by Enrico Correggia, Luigi Marzola and Gaia Varon in Milano.

“Many are the domains where music puts us in touch with the spirit,” says **artistic director Nicola Campogrande**. “And this year's MITO is dedicated to them, as we explore a theme – which was chosen long before the outbreak of the pandemic – that has become, in dramatic fashion, even more relevant today. Of course, this year's edition of the festival promises to be a special one. For the first time in our history, the curtain will go up without foreign artists. As we were putting our program together, travel restrictions fell in place. In light of the events, the idea of presenting an all-Italian edition of MITO appealed to us. It's a way to highlight Italy's talented musicians and provide greater focus on the festival's two host cities, which have both been hard-hit by Coronavirus. This year's edition will see performances that feature smaller-sized groups of players to ensure proper social distancing among them. Look forward to new, never-before-heard, and perhaps bizarre sounds, as the energy of performers bursts forth in very special ways. We put our trust in them, so that they may keep the fire burning until the day that large orchestras and ensembles make their return, along with choirs singing elbow-to-elbow. This year also provides an opportunity for audiences to reflect upon the extent to which music unites us. Sitting before a pianist or a chamber orchestra, busy listening to music of the past or freshly composed pieces, that meter of social distancing that keeps us apart from our fellow listeners will be of little matter. What matters is that once again we will be able to join together and identify with the emotions expressed by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Schumann, and Stravinsky, and look to the future with optimism.”

“It is with great pleasure and pride that we bring you this year's edition of MITO,” says **festival president Anna Gastel**. “We'll be taking all the necessary precautions as the music flows from the downtown areas to decentralized venues. And we continue to have a special regard for children, with performances designed especially for them. Ticket prices have been reduced as an incentive during a delicate period as far as the economy goes, in the hopes of reaching out to as many people as we can for a *spiritual* rebirth.”

**The festival opens Friday evening, September 4, at Teatro Regio in Torino, and on Saturday evening, September 5, at Teatro Dal Verme in Milano, with the Giuseppe Verdi Symphony Orchestra of Milano, conducted by Daniele Rustioni, and featuring violinist Francesca Dego.** The concert is entitled “Futuro”, and introduces this year's theme, a spiritual dimension that comes to life in the nostalgia of Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir d'un lieu cher*, op. 42, with transcription for string orchestra by Alexandru Lascae. It is also expressed in the serenity depicted by Dvořák in his *Serenata* in E major for strings, op. 22, and in the wanderers, wondering what lies ahead, of American master Ned Rorem's *Pilgrims* for string orchestra, an Italian premiere.

MITO continues its commitment to new music, as we present **five world premieres**. Three involve original compositions: *Spiriti sospesi*, spirit-filled theater on six strings, featuring guitarist and composer **Maurizio Pisati**; *Song da Acqua profonda* for cello, by **Giovanni Sollima**, who will also be performing the piece; and *Concerto grosso nello spirito di Corelli* by **Federico Maria Sardelli**,

who performs with his ensemble. The other two continue the great history of transcriptions. Look forward to music by Jean-Philippe Rameau, with a transcription for harpsichord, flutes and percussion **commissioned by MITO**, and music by composer and harpsichord player **Ruggero Laganà** (also among the performers), with an all-new show that makes its Italian premiere, entitled *TOCCARE, the White Dance*, created by choreographer Cristina Kristal Rizzo, and co-produced by **TorinoDanza** and **MilanoOltre**. It includes a version for piano and string orchestra of a beloved masterpiece by Chopin, *Andante spianato et grande polonaise brillante* in E-flat major, op. 22, transcribed by **Federico Gon**.

As a safety precaution, this year MITO will not be hosting large orchestras, as we usually do. For the same reasons, the annual MITO Open Singing event has been cancelled. It had been guided by the Italian Youth Choir, which will be appearing this year in a performance entitled *Rinascere* ("To Be Reborn"). Seven more vocal groups along with solo singers also help satisfy our longing to hear a "voice". Instrumental and choral groups – presented in a broad array of configurations – hail from the two host cities and their regions: Torino and Piemonte make their contribution with the Rai National Symphony Orchestra, the Teatro Regio Orchestra, the Torino Philharmonic Orchestra, Montis Regalis Academy, the Fiarì Ensemble, the Santo Spirito Academy Orchestra, Solinghi Academy, Consort Maghini, i Piccoli Cantori di Torino, the ensembles of the soloists from the Rai National Symphony Orchestra, as well as from the Teatro Regio and Torino Philharmonic Orchestras, and Trio Debussy. Milano and Lombardia offer us the Giuseppe Verdi Symphony Orchestra, the Pomeriggi Musicali Orchestra, laBarocca, the University of Milano Orchestra, Giovanni Antonini's Giardino Armonico, the Atalanta Fugiens Orchestra of Bergamo, the Ghislieri Choir and Orchestra of Pavia, and the chamber ensembles from the Giuseppe Verdi and Pomeriggi Musicali Orchestras. A concrete sign of the collaboration between MITO SettembreMusica and the local institutions, including the De Sono Association of Torino, represented this year by several of its young musicians.

Groups from around Italy add to the guaranteed high quality. Look forward to performances by the Odhecaton Ensemble, Krishna Nagaraja's polyhedric Brù, Federico Maria Sardelli's Modo Antiquo, the Venice Baroque Consort, and Rome's Libera Vox. Italy's four best-known young conductors on the international scene today – **Daniele Rustioni, Michele Mariotti, Alessandro Cadario, and Sesto Quatrini** – appear for the first time at a single festival. Another highlight, performances by Italian conductor and keyboardist **Ottavio Dantone**. The soloists play an extra-special part this year, with three recitals by three of Italy's greatest cellists, **Mario Brunello, Enrico Dindo** and **Giovanni Sollima**, and by pianists **Andrea Lucchesini, Benedetto Lupo, Emanuele Arciuli, Filippo Gamba, Davide Cabassi, Filippo Gorini**, as well as the highly acclaimed duo featuring **Bruno Canino** and **Antonio Ballista** – they've played together for over 50 years and are still going strong.

**This year's edition of MITO SettembreMusica comes to a close in Torino on September 18 (Teatro Regio), and on September 19 in Milano (Teatro Dal Verme)** with performances of "Cinema" by the **Teatro Regio Orchestra**, conducted by **Sesto Quatrini**, featuring **Giuseppe Albanese** on the piano and **Sandro Angotti** on the trumpet. Focus: Our series on classical music and the silver screen. Enjoy Brahms' *Hungarian Dance no. 5*, as heard in Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* (1940); Borodin's *Nocturne* from his *Quartet for strings no. 2* in D major, as heard in John Glen's *The Living Daylights* (1987); Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* op. 70 heard in *The Gambler*, directed by Karel Reisz (1974); and *Concerto for piano no. 1* in C minor, op. 35, by Shostakovich, with accompaniment by string orchestra and trumpet.

Look forward to an ambitious edition of MITO SettembreMusica, one that is rich in its offerings as we attempt to move ahead. Further confirmation of MITO's commitment to high-quality music: for the first time, **Rai Radio3** will be broadcasting live most of the festival's main evening concerts,

allowing fans not present at the performances the chance to enjoy the music.

MITO SettembreMusica, which receives funding from Italy's **Ministry of Culture**, is brought to you by the **Torino Foundation for Culture** and **I Pomeriggi Musicali of Milano**, and thanks to the financial commitment on the part of both host cities. Special thanks also go out to our indispensable partner **Intesa Sanpaolo**, who's been with us since the first edition of MITO SettembreMusica. Special thanks also to our other sponsors, **Iren**, **Pirelli**, **Fondazione Fiera Milano**, and **Fondazione CRT**.

**Fabrizio Paschina**, head of Communications and Public Image at Intesa Sanpaolo, at the press conference said: "Intesa Sanpaolo renews its support for MITO SettembreMusica. And not only. We have just announced an agreement for the relaunching of the culture and live performance sector, with € 25 million worth of credit to help sustain a sector in trouble, and whose future is uncertain. This provides extraordinary help to musicians, along with people in theater and culture. So, besides supporting initiatives like MITO, we also support the growth of the culture sector in a broad sense."

**Rai** is once again the festival's main media partner, with coverage by **Rai Cultura**, **Rai5** and **Rai Radio 3**. MITO Settembre Musica also continues its strategic media partnership with **La Stampa** and **Radiotelevisione Svizzera – Rete Due**.

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[www.mitosettembremusica.it](http://www.mitosettembremusica.it)

Press Office – Italy and International  
Skill & Music  
Irene Sala – Carla Monni  
T. +39.339.1010571 (Irene Sala)  
E. [info@skillandmusic.com](mailto:info@skillandmusic.com)  
[www.skillandmusic.com](http://www.skillandmusic.com)

Press Office – Torino  
Laura Tori  
T. +39.011.01124703 - +39.349.4161254  
E. [laura.tori@comune.torino.it](mailto:laura.tori@comune.torino.it)

Press Office – Milano  
Floriana Tessitore  
T. +39.3387339981  
E. [stampa@ipomeriggi.it](mailto:stampa@ipomeriggi.it)