

MITO SettembreMusica
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To the notes of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, performed by the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Orchestra, conducted by Zubin Mehta, Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* and Dvořák's *Concerto for Cello*, performed by Antonio Pappano and Mario Brunello with the Santa Cecilia National Academy Orchestra... The seventh edition of MITO SettembreMusica concluded brilliantly with a *Grande festa* in Milano powered by stars of Argentine Tango, and legendary Italian singer-songwriter Antonello Venditti in concert in Torino. The festival, which ran September 4 – 21, brought a wide array of venue locations to life in host cities Milano and Torino, with a cavalcade of concerts and performances, conferences and debates, workshops and film screenings, confirmation once again of our audiences' ever-growing fondness for MITO Settembremusica, a token to their great enthusiasm and careful attention at performances.

"MITO has once again proved to be a grand success. The collaboration between Milano and Torino," comments Milano mayor Giuliano Pisapia, *"represents a strategic alliance for the culture system. This year the program featured over 200 events in just 18 days, including 94 free events and the rest at popular prices. Not only does MITO join cities and musical genres together on one great virtual stage, but also thanks to MITOFringe, we are able to reach out to all kinds of audiences. The availability and allure of the performances, of the venues in Milano that also include hospitals, schools, in all 9 of the city's wards, are the characteristics that make this festival one of the most exciting appointments in music culture in all Europe. The 2013 edition of MITO was also an opportunity to celebrate several important anniversaries, like the 140 years since the birth of Sergei Rachmaninoff, the 100 years since the birth of British composer Benjamin Britten, the ten years since the death of Luciano Berio, one of the 20th century's leading composers, and the 1,700 years since Constantine issued the Edict of Milano. Audiences' response to the emotions sparked by musical notes played in freedom bear out that the score for MITO has many pages yet to fill."*

"MITO SettembreMusica has confirmed its strength and its value," points out Torino mayor Piero Fassino upon conclusion of the seventh edition of MITO SettembreMusica.

"This year as well, audiences have shown us how much they love this festival, and besides their usual great appreciation for the main program, which included both free and popularly-priced events, great interest was shown in the events held throughout the metropolitan area. More people attended the free concerts than last year, and there was a big boost in attendance at the MITO About Town events. This increased interest provides encouragement for us to continue our efforts to work for this prestigious international festival, which grew out of the many years of experience with the original SettembreMusica festival, which has certainly become one of the city's best loved cultural events. In particular, considering growing attendance figures for MITO About Town, with concerts held in a variety of different venues throughout the city, the section will surely represent an asset to focus on in the programs ahead. I'd also like to thank all our partners and sponsors, who have continued to make possible a rich and diversified schedule of events, for yet another highly successful edition of MITO SettembreMusica."

“The success of this edition of the festival,” adds MITO SettembreMusica Vice President Francesco Micheli, “shows what high-quality music does to make this city more attractive, as happens in Salzburg or Lucerne. In our case, also putting the spotlight on lots of venues outside the usual circuits in Milano and Torino, thus contributing to the polycentric development of the two host cities. It also promotes a dialogue between different artistic expressions, which is necessary and which people are increasingly attuned to. Like listening to great music in centuries-old churches built by great architects, alongside masterpieces of figurative art, or in lots of other city locations that deserve to be rediscovered.”

The 18 days of MITO SettembreMusica featured 209 events in all, 94 of which were free, at 99 venues in Milano and Torino, for 122,000 total admissions. The festival saw the participation of more than 2,900 artists from 25 countries.

The great influx of audiences in both host cities underscores, even in a time of economic crisis, the great desire for high-quality music and high-profile cultural events, proof that the festival’s artistic and organizational formula is a winning one. This means that even at difficult moments, or especially at such times, culture remains a real collective need that appeals to and draws in tens of thousands of fans and admirers of every age.

Thanks to MITO SettembreMusica’s continuous commitment to bringing high-quality music to mass audiences, this year’s edition of the festival proved a hit with both free concerts, where crowds were awed as they followed intense and complex repertoires, and paid-admission events, where attendance figures were up.

MITO SettembreMusica is also a magnet for tourism – as recounted by the American couple that’s been coming back to enjoy the festival every year for the past 6 years, after stumbling upon it by chance while traveling in Italy: *“This is amazing, these wonderful artists, so long a time. And really such a very nice city, we listen to this wonderful music. Thank you for MITO, we will come as long as we can”* ([link](#) to video interview)

Among the most successful performances: two concerts by the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Yuri Temirkanov, featuring young Italian piano star Federico Colli; a cycle dedicated to Rachmaninoff, played by pianists from the Incontri col Maestro Piano Academy; the concert featuring the Santa Cecilia National Academy Orchestra, conducted by Antonio Pappano, plus Salvatore Accardo, Uto Ughi, George Benjamin and the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Orchestra, conducted by Zubin Mehta.

For the first time ever, MITO SettembreMusica conducted music workshops for children in both host cities, and all 14 children’s performances in Milano and Torino, held every Saturday and Sunday for the duration of the festival, were sold out.

A fine turnout as well for the Bike’n’Jazz green concerts in Milano, with electric energy supplied directly by MITO’s pedal-pushing audiences in Piazza San Fedele and other locations.

This year MITO SettembreMusica was once again proud to present off-program events in the MITOFringe and MITO About Town sections, 93 concerts in all.

In June, MITOFringe served up 20 concerts in all 9 wards of Milano. Venues included libraries, social centers, parks and other off-track locations that have become “classics” in this very special MITO SettembreMusica concert series.

In September, along with 18 main-program concerts held in Torino’s outlying districts, MITO About Town provided 73 off-program performances in unlikely but very much socially relevant venues that included hospitals, detention centers, rest homes, psychiatric

centers, libraries, museums and urban spaces – yet another MITO SettembreMusica tradition that continues to thrive and grow.

MITO SettembreMusica is accessible on an array of multimedia channels and social media, including ever more numerous initiatives for young people, to whom the festival has always given special attention.

MITO SettembreMusica would like to thank Natalia Gutman and Maria João Pires, two stellar musicians that responded to our call when violinist Gidon Kremer and pianist Aldo Ciccolini were forced to bail out for health reasons.

MITO SettembreMusica expresses heartfelt thanks to the Cities of Milano and Torino; our Partners, Intesa Sanpaolo, Eni and Compagnia di San Paolo; our Institutional Partners, the Milano Chamber of Commerce and the Torino Chamber of Commerce; our Sponsors, Enel, Pirelli, Risanamento, Gruppo Salini Impregilo and Parmigiani Fleurier; our Media Partners, Corriere della Sera, La Stampa, Rai Radio 3; our Technical Sponsors, ATM, FAI Fondo Ambiente Italiano, Fazioli, TIM, The Westin Palace Milano; the companies that provided support, Drogheria Plinio, Nerea, Riso Scotti Snack, SMAT; and the entire organizational staff who, with the help of interns and volunteers, worked with great passion and professional skill.

To our beloved audiences and fans, *arrivederci* until 2014 and the eighth edition of MITO SettembreMusica!

For thrilling moments from MITO SettembreMusica, go to www.flickr.com/photos/mitosettembremusica to view and download photos. For videos of concerts, Radiobici interviews with artists and special editions of Torino Web News, go to www.youtube.com/mitosettembremusica.

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