



Osterfestspiele *Salzburg*  
Salzburg *Easter Festival*

**ANTONIO PAPPANO**

**Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia**

**24**

# Osterfestspiele *Salzburg* Salzburg *Easter Festival*

## The pull of the South ... the 2024 Salzburg Easter Festival is luring us to Italy

For the 2024 Salzburg Easter Festival, Intendant Nikolaus Bachler will present a programme inspired by the Mediterranean South – with Italy at its heart. The Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia from Rome, together with its long-standing Chief Conductor Sir Antonio Pappano, will open the Easter Festival with a new production of Amilcare Ponchielli's rarely performed opera »La Gioconda«. The principal roles will be sung by Anna Netrebko and Jonas Kaufmann. Pappano will also conduct two of the three concert programmes, including Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*. As guest conductor, Jakub Hruša from Czechia will conduct a concert with selected works by Berlioz and Martinů that offer their own very special perspective on Italy. The Festival programme will also feature two song recitals.

»We are all united by a longing for the South: for sun, light and broad horizons. At the 2024 Salzburg Easter Festival, we will therefore be embarking on a journey through Italy, the cradle of opera«, says Nikolaus Bachler. »We are inviting artists from Rome, the Eternal City, to come to Salzburg, for this city has enjoyed several centuries of close links with Italy: through the Church, through music, and through a theatrical, playful attitude to life itself.«

»I am honoured and thrilled to be participating in the Salzburg Easter Festival 2024,« says Antonio Pappano. »To be bringing my Italian musical family – the choir and orchestra of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – gives me great pride. I thank Nikolaus Bachler for his trust and for helping us to choose such an Italian oeuvre: »La Gioconda« with an outstanding cast. The piece is very close to my heart and I look forward to an amazing time in Salzburg.«

»The invitation to the Salzburg Easter Festival is probably the best recognition of the great work that the Orchestra and Choir of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, together with Maestro Pappano, have done in recent years,« says the President of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Michele Dall'Ongaro. »We are therefore very proud to be able to participate in a festival that is a flagship of the international music world and we look forward to making music together in this extraordinary city, the musical cradle of Europe.«

## NEW PRODUCTION: PONCHIELLI »LA GIOCONDA«

Antonio Pappano is the Chief Conductor of the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia from 2005 to 2023. His last opera engagement in Salzburg was at the Summer Festival in 2013, when he conducted Giuseppe Verdi's »Don Carlos«. He is returning to Salzburg in 2024 to conduct Amilcare Ponchielli's »La Gioconda« at the Easter Festival, a work that has never before been performed here. The British director Oliver Mears (currently the Director of Opera at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden) will direct this story about the unhappy love affair of a ballad singer. The German visual artist Philipp Fürhofer will design the sets.

Anna Netrebko will make her long-awaited debut at the Easter Festival in the title role, after her planned debut in »Turandot« was cancelled in 2021 when the Easter Festival fell foul of the pandemic. Jonas Kaufmann will sing alongside her in the role of Enzo Grimaldo. He made his debut at the Easter Festival in 2012 in »Carmen«, subsequently sang in »Cavalleria rusticana / Pagliacci« in 2015 and is returning in 2023 as Tannhäuser. For Anna Netrebko, this new production will also mark her debut in the role: »I am delighted to return to Salzburg for this very special project, and to have the opportunity to learn this wonderful score. I am looking forward to making my debut in this rarely performed work. I trust in Maestro Pappano as I always have in the past, that's why I know it will be wonderful!« The cast will also feature Agnieszka Rehlis (La Cieca), Eve-Maud Hubeaux (Laura), Tareq Nazmi (Alvise Badoero) and Luca Salsi (Barnaba).

## ORCHESTRAL CONCERT I: BOCCHERINI – BERIO / PONCHIELLI / DE SABATA / RESPIGHI

Italy as seen by Italian composers is what links the works of the First Orchestral Concert, conducted by Antonio Pappano. The programme features Luigi Boccherini's »La ritirata da Madrid« in the version arranged by Luciano Berio, who was the President of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia from 1999 to 2003.

Victor De Sabata is remembered today above all as a conductor. He stood on the podium of the Santa Cecilia 90 times between 1921 and 1952. But he also devoted himself to composition from 1909 to 1934, writing operas, ballets, symphonic poems, piano music and incidental music, including »Juventus«.

The programme will be completed by Amilcare Ponchielli's »Elegia« of 1883 and two of Ottorino Respighi's most famous masterpieces, »Fontane di Roma« and »Pini di Roma«. These last two works were premiered in Rome by the Orchestra dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia.

## ORCHESTRAL CONCERT II: BERLIOZ / MARTINŮ

The Second Orchestral Concert is also dedicated to Italy, but this time with works by non-Italians offering their own perspective on the country. The guest conductor will be Jakub Hrůša, the Principal Guest Conductor of Santa Cecilia and soon to be the new Music Director of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. Their programme will open with »Les Fresques de Piero della Francesca«, an atmospheric symphonic poem composed in 1955 by Bohuslav Martinů that was inspired by the fresco cycle by Piero della Francesca in the Basilica of San Francesco in Arezzo. It was given its world première at the 1956 Salzburg Festival, conducted by Rafael Kubelik.

There follow two works by the French composer Hector Berlioz, who was able to live and work at the Villa Medici in Italy from 1831 to 1832, after having won the Prix de Rome. Taking his inspiration from the Roman landscapes and the mountains of Abruzzo, he composed »Harold in Italy«. The Israeli violist Pinchas Zukerman will play the solo part, here in his debut with the Orchestra di Santa Cecilia.

The programme will also feature »Le carnaval romain«, adapted in 1843 from Berlioz's opera »Benvenuto Cellini«. Here, Berlioz combines themes from the love scene between Benvenuto and Teresa in the first act and its overwhelming finale in the streets of Rome, thronging with people at carnival time.

## CHORAL CONCERT: VERDI MESSA DA REQUIEM

Giuseppe Verdi was made an honorary member of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in 1844. The first performance of his Requiem by the Orchestra of the Accademia took place on 4 April 1898 under the baton of Stanislao Falchi. Since then, the Orchestra has programmed it on more than 80 occasions, conducted variously by Arturo Toscanini, Tullio Serafin, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Daniele Gatti, Antonio Pappano, Manfred Honeck and others.

In Salzburg, the solo parts will be sung by Sonya Yoncheva, Judit Kutasi, Jonas Kaufmann and Michele Pertusi. The orchestra will be joined by the Coro dell'Accademia di Santa Cecilia and the Salzburg Bach Choir.

## LIEDER RECITALS

The baritone Christian Gerhaher and his long-time accompanist Gerold Huber have put together a programme of songs by Johannes Brahms – including his »Regenlied« cycle. The celebrated soprano Lise Davidsen will be making her Salzburg debut, and together with the tenor Freddie De Tommaso and the pianist James Baillieu she will be giving an evening of arias, songs and duets from Wagner to Verdi, Puccini and Tosti.

## DANCE & ELECTRO

The Easter Festival intends continuing the newly founded dance and electro programme in 2024, and will be inviting internationally known artists to engage with the topic of Italy and the South. Details will be announced at a later date.

## CONCESSIONS

### Subscription to go

A trio for you – back on the programme for 2024 after its big success in 2023: a subscription at a special price, available exclusively at the desk of the Ticket Office at Herbert-von-Karajan-Platz 11.

This special cycle at a 30% discount includes:

Orchestral Concert II (26 March)

»La Gioconda« (27 March)

Lieder Recital II (28 March)

The »Subscription to go« will be available in two categories as of 2 October 2023. No advance bookings will be possible. A maximum of two subscriptions per person can be purchased, as there is a limited number available.

### U27

As of 10 a.m. on 2 November 2023, the Easter Festival will be offering an exclusive contingent of discounted tickets for everyone under 27, in collaboration with the »Ticket Gretchen App«.

### S Pass

Holders of an S Pass will receive a 10% discount on Orchestral Concerts I & II.

### Ö1 Club

Ö1 Club members will each receive a 10% discount for Orchestral Concert I, Orchestral Concert II and both Lieder Recitals.

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