

MITO SETTEMBREMUSICA 2017

140 ORIGINAL CONCERTS INSPIRED BY NATURE IN 2 HOST CITIES

This year MITO SettembreMusica doubles the outdoor events in Milano and Torino

with Open Singing and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Lots of free concerts, children's shows, plus introductory comments for each performance

Participating conductors: Semyon Bychkov, Riccardo Chailly, Mikko Franck, Gianandrea Noseda and Daniele Rustioni

Featured soloists: Gauthier Capuçon, Julian Rachlin, Ian Bostridge, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Lilya Zilberstein, Gabriela Montero, Truls Mørk and Salvatore Accardo

Orchestras: the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, in the festival opener, the Santa Cecilia National Academy Orchestra, the Rai Symphony Orchestra, the Teatro Regio di Torino Orchestra, and La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra

Milano – Torino, from September 3 to September 21, 2017

“The *Nature* theme for the eleventh edition of MITO SettembreMusica,” the mayors of host cities Milano and Torino explain, “provides an opportunity to realize that our ecosystem is made up not only of earth, water and sky – all things we can see – but it contains **a sound element as well, the space in which we hear. It is our duty to protect and develop that space, to keep it alive.** The sound space in our cities is by nature polyphonic: it contains the sounds of traditions, the sounds of the world, of the city and its streets, in an ongoing and prolific contrapuntal echoing of cultures. By supporting music, we contribute to the variety, harmony and balance of this listening space, as we help to favor its biodiversity. Indeed, MITO SettembreMusica has always been a festival in which ancient and modern music coexist, as do classical music and new musical languages. And true to form, this year's edition sees a program brimming with soloists and large orchestras, chamber groups and variously composed ensembles.”

September 3 – 21 MITO SettembreMusica returns to Milano and Torino. For the second year in a row the festival is led by president Anna Gastel and artistic director Nicola Campogrande. For the past eleven years MITO SettembreMusica has united northern Italy's two biggest cities in the name of music – with renewed support from both host cities' administrations, and their commitment to the development of musical culture as inseparable from the well-being of all.

“This year's theme is *Nature*. That choice immediately stood out for its richness,” says **artistic director Nicola Campogrande**. “When you think about it, classical music is in and of itself an ode to nature – and remains one of the few musical genres played with instruments made with natural materials, wood especially. Of course, the classical music repertoire has always taken a great deal of inspiration from natural phenomena, and living composers still do. The opportunity to attend 140 concerts amid their infinite expressions of nature promises to be a truly fascinating experience.”

The program offers **140 concerts** in all (70 in each host city), including **69 concerts with free admission. All performances have been especially created** by some of the world's greatest musicians today, along with prestigious musical powerhouses from Torino and Milano. Another success story from last year is back by popular demand: **introductions** to each performance by Gaia Varon and Mattia Palma in Milano, and Stefano Catucci and Carlo Pavese in Torino, provide info and insight for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the listening experience – especially important when it comes to premieres.

Ticket prices remain unchanged in both host cities, and remarkably low. Afternoon performances feature free admission or tickets at €5. Children's concerts and children under 14: €5. Admission to evening shows ranges from €10 to €30. Performances in alternative venue locations throughout each host city are free admission.

Anna Gastel, president of MITO SettembreMusica: “After the tremendous success of MITO *Open Singing* 2016, this year the festival **doubles the number of outdoor events**, in Milano's Piazza del Duomo

and in Torino's Piazza San Carlo. The choral singing with audience participation, which has reached out to include music lovers of all kinds, from novices to those more musically prepared, will be followed up by performances of **Beethoven's Ninth Symphony** by the Italian Youth Orchestra, conducted by Daniele Rustioni. They take place in the same *piazze*, the same weekend. It's our way of showing how important it is to share music, together in the great outdoors."

A repeat of the 2016 edition, when more than **25,000** people sang their hearts out in Piazza del Duomo and in Piazza San Carlo. The host cities' respective showcase squares are set to become giant stages for **MITO Open Singing 2017**, this **September 9 in Torino and September 10 in Milano**. Look forward to massive sing-along fun, together with the Italian Youth Choir and 1,000 choir singers. Participants receive a special score booklet, free of charge. Conducted by open singing expert, **Michael Gohl**.

To finish up, there are the Choir Days, featuring over 30 choirs from Italy and abroad – including Choeur National des Jeunes, from France, and Vokalna Akademija Ljubljana from Slovenia. Performances in various locations throughout the two host cities.

MITO SettembreMusica 2017 is proud to present another great outdoor event in the host cities' famed downtown *piazze*, **September 9 in Milano, September 10 in Torino**, for a refreshing version of **Beethoven's Ninth Symphony** performed by the Italian Youth Orchestra, the Maghini Choir, and soloists from the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Academy, conducted by Daniele Rustioni.

The festival opens **September 3 at La Scala in Milano and September 4 at Teatro Regio in Torino**. Opening performances feature the **Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester** conducted by Ingo Metzmacher, with the participation of pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet. The concert, entitled **Four Landscapes**, introduces the theme of Nature, with four different musical approaches to the festival's theme. Look forward to the Italian premiere of *This Midnight Hour* by Anna Clyne – the 37-year-old British

composer in residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra 2010-2015, a winner of numerous awards and a Grammy nominee. Then there's Gershwin's *Piano Concerto*, the overture from Dvořák's *In Nature's Realm*, and the suite from Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*, which evokes an imaginary Greece.

Weekends feature **children's concerts** (for kids ages 2 and up). Special performances include the Dutch production *Cellostorm*, which tells of the adventures of a lonely pigeon in search of friends (September 9 and 10); *Play* (September 16 and 17), for the very young; and *Orfeo* (co-produced by the Mantua Literature Festival), which brings Monteverdi's masterpiece to children for the 450th anniversary of his birth (September 16 and 17).

In all, the MITO SettembreMusica 2017 program covers a span of over one thousand years of music. It features 115 performances by living composers, including 10 Italian premieres of works by **Rautavaara, Tan Dun, Clyne, Ducros, Paulus, Korvits, McGowan, Andres, Dessner, Fairouz**, alive with the sounds of *canto ambrosiano*, Vivaldi, Classicism, Romanticism, the schools of various countries, and 20th-century composers. The program also includes seven world premieres, with pieces by composers such as **Gianluca Cascioli, Pärt Uusberg**, and **Virginia Guastella** (commissioned by MITO SettembreMusica), as well as **Nicholas Bacri**, and the premiere of *Il canto della fabbrica (Factory Song)* by **Francesco Fiore**, commissioned by Fondazione Pirelli for violinist Salvatore Accardo and the Italian Chamber Orchestra, following a visit by the composer and musicians to the Pirelli factory in Settimo Torinese, where the piece will be performed – and where architect Renzo Piano designed a transparent structure, called the “spine”, that meshes with the surrounding environment and the cherry trees that grow there.

MITO SettembreMusica serves up old and new, a trademark of this festival to be sure. This year it is proud to present, for the first time in Italy, **Eighth Blackbird**, a sextet from Chicago, considered one of the leading groups on the music scene in America today.

The festival winds to a close in Milano on September 20 and in Torino on September 21 with **Lights**, featuring **La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra**, conducted by **Riccardo Chailly**, and soloist **Julian Rachlin** on viola. The evening opens with Ligeti's *Lontano*, which conjures up the slow progression of light, followed by Bartók's *Concerto for viola*, his last work, intimate and marked by dark tones, concluding with the dazzling colors of Respighi's *Pines of Rome* and *Fountains of Rome*.

This year as well, MITO SettembreMusica is a festival that brings music to the host cities in their entirety, from their historic downtowns to the outlying districts. Check out Gauthier Capuçon and Gabriela Montero in their performances at venues beyond the city centers.

Plus: Don't miss the 4 days of the dance festival Torinodanza; the conference dedicated to music and its relationship to water; and the two sung masses in Milano, along with *Vespers* from the **sacred Ambrosian repertoire**, which is also the subject of a conference at Palazzo Reale.

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Milano/Torino, May 30, 2017