

PIETRASANTA IN CONCERTO 2012

“The violin in all its expressions”

International Music Festival – 6th edition

Artistic director Michael Guttman

July 20-30 2012, at 9.30 pm

Chiostro Sant Agostino / Piazza del Duomo / Teatro La Versiliana
Pietrasanta (Lucca - Italy)

From Japan to Russia, from Argentina to Europe:
the greatest stars of classical music meet in Tuscany
for the 6th edition of the
Pietrasanta in Concerto Festival.

Pietrasanta in Concerto, the annual chamber music phenomenon created by renowned Belgian violinist and conductor **Michael Guttman**, will welcome the world's greatest classical musicians in a weeklong event from July 20 to 30, 2012, in the picturesque Cloister of St. Agostino in Pietrasanta, on the Piazza del Duomo, and new this year, in La Versiliana's outdoor theater.

Performing for the first time on the Festival stage, three leading stars of the violin, **Salvatore Accardo**, **Vadim Repin** and **Nigel Kennedy**, as well as internationally renowned soloists including Argentinian pianist and Festival godmother **Martha Argerich**, queen of cello **Natalia Gutman**, bandoneon and Tango composer **Nestor Marconi**, double bassist **Enrico Fagone** and trumpet **Sergei Nakariakov**, a favourite partner of Argerich, **Yuri Bashmet**, legendary soul of the viola, his string orchestra **The Moscow Soloists**, and two fearless Japanese musicians, **Akane Sakai** and **Mayu Kishima**.

Nine evenings of exceptional music will make for an enthralling and astounding programme, enhanced by prestigious collaborations with famous orchestras: the **Cameristi del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino**, the **Basel chamber orchestra** and the Swiss Klezmer quintet **Kol Simcha**.

Born at the behest of its artistic director, **Michael Guttman**, conductor and musician of international fame, the festival is produced by Musica Viva (Florence) in collaboration with the cultural department of Pietrasanta, with organizational support from La Versiliana and thanks to the generous support of the Gruppo Edmond de Rothschild, a benefactor since the first edition.

Michael Guttman, Pietrasanta in Concerto's mastermind and architect, affirms that "edition after edition, the Festival is gaining increased traction with both national and international audiences, and its rise will culminate this year with a stellar showcase of international stars, a diverse cast united by superior excellence and artistry. This year again, we will hand out our special Prize for a Young Italian Talent, and we are proud that the Prize awardee will be the great violinist Salvatore Accardo."

Between first-comers and confirmed masters, the stage of Pietrasanta in Concerto will host some of the most acclaimed soloists in the world.

Opening the festival, **Friday July 20**, the renowned Argentinian pianist **Martha Argerich**, deeply loved by the public and a fixture of the Festival since its inception, will perform an evening of double concertos together with **Enrico Fagone**, one of the best double bassists in the world, and **Sergei Nakariakov**, Martha Argerich's preferred partner to play the Shostakovich piano and trumpet concerto. A newly discovered and completed Mozart concerto for piano and violin will be executed by two fearless Japanese musicians, pianist **Akane Sakai** and talented violinist **Mayu Kishima**. Accompanying the soloists, the **Cameristi del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino**, the prestigious Florence orchestra, conducted by **Michael Guttman**. The programme will also include pieces by Bottesini, Shostakovich and Elgar.

Saturday 21 July, we celebrate the return of **Vadim Repin**, the Russian czar of the violin. Russian by birth and Belgian by adoption, and a frequent performer with the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra, he will be accompanied by the **Cameristi del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino** conducted by **Michael Guttman**. He will treat us to a special experiment, a recital in which the chamber orchestra will play the part of the piano with a varied and entertaining program by Paganini, Sarasate, Mendelssohn and Mozart.

The concert on **Sunday 22 July** marks the first collaboration with the prestigious Menuhin Festival Gstaad, and the first participation to Pietrasanta in Concerto by the renowned **Basel Chamber Orchestra**. As the legendary **Natalia Gutman** performs Saint-Saëns's romantic cello concerto, the **Basel Chamber orchestra's** huge talent will be needed to offset the splendor of the Russian Queen of the cello.

Monday 23 July back on the Piazza by popular demand, the **Kol Simcha** virtuosi will be joined by the marvellous **Basel Chamber Orchestra**, with **Michael Guttman** on the violin and conducting. Their mix of emotion, virtuosity and spontaneity put the Piazza on fire two years ago, and the symphonic version promises to do just that again, with a programme that ranges from Mozart to traditional Klezmer music.

Tuesday 24 July Pietrasanta in Concerto moves for the first time to the Versiliana's outdoor theater, with the phenomenon **Nigel Kennedy**, star violinist, hit-parade wonder, and mass sensation, who will perform music by Bach and Fats Waller, leaping from classical music to African American jazz. As the only living violinist totally at ease in the classical, jazz and rock worlds, Kennedy's artistic integrity and innovative musical message make him a true wonder.

The Festival moves back to the Chiostro di Sant'Agostino on **Friday 27 July** with an evening dedicated to American music, its identity, successes and struggles, seen through its most famous composers who reinvented a genuine American language in classical music.

The concert will be narrated by American actor **Ronald Guttman**, baritone **Stephen Salters**, pianist **Eric Himy** and violinists **Wendy Sutter** and **Michael Guttman**. Hollywood romance, Broadway swing and New York energy find their refreshing ways into Concert music! Music by Bernstein, Gershwin, Glass, Barber, Fosse, Cole Porter, Simon & Garfunkel

Saturday 28 July The musical genius **Nestor Marconi**, virtuoso of the bandoneon, tango composer, and "last of the greats", returns to Pietrasanta to perform the world premiere of the double concerto for violin and piano « Intabolatura I » by **Jorge Bosso**. Played by Argentinian pianist **Karin Lechner** and **Michael Guttman**, the concerto was written specially for Pietrasanta in Concerto by the gifted Italian-Argentinian composer.

An unmissable evening on **Sunday 29 July** will be dedicated to **Salvatore Accardo**, a mythical concert performer of our age and violin prodigy with great technical and interpretive skills. He will also present the Festival Award for a young Italian talent to pianist **Sophie Pacini**, the 2012 recipient who will play alongside Accardo with the **Cameristi del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino** and **Michael Guttman**, one of Mozart's most famous concerti, the *Jeune homme*, along with music from the Paganini and Piazzolla repertoires.

The grand finale, on **July 30**, will be led by Russian violist **Yuri Bashmet** accompanied by the **Moscow Soloists**, an ensemble he founded and probably the best string orchestra in the world, for a repertoire spanning Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky and Kancheli. The "world's best living musician" according to the *New York Times*, Bashmet has reinvented his instrument, the viola, and inspired composers all around the world with his virtuosity and personality.

"There is great enthusiasm around the festival, says Pietrasanta Mayor Domenico Lombardi. Maestro Guttman conceives great musical performances every year and this year will host some exceptional encounters again."

The festival *Pietrasanta in concerto* is an initiative of Musica Viva in collaboration with the Culture Department of the City of Pietrasanta and the organizational support of the Foundation Versiliana. Tickets (from 25 to 80 Euro) can be purchased at www.laversilianafestival.it and on Ticketone (www.ticketone.it), the Teatro Comunale di Pietrasanta during theater opening hours and at Versiliana box office (Viale Morin, 12 - Marina di Pietrasanta)

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