



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



1 – 5 October, 2024

Organ & Music Festival Rhodes

Φεστιβάλ Εκκλησιαστικού Οργάνου
και Μουσικής της Ρόδου

An Event organized by

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF RHODES

in the frame of the

Custody of The Holy Land's

TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL

Press release

Every day **from 1 to 5 October 2024**, the Church of St. Francis in Rhodes (28 Dimokratias st.- St. Athanasios Gate) will host the twelfth edition of the **Organ & Music Festival Rhodes**. All concerts start at 8 pm with **free admission**. The Festival is organized by the Roman Catholic Church of Rhodes and the Terra Sancta Organ Festival, with the collaboration of the Italian Cultural Institute in Athens, the Embassy of Hungary in Athens and "Pro Terra Sancta".

The opening concert on **Tuesday, October 1** was entrusted to the Hungarian **Robert Kovács**, titular organist of the Church of St. Augustine in Vienna and partner of the Vienna Philharmonic, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and other important orchestras and choirs (music by Liszt, J. S. Bach, Boëllmann and others). On **Wednesday, October 2**, Robert Kovács himself will accompany the "**Vocal Ensemble and Mandolin orchestra of the City of Petaludes**" conducted by **Flora Pelekanou** in a concert of sacred music. On **Thursday, October 3**, the Italian **Gianluca Cagnani** will play a recital with music by German and Italian composers (Bach, Mendelssohn, Marcello, Puccini). Gianluca Cagnani is regularly invited to the most prestigious international festivals and holds the chair of organ and improvisation at the Turin Conservatory. On **Friday, October 4**, the program features a special event, an experience from the past: a **film-concert** like in the early days of cinema, when films were silent and the organ (or piano) provided musical commentary to the scenes. It is the 1918 Italian silent film "Frate Sole" (Brother Sun) about the life of St. Francis, with musical accompaniment by Gianluca Cagnani, who specializes in the art of improvisation. The texts of the captions have been translated into Greek and English. The festival ends on **Saturday, October 5** with a concert of sacred music offered by "**Les Solistes de Beyrouth**" (The Beirut Soloists). The characteristic of this Lebanese vocal ensemble led by **Fernando Afara** is to present both choral pieces and solo pieces such as arias and duets.

The organ of St. Francis Catholic Church in Rhodes was built in 1939 by the well known Italian organ manufacturer Pinchi, but its construction was not completed until after the start of the Second World War. This organ is still the biggest church organ in Greece.

The programs and all the information about the **Organ & Music Festival Rhodes** can be found on the website of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival (www.tsorganfestival.org) and of the Catholic Church of Rhodes (www.catholicchurchrhodes.com).



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ

ORGAN & MUSIC FESTIVAL RHODES

Church of St. Francis

(28 Dimokratias str., St. Athanasios Gate – Rhodes Town)

All concerts start at 8:00 p.m. Admission Free

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Robert Kovács (Hungary), pipe organ recital

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

Mixed Choir and Mandolin orchestra of the City of Petaludes

Flora Pelekanou (Greece), conductor

Robert Kovács (Hungary), pipe organ

Thursday, October 3, 2024

Gianluca Cagnani (Italy), pipe organ recital

In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Athens

Friday, October 4, 2024 – Feast of St. Francis

Silent film “Frate Sole” (Brother Sun, 1918)

Musical commentary and organ improvisation by Gianluca Cagnani (Italy)

In collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Athens

Saturday, 5 October, 2024

Vocal Ensemble “Les Solistes de Beyrouth”

Fernando Afara (Lebanon), conductor

Gianluca Cagnani (Italy), pipe organ