Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik

Innsbrucker Festwochen win International Opera Award for 'Il pomo d'oro'

Another major success for the Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik: their monumental production of Pietro Antonio Cesti's 'Il pomo d'oro' has won the 2026 International Opera Award in the 'Rediscovered Work' category. With Ottavio Dantone in charge of the musical direction, the spectacular opera was staged by Fabio Ceresa. The awards ceremony took place on 21 November at the Theater an der Wien.

'This award crowns an extraordinary anniversary summer and is a wonderful affirmation of our work. Pietro Antonio Cesti's *Il pomo d'oro* is one of those works that can only be brought to life where exceptional forces come together, and the Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik are just such a place. It fills me with deep gratitude and joy that this work has now been honoured with an International Opera Award. The award belongs to everyone who made *Il pomo d'oro* an unforgettable event and this success possible,' says a delighted **Artistic Director Eva-Maria Sens**.

'I am very happy and proud of this significant award. That it was given to *Il pomo d'oro* means all the more when you consider the complexity of such a monumental work and the enormous artistic and organisational challenges that a production like this brings, even for a festival as renowned as the Innsbrucker Festwochen,' affirms **Musical Director Ottavio Dantone**, adding: 'It was a demanding project, made possible only by the passion, skill and remarkable collaboration of everyone involved. Such a significant success fills us with joy and confirms how important it is to keep rediscovering the many masterpieces of our musical heritage and bringing them back to light.'

With 'Il pomo d'oro', the Festwochen brought one of the most ambitious works in opera history back to the stage in its entirety for the first time since its premiere in 1668, as part of their anniversary celebrations. Ottavio Dantone reconstructed the lost music of two acts for the Innsbruck production. Presented over two evenings, the production brought together 20 singers for a total of 47 roles, alongside the choir NovoCanto and dancers from the two dance companies Street Motion Studio and Associazione Culturale Fattoria Vittadini. The elaborate set and costume designs were created by set designer Nikolaus Webern and costume designer Giuseppe Palella.

Since their foundation in 1976, the Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik have been among the world's leading festivals for historically informed performance. Through the rediscovery of significant works, outstanding concerts and the promotion of young talent, they have helped shape the early music scene for five decades. Buoyed by this international accolade, the Innsbrucker Festwochen are already looking ahead to the coming season: the 2027 programme will be presented on 30 November 2026.

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