

# PRESS KIT

program presentation of the  
47TH INNSBRUCK FESTIVAL OF EARLY MUSIC 2023

## Participants:

- **Anton Mattle**, Governor of Tyrol
- **Georg Willi**, Mayor of the City of Innsbruck
- **Alessandro De Marchi**, Artistic Director of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music
- **Dr. Markus Lutz**, Managing Director of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music
- **Eva-Maria Sens**, Operations Director of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music

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## The Innsbruck Festival of Early Music 2023

The 47<sup>th</sup> Innsbruck Festival of Early Music will take place from 11 July to 29 August 2023 in the unique setting of the Tyrolean capital. Staged opera performances, numerous concerts, free events and instrument-making workshops will take place under the leitmotif “Paths”. Highlights of this summer will be the three staged productions of works by the Italian master Antonio Vivaldi: “Olimpiade”, “Juditha triumphans” and, as a Barockoper:Jung “La fida ninfa”. It is the last festival season of the current artistic director Alessandro De Marchi, who will be at the conductor’s podium for both the opera “Olimpiade” and the staged oratorio “Juditha triumphans”. In “Olimpiade”, there will be a reunion with counterstar Bejun Mehta, contralto Margherita Maria Sala and bass Luigi De Donato. In “Juditha triumphans”, the celebrated soprano Arianna Vendittelli and the renowned mezzo-sopranos Sophie Rennert and Emilie Renard will be on stage. The finalists of the 2022 Cesti Competition, soprano Chelsea Zurflüh, countertenor Nicolo Balducci and tenor Kieran White can be seen in the Barockoper:Jung “La fida ninfa”. The musical director is Chiara Cattani, who already conducted the final concert of the Cesti Competition in 2022. Performances will be held by world-renowned singers such as soprano Bruno de Sà, countertenor Raffaele Pe, sopranos Giulia Semenzato and Francesca Aspromonte, mezzo-soprano Marianne Beate Kielland and many more. Renowned artists and orchestras such as Rinaldo Alessandrini with Concerto Italiano, Lina Tur Bonet and Musica Alchemica, Giovanni Antonini and Il Giardino Armonico as well as Julien Chauvin with Concert de la Loge will also be on stage during the festival. This year’s brilliant finale will be set by the outgoing artistic director Alessandro De Marchi. After 14 successful and exciting years, he will bid farewell with a special Vivaldi concert. He will be assisted by the internationally celebrated virtuoso Antoine Tamestit.

### “Paths” (the leitmotif)

“Paths” are central elements of our lives in many ways. “Paths” and their various parameters are reflected in the programme of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music 2023. For Alessandro de Marchi, who has played a key role in the festival for the past 14 years, it will be his final festival season as artistic director. Together with renowned early music artists, he once again invites us to “walk the path” together and also wants to go in search of traces. Fittingly, he was inspired for the Festival programme by a quote from the Colombian Nobel Prize winner for literature Gabriel García Márquez. “All people have three lives: one public, one private and one secret”. This is also to be understood as an invitation to search for the hidden and new, which can (still) be discovered even in such popular, well-known, seemingly already fully explored places as Venice, or in the life and work of Vivaldi. Thus, a cultural and commercial metropolis where numerous artistic as well as economic paths met, together with its most famous musical son, is the focus of this year’s programme. Venice was the centre of book and music printing, of the cultivation of sacred and secular music, the place where the phenomenon of polychoral music reached its greatest heyday and where numerous

musicians enjoyed their training. Antonio Vivaldi, his musical wealth of facets, his relationships with contemporaries and his transnational network will be brought to the stage from different perspectives this year.

### “Rarities by Vivaldi” (The Operas)

Antonio Vivaldi composed several vocal works alongside his instrumental pieces. This year, you can look forward to his operas “Olimpiade” and “La fida ninfa” as well as the oratorio “Juditha triumphans”.

In "**Olimpiade**" the Tiroler Landestheater becomes the venue of Olympic Games and in musical-sporting competition the countertenors Bejun Mehta and Raffaele Pe. Soprano Bruno de Sà, soprano Benedetta Mazzucato, contralto Margherita Maria Sala and baritone Christian Senn and Luigi De Donato will also take part in the competition. The Innsbrucker Festwochenorchester will be playing under the musical direction of Alessandro De Marchi. The direction of “Olimpiade” is in the hands of Stefano Vizioli, who already put on the unforgettable production of Cesti’s “La Dori” in 2019. At the centre is a love affair laced with intrigue. Licida asks his friend Megacle to participate in the games under his name. At first, Megacle has no idea that the prize is his own lover Aristeia. The work had its world premiere on 17 February 1734 at the Teatro Sant’ Angelo in Venice. The libretto is based on Pietro Metastasio’s “L’Olimpiade” in an adaptation by Bartolomeo Vitturi.

Premiere on 04.08.2023 at 6.30 pm, further performances on 06.08. at 16:00 & on 08.08. at 6.30 pm,  
in the Tiroler Landestheater (Tyrolean State Theatre)  
(📄 see programme page 32)

A supposedly dreamlike shepherd’s idyll is offered by the production of the Barockoper:Jung “**La fida ninfa**”. In Vivaldi’s “Faithful Nymph”, the successful participants of the Cesti Competition seek their love fortune as kidnapped shepherdesses and shepherds on the island of Naxos. The Barockorchester:Jung, soprano Chelsea Zurflüh, countertenor Nicolo Balducci and tenor Kieran White, as well as bass Yevhen Rakhmanin will perform under the direction of Chiara Cattani. The production is directed by François de Carpentries and the set and costume design is created by Karine Van Hercke. They were also responsible for the fabulous production of the Barockoper:Jung from 2017: “The Roman Unrest, or The Noble-Minded Octavia” (“Die römische Unruhe, oder Die edelmütige Octavia”) by Reinhard Keiser.

Premiere on 14.08.2023 at 7 pm, further performances on 16, 17 & 19.08 at 7 pm on each evening,  
in the Chamber Theatre at the House of Music (Kammerspiele im Haus der Musik)  
(📄 see programme on page 36)

A baroque musical jewel, which can hardly be surpassed in drama, is hidden behind the remarkable “Juditha triumphans devicta Holofernus barbarie”, or “Judith triumphing over the barbarism of

Holofernes". The only surviving oratorio by Antonio Vivaldi, which premiered in 1716 in the Chiesa Santa Maria della Pietà in Venice, deals with the well-known theme of the widow Judith, who first seduces the war general Holofernes, only to then behead him with his own sword. A dramatic end for Holofernes – a performance not to be missed of **"Juditha triumphans"** under the direction of Alessandro De Marchi and the all-female ensemble led by soprano Arianna Vendittelli, with mezzo-sopranos Sophie Rennert, Emilie Renard, Anastasia Boldyreva and Lorrie Garcia, as well as the Innsbrucker Festwochenorchester.

Premiere on 23.08.2023 at 7 pm, further performances on 25.08. at 7 pm, in the Tiroler Landestheater (Tyrolean State Theater)  
(🎧 see programme on page 40)

### **"Musical experiences" (The Ambras Castle Concerts)**

To kick off the Ambras Castle Concerts, Tyrolean-born harpsichordist Anne Marie Dragosits and her ensemble Accademia degli Stravaganti (including violinist Leila Schayegh and soprano Ulrike Hofbauer) musically narrate the life of composer Antonia Bembo in **"A Venetian in Paris"**. Another admirable artist, Caterina Martinelli, called "La Caterinuccia", is the focus of the Swiss vocal ensemble Voces Suaves in their **concert "Monteverdi's Muse"** at the second castle concert. The Ensemble Dramatodía takes the audience on a boat trip from Venice to Padua in the programme **"In Best Company"** and the final chord of the Castle Concerts 2023 is set by the Spanish violinist Lina Tur Bonet and her international ensemble Musica Alchemica with concerti by **"Bach & Vivaldi"**.

11.07 to 01.08.2022, Tuesdays at 8 pm in the Spanischer Saal, Schloss Ambras (Spanish Hall of Ambras Castle) (🎧 see programme on pages 16 - 23)

### **"Special treasures and original sounds" (The Concerts)**

Baroque splendour and joie de vivre are exuded by the flute virtuoso Giovanni Antonini and his ensemble Il Giardino Armonico in the concert "Il giardino" in the Spanish Hall of Ambras Castle. An exciting musical combination can be experienced in the open-mind concert "Tango Seasons" at the Tyrolean Landestheater. The Gabetta Consort combines Vivaldi's probably best-known work "The Four Seasons" with Astor Piazzolla's "Four Seasons in Buenos Aires". The Jesuit Church, on the other hand, is more reverent. The Norwegian mezzo-soprano Marianne Beate Kielland and Concerto Italiano, under the musical direction of Rinaldo Alessandrini, dedicate themselves to various Stabat mater settings by Caldara, Galuppi and Vivaldi. In the sonorous Giant Hall of the Innsbruck Hofburg (Imperial Palace), the celebrated violinist Julien Chauvin and his ensemble Le Concert de la Loge will perform violin concertos by the "Red Priest" in the programme "Souvenirs", and in the Hofkirche the traditional British ensemble His Majesty's Sagbutts & Cornetts will take

listeners on a musical “Grand Tour”. From the gallery, the musicians will make their tines and trombones sound festive. Francesca Aspromonte can be heard in the concert “La primadonna” at Ambras Castle together with the Basel-based ensemble La Floridiana. The soprano was already celebrated as a “new star in the Baroque sky” in 2018, when she sang the title role of Hasse’s serenata “Semele” at the festival. Soprano Giulia Semenzato also caused a stir among the audience and the press in 2016 in her performance of Cimarosa’s “Il matrimonio segreto”. In the concert “The Untamed” she will be on stage with the Swedish Drottningholmsteaterns Orkester. Also at Ambras Castle, soprano Hanna Herfurtner and baritone Matthias Vieweg tell of love, tormenting jealousy and great freedom in “Carnival of Venice”. They are accompanied by the Barockwerk Hamburg under the direction of Ira Hochman. Tommaso Traetta’s oratorio “Rex Salomon” will also be staged at the House of Music with an all-female cast of singers (as in “Juditha triumphans”). Conducted by the French master Christophe Rousset, the 2019 Cesti winner, mezzo-soprano Grace Durham and 2016 Cesti finalist, soprano Suzanne Jerosme, among others, can be heard alongside the Tyrolean vocal ensemble NovoCanto and the Theresia Orchestra. This year’s festive finale will not be the usual Cesti Competition. It will be the final concert of long-time artistic director Alessandro De Marchi. Together with the internationally celebrated viola virtuoso Antoine Tamestit, he will perform concertos and symphonies by Vivaldi. The artistic director will bid farewell with this special concert after 14 successful and exciting years.

from 5 to 29.08.2023, on different days and at various venues  
(☞ see programme Pages 60 – 91)

### **“Music all around Innsbruck” (“Ganz Innsbruck klingt”) (free events, open-air concerts & workshops)**

At the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music, the city and the surrounding mountains will once again resound with music this year. For the third time, “Musica montana” will feature entertaining music against a picturesque backdrop. At the most beautiful places in the old town, musicians from the Innsbruck Festival will unpack their historical instruments for the “Concerto mobile” and perform beautiful songs, lively melodies and folkloric dances from the Baroque and Renaissance periods. From the Golden Roof, the festive sounds of the Innsbruck Trumpet Consort will resound through the historic Old Town. And, of course, the lunch concerts in the pavilion of the Hofgarten (Imperial Gardens) are not to be missed. The musical religious services in the collegiate church of Wilten and in the monastery of Stams offer short breaks from everyday life. In instrument-making workshops, Claudia Unterkofler will introduce the secrets of violin making and Benedikt Sonnleitner will provide insights into the world of trumpets. In addition, music, acrobatic shows, historical games and dances will immerse Ambras Castle in a colourful past and bring it to life.

from 21.07 to 27.08.2023, on different days and at various venues.  
(☞ see programme Pages 52 – 72)

## Facts and figures of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music 2023

48 events on 32 days at more than 14 venues

Period: July 11 to August 29, 2023

Events (total): 48

Sales events: 32

Venues: 14 (+ Concerto mobile)

Scenic productions: 3

(of which new productions: 2)

"Juditha triumphans" RV 644 (Antonio Vivaldi)

Oratorio in two parts

Libretto by Giacomo Cassetti

First performance: Venice, Chiesa Santa Maria della Pietà, 1716

A co-production with Teatro La Fenice Venice

"La fida ninfa" RV 714 (Antonio Vivaldi)

Opera in three acts

Libretto by Scipione Maffei

First performance: Verona, Teatro Filarmonico di Verona, January 6, 1732

(Baroque opera: Young)

"Olimpiade" (Antonio Vivaldi)

"L'Olimpiade" RV 725

Opera in three acts

Libretto by Pietro Metastasio (in an arrangement by Bartolomeo Vitturi)

First performance: Venice, Teatro Sant'Angelo, February 17, 1734

Concerts and more:

Church concerts: 2

Musical devotions: 2

Free events: 16

Open-air events: 14

Ambras castle concerts: 4

workshops: 6

International Singing Competition for Baroque Opera Pietro Antonio Cesti

Ambras Castle Festival

## Ticket information

Tickets for the 47th Innsbruck Festival of Early Music will be available from Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at all known ticket agencies.

## Advance booking offices

- Online: [www.altemusik.at](http://www.altemusik.at)

Ticket hotline: +43 512 52074-504

Haus der Musik Innsbruck: Universitätsstraße 1, 6020 Innsbruck (main entrance at Rennweg),

Innsbruck Information: Burggraben 3, 6020 Innsbruck

Ticket Gretchen App: in the App Store and at Google Play

## Discounts

- 10 € tickets for all under 18

- 50% for all under 30

- 25% with the Quintet (when buying one ticket each for 5 different events)

- 20% with the TT-Club card for "Olimpiade" and "Juditha triumphans"

- 10% with the Ö1 Club Card

- 10% with the Welcome Card

You can download press photos from the Innsbruck Festival website at [www.altemusik.at/presse](http://www.altemusik.at/presse).

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