

# E-NEWSLETTER ABOUT SIPAN OLAH CONCERTS IN MALTA

**Sipan Olah** is finally back to London after his 2018 concert tour in the **Republic of Malta**.

Having participated in **43 performances**, he established an excellent artistic reputation, which was highlighted by Maltese and international electronic and print media.

The year of 2018 was unique as Valetta, the capital of Malta, had been announced **European capital of culture** for the entire year. It brought world famous musicians, orchestras, bands, artists, writers and many more to Maltese islands not only from the EU but even from remote corners of the globe. Sipan was among them and presented Armenian and European music, performing as a singer, conductor and pianist.

His first collaboration with **"New Choral Singers"** of Malta started with **4 concerts**, where he performed as a soloist and chorister during Christmas days in December 2017 with world famous organist and conductor **Wayne Marshal** and choir conductor **Mauro Farrugia** in St Pauls Anglican Pro-Cathedral Valletta, St Publius church Floriana, Radisson Blu Resort, and St Augustin church in Valletta.

You can find an article about these concerts here: <https://thisislife2000.wordpress.com/2017/12/25/a-christmas-carol/>



In collaboration with young Maltese soprano **Dorothy Baltacchinio** and Lithuanian-Maltese pianist **Irina Fedcenco-Carbonaro** Sipan had a recital - **"Love Songs and Arias"** at St Augustin church in Valletta on February the 13<sup>th</sup>, dedicated to Valentine's day.



**University of Malta** and Head of performing arts **Mario Frendo** invited **Sipan Olah** to participate in a week-long programme, including workshops and full-time sessions. It was called **"Mediterranean Dimension"** and participants from 9 Mediterranean countries were to present their ethnic folk music. As long as historic Armenia, i.e. its Kingdom of Cilicia, used to be a Mediterranean state, Sipan had a unique chance to present "I was returning from mountains" and "Zinch u zinch" by **Komitas**, accompanied by his modern arrangement for guitar, trumpet and percussions (the percussionist, by the way, was from Turkey). During the performance on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March in Palazzo De La Salle, Valletta, along with Armenian songs, **Sipan** presented the 12<sup>th</sup> century French troubadour Bernart de Ventadorn's 3 songs, accompanied by all the participants, which was the final and definitely triumphal piece of this remarkable concert.



On the 10<sup>th</sup> of March Sipan participated in a wonderful concert in the framework of the **Teatru Manoel** Opera Week: Mozart's Sacred Music with renowned Maltese Soprano **Miriam Gauci** and the **Goldberg Ensemble** conducted by **Michael Laus** in St Augustin, Valletta.



Following his successful performance **Mr Olah** was invited to the second Maltese island **Gozo** to participate in the annual **Gaulitana International Festival** of Music masterclasses by internationally acclaimed soprano **Miriam Gauci** and sing in a **Gala Concert at the Ministry of Gozo, Malta**. He presented arias by Handel, Gluck, Mozart and completed the concert with Verdi's "Brindisi" with all the participants of the event taking part.



The **Arts Counsel of Malta** invited **Sipan** for a special project to conduct a **Maltese choir** which was going to perform **Armenian choir-songs by Komitas** and this was going to be the **first historic performance** of Armenian choir pieces in Malta. For **Sipan Olah** it was a great honour to be privileged to do this work as he had this opportunity to conduct his own UK Komitas choir in Cardiff, Wales in 2014 presenting Komitas songs to Welsh audience who heard live Armenian songs for the first time. The concert was in the framework of the **Malta International Music Festival** which hosted Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra all the way from Yerevan for 2 weeks. **Sipan** met world famous musicians who performed with him in the same festival during these weeks and arranged concerts for future collaboration with them.

Read more about the mentioned concert here:

[https://mediamax.am/en/news/society/28091/?fbclid=IwAR2mjtJK34pGc\\_wKUM3n7JYUqhFBZUJkpiDZ4w76ADFqXOjucilJ4JXQXIo](https://mediamax.am/en/news/society/28091/?fbclid=IwAR2mjtJK34pGc_wKUM3n7JYUqhFBZUJkpiDZ4w76ADFqXOjucilJ4JXQXIo)

<http://www.maltavest.com/publikaczii/works-of-komitas-a-symbol-of-armenian-national-identity-performed-for-the-first-time-in-malta.html?fbclid=IwAR0VRfyCbCB8pgofsbHdDLZpiaVYXMx15OljVegz0dUne80vuySNNvwCIYM>



May 11<sup>th</sup> should be noted as another memorable collaboration with **Irina Fedcenko** (piano) and **Dorothy Baldacchino** (soprano) in a concert of "Spring Songs of Joy and Love" in **Palazzo De La Salle** organised by the **Malta Society of Arts**. In this concert **Sipan** presented arias and songs by Handel, Schubert, Gershwin, Bixio, Barber, Curtis and an Armenian song by **Harutiunyan**. With pianist Irina Fedcenko **Sipan** played **Kachaturian's** "Waltz" and "Dance of the Rose Maidens" for 4 hands, which was a complete surprise to the audience.



On May 12<sup>th</sup> **Sipan Olah** was invited to San Anton Palace to meet and perform for **Her Excellency President of Malta Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca** during **Bulgarian Cultural days** in her residency.



**Barocco Foundation of Valletta** organized a special concert of "Love Songs and Arias" on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May in St Augustin church with world famous Maltese-Bulgarian soprano **Andriana Yordunova**, Armenian tenor **Sipan Olah** and Polish-German pianist **Julia Miller**. They performed arias from different operas of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sipan performed some Armenian romances as well and sang the duets "Lippen schweigen" by Lehar and "Non ti scordar di me" by Curtis with Andriana.



The "Monteverdi" project concert by **Teatru Manoel Valletta** on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May was a special opportunity for **Sipan Olah** to show his attainment following special baroque vocal sessions with Maltese soprano **Gillian Zammit** and Italian conductor- harpsichord player **Marco Mencoboni**. He sang "Si Dolce E'il Tormento" by Monteverdi and impressed the professional audience and the board of the oldest opera house in Europe Teatru Manoel.



The evening of **"Russian Romance"** on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June was a unique event organised by the **Russian Centre of Science and Culture Malta** where **Sipan** along with several famous Maltese singers performed masterpieces by such Russian composers as Glinka, Tyatchev, Feldman, expressing the beauty and musicality of the Russian language.



A Concert on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June for **Sovereign Military Order of Maltese Knights** with the **Malta Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Goldberg ensemble** took place in magnificent **St John Co-Cathedral in Valletta**. The programme included Bach, Gibbons, Haydn and Handel where **Sipan Olah** presented a solo from Haydn's messiah.



**Maltese unique Catholic feasts** are special religious events where professional classical musicians with **MPO** perform messiahs by local and international composers. **Sipan Olah** was invited to **St Bartolomeo's feast in Taxien**, Malta and **St Maria's feast Celebration** on the island of **Gozo**, Malta. He presented the solo for tenor in Messiah Brevis (In Honorem Joannis Pauli II Pope) which was conditioned by the composer **Colin Attard** himself, and which was broadcast live on **Maltese National TV**.



Valletta 2018 brought to Malta the newly written **Music-Theatre "Orfeo & Majnun"** from Belgium. Two **mythical Greek and Arabic love stories** were merged into one and the music was written to **English and Arabic lyrics**. **Sipan** performed as the leader of the tenor ensemble in this play the premiere of which were on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of October in MCC with the participation of international cast with world famous Polish-Austrian conductor **Rafal Kloczko**.



"La Traviata" by unparalleled **G. Verdi** with 2 performances by **Opera Astra in Gozo**, Malta was to become a momentous event on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. **Sipan** was invited to perform along with internationally renowned **singers** from **Malta, Italy and England**. The director represented Rome and conductor **F. Welsh** was invited from the UK.



**Sipan Olah's** last gig in Malta was the performance in "**Belt Il-Bnedem**" (**City of Humanity**), a newly written **Maltese opera in the Maltese language** (the first of its kind) where **Sipan** was the **only tenor** who agreed to take this challenging role (contemporary music written by **R.Pace**). Conductor **R.Ferrer** from Barcelona, Director **M.Moxham** from **Covent Garden, London** and international singers from Europe made this historic opera premiere in the **Mediterranean Conference Centre** on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. It was about historic events of **1500s** when **Ottomans** attacked **Malta** and Malta was suffering from a great siege.



After his return to **Britain** he was invited to go on a **concert tour** around **East England** with "**The Gaulitanianus choir**" of Aurora opera theatre of Gozo, Malta from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. The concerts in **Cambridge, Pakelfield, Framlingham** and **Norwich** were spectacular and **Sipan** was the **only non-Maltese singer** in the group singing in Maltese along with this splendid choir with conductor-composer **Colin Attard**.

