

A Long Season of Music in Ravenna



- **RAVENNA FESTIVAL: June 1 to July 22, 2018**

"We have a Dream": From the great melting pot of cultures in the USA to a celebration of music and its ability to flourish under political and religious oppression, this year's Festival presents over 50 performances with guest artists ranging from Wayne Marshall to David Byrne, Valentyn Sylvestrov, Valery Gergiev, Opera North, Ensemble Heinavanker and Bill T. Jones.

- **The Roads of Friendship: Kiev - Ravenna. July 1 to 3, 2018**

The Ravenna Festival's annual musical pilgrimage unites Riccardo Muti and Italian musicians with the Choir and Orchestra of the Ukraine National Opera for special concerts in Kiev (1 July) and Ravenna (3 July).

- **Autumn Trilogy: November 23 to December 2, 2018**

Three new productions of Verdi Operas - *Nabucco*, *Rigoletto*, *Otello* - directed by Cristina Muti, featuring a young cast and the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra on stage in the historic Dante Alighieri Theatre.

- **RICCARDO MUTI ITALIAN OPERA ACADEMY:
July 21 to August 3, 2018**

An in-depth study of Verdi's *Macbeth* - a two week intensive public masterclass for selected young conductors and répétiteurs with Riccardo Muti.



Home to eight UNESCO World Heritage sites, Ravenna has historically been a gateway between the East and West as the former capital of three great kingdoms: the Western Roman Empire, the Ostrogothic Kingdom, and the Exarchate of Ravenna, the centre of Byzantine power in Italy. The city's rich history is the inspiration for the annual **Ravenna Festival** where, for two months each summer, concerts and events are staged in Byzantine basilicas, theatres and palaces, former monasteries and cloisters, on beaches, in pine forests and in the buzzing modern harbour. These venues form the background for a diverse programme across the performing arts: from symphonic concerts to dance and ballet, from chamber and ethnic music to jazz under the stars and the opera **Autumn Trilogy** in the intimate Dante Alighieri Theatre, named after the poet who lived and died in Ravenna. The city also plays host to the **Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy**, a two-week masterclass which unveils the secrets of this great Italian music heritage.

For further press information please contact:

Red House Productions - lucy@redhousepr.com - www.redhousepr.com - Tel: + 46 - (0)70 - 38 80 255

A Long Season of Music in Ravenna

RAVENNA FESTIVAL: June 1 to July 22, 2018



The 29th Ravenna Festival pays homage to Martin Luther King, an icon of the Civil Rights Movements, with the title ***We Have a Dream***. 50 years after his death, these words offer the chance for a mosaic of themes from *In the Veins of America* to *The New Found Song of the Lyre*, celebrating the resiliency of music under oppression. And while this summer the **Roads of Friendship**, under Riccardo Muti's lead, will take the Festival to Kiev, the **Autumn Trilogy** will be dedicated to three Verdi operas.

In the Veins of America explores the fundamental contribution of the United States - traditionally the great melting pot of cultures, ethnicities, religions, and languages - to music as we know it. In addition to Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate* produced by **Opera North** (7 - 9 June), the Festival celebrates Leonard Bernstein in the centenary of his birth - as well as the minimalist music of Terry Riley, Philip Glass, and Steve Reich - with guest artists including conductors **Wayne Marshall** (4 June), **Dennis Russell Davies** (16 & 17 June) and **James Conlon** (7 July). Sonic Youth founder **Thurston Moore** will also take part with the invasion of the *100 Electric Guitars*, a tribute to the king of popular music instruments (19 - 24 June).

From America the Festival strand moves East with *The New Found Song of the Lyre* celebrating the ability of music to flourish under political and religious oppression, featuring music by composers such as Alfred Schnittke, Arvo Pärt and Ukrainian composer, **Valentyn Sylvestrov** who travels to Ravenna to participate in the festival together with the **Choir and Orchestra of the Ukraine National Opera** (4 July). Additional programmes within this strand include: *The Splendour of Aleppo* - music from the war-wounded city and its Syrian-Christian, Armenian, Muslim, and Jewish communities (15 June); **The Sixteen** performing in a concert named after the psalm *Super flumina Babylonis*, lamenting the exile of the Jewish people (19 June); **Ensemble Heinavanker** celebrating 100 Years of Estonian Independence (24 June); and *Three Faiths, One God* which brings together music from the Maronite Church, Jewish, Sufi traditions, and Hildegard of Bingen for a concert in Ravenna's most famous church, the Basilica di San Vitale (12 July).

For further press information please contact:

Red House Productions - lucy@redhousepr.com - www.redhousepr.com - Tel: + 46 - (0)70 - 38 80 255

A Long Season of Music in Ravenna

Additional highlights of this year's Ravenna Festival include a concert performance of Verdi's *Macbeth* with **Riccardo Muti** and the **Orchestra del Maggio Fiorentino**, performances by **Valery Gergiev** and the **Marinsky Theatre Orchestra** (8 June) and **David Fray** with the **Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra**, the Festival's resident orchestra (26 June). Special guest artists in 2018 also include Italy's legendary ballet dancer **Roberto Bolle** (22 July) as well two cult British artists - **Elvis Costello** (16 July) and **David Byrne** of Talking Heads (19 July). The dance section also includes the premieres of Emio Greco's and Bill T. Jones's last works. Last but not least from 1 June to 5 July daily events celebrate Ravenna's own history with a tribute to Dante in the Franciscan Cloisters, adjacent to the Poet's Tomb (11 am), and the Vespers concerts in the Basilica of San Vitale (7 pm).

The Roads of Friendship: Kiev - Ravenna. July 1 to 3, 2018

"We started the idea of the Roads of Friendship about 20 years ago in Sarajevo as we were all moved and touched by the tragedy that was unfolding there. We decided that we wanted to bring a sign of brotherhood, of peace, of love from Ravenna and realised that music would be the best way to do this. Together with over 100 Italian musicians we travelled by military plane across the Adriatic and performed in a city that was still being destroyed by bombs. Joining us on stage were musicians from the Sarajevo Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and in the audience were 9000 men, women and children. This was the start of a journey that, in the intervening years, has taken us to extraordinary places and given us the opportunity to perform with musicians from different cultures and regions. It is an annual pilgrimage that reminds us of the universality of the musical language and common bonds between us all."

Riccardo Muti

Since 1997, the Ravenna Festival has curated annual pilgrimages to cities as diverse as Beirut, Jerusalem, Moscow, Yerevan, Istanbul, New York, Cairo, Damascus, Nairobi, Tokyo and mostly recently, in 2017, Tehran. On each occasion Riccardo Muti and an ensemble of Italian musicians have travelled to a city which has invited and hosted them to perform with local musicians; on each occasion they have also performed together in Ravenna, strengthening the bond of friendship. In 2018 **The Roads of Friendship** takes Riccardo Muti and his Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra to Kiev for a concert with the choir and orchestra of the National Opera of Ukraine (1 July) before travelling back to Italy for a repeat performance in Ravenna (3 July). United in history through ancient ties to Constantinople, Ravenna and Kiev are home to World Heritage churches dating back to the 6th century and, although religions and cultures may differ, they are inextricably linked through their dazzling mosaics which have survived the centuries of change.

For further press information please contact:

Red House Productions - lucy@redhousepr.com - www.redhousepr.com - Tel: + 46 - (0)70 - 38 80 255

A Long Season of Music in Ravenna

Ravenna Festival's Autumn Trilogy - November 23 to December 2, 2018

Inspiring the next generation of musicians is something that has been close to the heart of Cristina Mazzavillani Muti ever since she founded the Ravenna Festival in 1990: the introduction of the **Autumn Trilogy** in 2011 was a natural extension to the Festival and a time to bring together young talents and experienced singers, while audiences are invited to enjoy an autumn weekend exploring the city by day and attending a different opera each evening. This year's trilogy brings three Verdi's masterpieces to stage: *Nabucco*, *Rigoletto*, *Otello*.

RICCARDO MUTI ITALIAN OPERA ACADEMY: July 21 to August 3, 2018

Since 2015 Riccardo Muti has invited musicians from around the world to participate in a two-week public masterclass at his **Italian Opera Academy** in Ravenna. From piano to on-stage rehearsals and two final concerts in the Dante Alighieri Theatre, young conductors and répétiteurs learn the art of Italian opera through the personal instruction of Riccardo Muti, who shares his knowledge and experience with students and public audience alike.



Following *Falstaff*, *Traviata*, and *Aida*, the focus of previous masterclasses, Muti and his students will this summer tackle *Macbeth*. Joining them in the pit is the Luigi Cherubini Youth Orchestra, founded by Riccardo Muti in 2005 - an ensemble offering young Italian musicians under the age of 30 a vital training ground between conservatoire and the professional world.

For more information please visit:

[Ravenna Festival Website](#)

or download the complete programme as pdf:

[Red House Production Website](#)

For further press information please contact:

Red House Productions - lucy@redhousepr.com - www.redhousepr.com - Tel: + 46 - (0)70 - 38 80 255