



The Commandaria Orchestra  
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**Theme Concert of 'The Commandaria Orchestra'  
at the 2nd Festival "Medieval Nicosia"  
entitled  
"Concert in Antique Style"**

**Famagusta Gate - Nicosia  
Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 19:30**

**Artistic Director / Conductor: Francis Guy**

**Press Release**

Commandaria Orchestra's «Concert in Antique Style» presents compositions for string orchestra, based on thematic material (fragmented or in its entirety) from medieval secular music. The composers' sources were early music manuscripts, folk music tradition, etc.

The concert will open with the short "Psalmus" by Nicolas Economou, taken by his Album for piano "Kinderlaune", and it will be performed for the first time arranged for string orchestra.

The first part of the program also consists of medieval dances taken from Ottorino Respighi's first and third Suites, entitled "Ancient Airs and Dances". In addition, Francesco Geminiani's Concerto grosso 'La Follia', for two solo violins and cello will be performed by members of the Commandaria Orchestra, Pavel Rotaru, Mariana Doncheva and Mariliza Papadouri. The roots of the musical theme follia (or folia), extend back to the late 15th century, they are of Portuguese origin, related to the Latin root of the word for 'fool' or 'madness', and refers to a dance that was likely a court fool's dance.

The second part of the concert consists of brilliant suites by English composers. The first is Peter Warlock's "Capriol Suite», which is based on medieval dances that were rescued in a treatise published in the late 16th century.

The second is "Saint Paul's Suite", by Gustav Holst, who draws his thematic material from British folk tradition achieving thus an original gothic atmosphere.

Commandaria Orchestra will perform under the baton of its Aritstic Director, conductor Francis Guy

### **The Commandaria Orchestra**

The Commandaria Orchestra was established in 2009 by The Cyprus Wine Museum. The appellation of the Orchestra directly references to the region where the Orchestra and The Cyprus Wine Museum are based, the Great Commandery of Cyprus which was founded by the Order of Saint John. Commandaria is also the unique sweet wine of Cyprus and one of the oldest wines in the world that Hesiod and Homer.

The Commandaria Orchestra's main target is the implementation of the visions of The Cyprus Wine Museum, including the spread of the musical culture of Cyprus. The rich repertoire of the orchestra includes masterpieces from the medieval ages until nowadays Number of premier compositions where performed and recorded which most of them where dedicated to the orchestra.

This year the orchestra will participate in two production of Pafos 2017. The first, is in collaboration with the Greek ensemble "En Chordais" ("Exile" / May, 28<sup>th</sup> 2017). The second production, is the opera Cassandre (a mile stone in 21<sup>st</sup> century muscis creation) by Michel Jarel that will take place on September, 16<sup>th</sup> 2017.

[www.cypruswinemuseum.com](http://www.cypruswinemuseum.com)

[www.facebook.com/CyprusWineMuseum.Commandaria/](https://www.facebook.com/CyprusWineMuseum.Commandaria/)

Video Sample of the orchestra: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpjdpWu-vEY>

### **Commandaria Orchestra**

#### **Aritstic Director / Conductor**

Francis Nectarios Guy

#### **Leader**

Pavel Rotaru

#### **Violins I**

Hasmik Sargsyan

Kostas Demirtzoglou

#### **Violins II**

Marianna Doncheva

George Hadjigeorgiou

Viki Hadjiandreou

#### **Violas**

Nicolas Papageorgiou

Valentina Valova

**Cellos**

Mariliza Papaoduri

Corina Vassiliou

**Double Bass**

Eleana Andreou