

**Teatro Lirico di Cagliari
Fondazione**

Opera and ballet season 2007

**From April to December, five opera productions and
two ballets on stage at the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari**

Season opening on Friday 27 April, 8.30 p.m.

**VII Sant'Efisio Festival
The Birds (Die Vögel)**
lyric-fairy play in two acts
by Walter Braunfels

**a new production of the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari
Italian première**

*Members of the audience,
If anyone among you
Wants to mingle with the birds
And live carefree from now on,
Come here and join us.*

Aristophanes, The Birds
Athens, 415 b.C.

*My dear friends, greetings.
Today you will be in our Kingdom,
Where life flows lightly for those who are happy,
Every hour brings a new joy;
And a sweet song speaks from a full heart.*

Walter Braunfels, The Birds
Munich, 1920

A tour, a route through music notes which starts from the birds' flight, passes the Oceans, explores the heart of Europe and the seraglios of the East, the Russian fairy-tales and the darkness of hell.

There are philological subtleties and celebrated pages, audiences' favourites. The 2007 programme for the opera and ballet season of the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari is a new discovery in the field of music lent to theatre, with dates you cannot miss. Seven productions, from April until December: five operas and two ballets. Each production,

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ballets included, will be preceded by an afternoon lecture, to be held as usual by musicologists, who are specialists in the various genres of repertoire.

27 April - 6 May

The opening is scheduled on 27 April, once again with a rare opera, never performed before in Italy. It is "**The Birds**" (**Die Vögel**), a lyric-fairy play in two acts which the German composer Walter Braunfels wrote in 1920, drawing on Aristophanes's classical Greek comedy. The work of a fine creative mind, thwarted by the Nazi regime, "The Birds", whose libretto was also written by Braunfels, will remain on stage in Cagliari till 6 May, and it is the most awaited event on the seventh Sant'Efisio Festival's calendar. It is a new production, of course, a new staging of the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, which will be presented in the original language version, with Italian surtitles. Roberto Abbado on the podium and a great director, Giancarlo Cobelli.

28 May - 6 June

On 28 May it is the turn of Verdi's most elegant, "**A Masked Ball**", libretto by Antonio Somma. It is a melodrama in three acts, Giuseppe Verdi set it to music after the play "Gustave III ou Le bal masqué" by Eugène Scribe, displacing the action to far-away Massachusetts. "A Masked Ball" will run at the Teatro Lirico till 6 June. The conductor will be Arthur Fagen, the direction is by Alberto Fassini, re-staged by Joseph Franconi Lee. The scenes are designed by Mauro Carosi and the costumes by Odette Nicoletti.

29 June – 8 July

You will have to wait till 29 June to meet again, up to 8 July, with the opera "**Manon Lescaut**", Giacomo Puccini's remarkable work. After Prévost's novel, it took a whole team of librettists to create the lyrics of this magnificent lyric drama in four acts, which marked the starting point of Puccini's explorations inside the mystery of women's heart. Domenico Oliva, Luigi Illica, Marco Praga, Giuseppe Giacosa and even the publisher Giulio Ricordi worked on it, in the closing years of the XIX century. The conductor is Philippe Auguin, with the direction by Gilbert Deflo. William Orlandi is the scene and costume designer.

18 July - 25 July

The summer encounter with ballet is scheduled from 18 till 25 July, with the very epitome of late-romantic ballet. It is "**Swan Lake**", a fairy ballet in three acts set to music by Petr Il'ič Čaikovskij, to a libretto by Vladimir Beghiscev and Vasily Geltzer. Starring, the extraordinary Kirov Ballet of St Petersburg Mariinskij Theater, with the historic choreography by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov in Konstantin Sergeiev's version.

12 October – 21 October

The autumn, abounding for the first time with opera and ballet offers, opens on 12 October bringing on stage "**The Abduction from the Seraglio**" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, a co-production of Cagliari's Teatro Lirico and Ancona's Teatro delle Muse. A opera in three acts after Christoph Bretzner's "Belmont und Konstanze", its libretto is by Johann Gottlieb Stephanie junior and it is regarded as the first great masterpiece of Mozart's music theatre.

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On stage until 21 October. It will be conducted by Theodor Guschelbauer. A special remark for the important direction by Stephen Medcalf, who last season received the prestigious Premio Abbiati, right for his staging of a Bizet's "Carmen" produced by the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari. The scene and costume designer is Isabella Bywater.

6 November - 12 November

November is all devoted to the fascination of ballet, staging the poetical "**Cendrillon**", with music by Sergej Prokofiev and additional musical sequences by Jean Schwartz. The opening is scheduled on the 6th of November and it will run till the 12th. The choreography is by Maguy Marin. Starring the Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon, with scenes and costumes by Monserrat Casanova and intriguing masks by Monique Luyton. Mikhail Agrest conducts the Teatro Lirico Orchestra.

20 December - 30 December

The season ends in December, with a very peculiar work, which will run from the 20th through all Christmas period: it is "**Orpheus in the Underworld**", a comic opera in four acts, composed by Jacques Offenbach to the libretto of Hector Crémieux and Ludovic Halévy. A story about ridiculous gods, among waltz and can-can, in Second Empire's Paris. You can enjoy it until 30 December, so as to cheer the year end. On the podium the talented young conductor Guillaume Tournaire. The director is Marco Gandini, the scene designer Italo Grassi and the costume designer Maurizio Millenotti.

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VII Sant'Efisio Festival **The Birds (Die Vögel)**

lyric-fairy play in two acts

by Walter Braunfels

**a new production of Teatro Lirico di Cagliari
Italian première**

Friday 27 April, 8:30 p.m. – series A
Sunday 29 April, 5:00 p.m. – series D
Monday 30 April, 8:30 p.m. – series F
Wednesday 2 May, 8:30 p.m. – series B
Friday 4 May, 8:30 p.m. – series C
Saturday 5 May, 7:00 p.m. - series G
Sunday 6 May, 5:00 p.m. – series E

The Birds (Die Vögel)

A lyric-fairy play in a prologue and two acts after Aristophanes's comedy with the same title

libretto and music by Walter Braunfels

original language version with surtitles in Italian

Main characters and cast

Goodhope **Lance Ryan (Roy Cornelius Smith days 30, 5)**
Loyal Friend **Giorgio Surian (Michael Leibundgut days 30, 5)**
Nightingale **Katarzyna Dondalska (Maria Laura Martorana days 30, 5)**
Hoopoe **Markus Werba (Thomas De Vries days 30, 5)**
Prometheus **Petri Lindroos (Peter Savidge days 30, 5)**
Wren **Annamaria Dell'Oste (Teresa di Bari days 30, 5)**
Eagle/Voice of Zeus **Riccardo Ferrari**

conductor **Roberto Abbado**

direction **Giancarlo Cobelli**

scenes and costumes **Maurizio Balò**

choreography **Giovanni Di Cicco**

lighting **Mario De Vico**

Orchestra e Coro del Teatro Lirico

chorus master **Andrea Faidutti**

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The Birds (Die Vögel)

A lyric-fairy play in a prologue and two acts after Aristophanes's comedy with the same title

music and libretto by Walter Braunfels

27, 29, 30 April, 2, 4, 5, 6 May

conductor Roberto Abbado
direction Giancarlo Cobelli
scenes and costumes Maurizio Balò

The opera

A rare opera, as by tradition, is appointed to open the season on 27 April, with a work never performed before in Italy. It is "The Birds" (Die Vögel), a lyric-fairy play in two acts, which the German composer Walter Braunfels wrote in 1920, drawing on Aristophanes's classical Greek comedy. The work of a fine creative mind, thwarted by the Nazi regime, "The Birds", whose libretto is also written by Braunfels, will remain on stage in Cagliari till 6 May, and it is the most awaited event on the seventh Sant'Efisio Festival's calendar. A new production, of course, a new staging of the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, which will be presented in the original language version, with Italian surtitles. Roberto Abbado will be on the podium to conduct the Teatro Lirico Orchestra and Chorus. The direction is by Giancarlo Cobelli, scenes and costumes are designed by Maurizio Balò. An extraordinary cast of singers, with world-famous interpreters, specialists in this genre of repertoire.

"The Birds" (Die Vögel), is one of the best known classical comedies of Greek literature, which had Aristophanes as the greatest and most acknowledged representative. More than two thousand years after, the German composer and pianist would set it to music recapturing the sharp wit, the racy cues, the rhythmic energy which the Greek poet had put inside the expressive charge of his subtle, as well as intriguing, metrics. But it was not the right time. Braunfels worked on Aristophanes's text and presented his version of "The Birds" in Munich in 1920. The première was a success, but Germany was drawing towards the dark time of Nazi regime, that would not accept neither the lashes of Aristophanes nor the commitment of Walter Braunfels, all the more so as the audience appreciated it. That is how the opera had a bad luck, and little by little disappeared from the season programmes. Walter Braunfels's compositional style imprints his work with a refined metrical and musical mark, bent on lightness but capable of a beautiful dramatic intensity.

The composer

Walter Braunfels was born in Frankfurt on Main in 1882, and died in Cologne in 1954. He studied in Frankfurt, Vienna and Munich, where he lived until 1925. From then on and until 1933 he directed the Musikhochschule in Cologne, where he returned in 1945, after a long seclusion in order to escape Nazi persecution. He composed 12 operas, sacred and symphonic music, and chamber music. The Birds, Die Vögel, is regarded as his most important opera.

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27, 29, 30 April, 2, 4, 5, 6 May
The Birds (Die Vögel)
music and libretto by Walter Braunfels

28, 30, 31 May, 1, 3, 5, 6 June
A Masked Ball
libretto by Antonio Somma
music by Giuseppe Verdi

29 June, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 July
Manon Lescaut
libretto by Domenico Oliva, Giulio Ricordi, Luigi Illica, Marco Praga and Giuseppe Giacosa,
after "Histoire du Chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut" by Antoine-François Prévost
music by Giacomo Puccini

18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25 July
Swan Lake
libretto by Vladimir Beghiscev e Vasily Geltzer
music by Petr Il'ič Čajkovskij

12,14,16,17,19, 20, 21 October
The Abduction from the Seraglio (Die Entführung aus dem Serail)
German Singspiel in three acts by Christoph Bretzner revised by Johann Gottlieb
Stephanie junior
music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

6, 7, 8, 9,11, 12 November
Cendrillon
music by Sergej Prokofiev and additional musical sequences by Jean Schwartz

20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 30 December
Orpheus in the Underworld
libretto by Hector-Jonathan Crémieux and Ludovic Halévy
music by Jacques Offenbach

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Presentation lectures

Stalls Foyer

Monday 23 April, at 5 p.m.
VII Sant'Efisio Festival
Quirino Principe presents "The Birds" by Walter Braunfels

Friday 25 May, at 5 p.m.
Marco Beghelli presents "A Masked Ball" by Giuseppe Verdi

Tuesday 26 June, at 7 p.m.
Sandro Cappelletto presents "Manon Lescaut" by Giacomo Puccini

Monday 16 July, at 7 p.m.
Mario Pasi presents "Swan Lake" –Kirov Ballet of St Petersburg Mariinskij Theater

Tuesday 9 October, at 5 p.m.
Enzo Restagno presents "The Abduction from the Seraglio" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Friday 2 November, at 5 p.m.
Marinella Guatterini presents "Cendrillon" – Maguy Marin - Ballet de l'Opéra National de Lyon

Monday 17 December, at 5 p.m.
Paolo Terni presents "Orpheus in the Underworld" by Jacques Offenbach

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VII Sant'Efisia Festival

From this year onwards Sant'Efisia Festival will change its rules. The opening of the seventh festival, due on 27 April, is also the Opera and Ballet Season's opening night.

The main structure of the Festival consists of operatic, symphonic and jazz events; special activities and more out-subscription performances will be announced later.

What is going to be a worldwide attraction is the première of the opera "**The Birds**" by Walter Braunfels, on stage from 27 April, with repeat performances till 6 May.

On Saturday 28 April the stage will be left to jazz, with **Michel Portal** (sax), Tony Malaby (sax), Bruno Chevillon (contrabass) and Morten Lund (drums).

The Festival includes of course the first of May, Tuesday evening, reserved to the **Filarmonica della Scala** conducted by **Valery Gergiev** and with **Nikolaj Znaider** as solo violin. An remarkable programme, with the Violin concerto in D major op.77 by Johannes Brahms and the Symphony no.5 in B flat major op.100 by Sergej Prokofiev.

On Thursday 3 of May, the ending is in jazz with "**Carla Bley – The lost chords**", guest **Paolo Fresu**. An intriguing page of jazz, left to an exceptional group: Carla Bley (piano), Andy Sheppard (sax tenor and soprano), Steve Swallow (bass) e Billy Drummond (drums).