



ROOTS IN THE FUTURE



Italy Guest of Honour 2024
Frankfurter Buchmesse

PRESS RELEASE

Buchmesse, Italy honours Frankfurt with the power of its music

Frankfurt - (date) Italy Guest of Honour at the Buchmesse 2024 offers a rich programme of cultural events celebrating the diversity and vibrancy of Italian artistic production. Music, the universal language that breaks down all barriers, takes centre stage in this event. A journey through Italian history and traditions, from great opera to the latest pop, taking in also folk music, is set to bring the city of Frankfurt alive.

"The Buchmesse is mainly books, but during the fair we will be celebrating a fundamental element of our culture: folk music", stated **Mauro Mazza**, extraordinary Commissioner for Italy Guest of Honour at the Buchmesse 2024. "The concerts we will be bringing to Frankfurt – continued Mazza - will show the German public and more that our music is constantly evolving, while keeping its spirit intact, just like the slogan '*Roots in the Future*' that has accompanied us in this pathway to the Buchmesse".

A prestigious calendar of events which will be inaugurated at the theatre **Alte Oper on 15 October, starting at 20.30**, by the **Verona Arena Foundation Orchestra** with a tribute concert to Giacomo Puccini on the 100th anniversary of his death. The orchestra will perform the most moving arias from Puccini's repertoire. An event that will honour the musical genius of the great composer from Lucca, as well as the ties between music and literature, and the inclusion of opera singing in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The Italian music festival in Frankfurt will continue again at **Alte Oper on the following day, Wednesday 16 October at 20.00**, with the concert "Taranta d'amore e balli italiani". The magic of the *taranta* and of Italian folk dances will take over the stage of the Frankfurt theatre with an engaging show conducted by



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Maestro Ambrogio Sparagna. The **Italian Folk Orchestra** will pull the audience into a vortex of traditional rhythms and dances, offering an authentic immersion in the musical traditions of Southern Italy. The show will also include some pieces inspired by Saint Francis' *Canticle of the Sun* and references to Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy*.

After an evening's break, great music will resume on Friday **18 October, at 19.30, at Oper Frankfurt** with Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*, directed by Hendrik Müller and conducted by Giuseppe Mentuccia. An event marked by the friendship between the two peoples, with a cast of Italian and German artists and two languages playing the leading role.

Saturday 19 October, at 20.00, the **Festhalle** will be hosting the grand finale: *Il Volo – Live in concert 2024*. The prestigious stage where international greats have performed will be hosting **Piero Barone, Ignazio Boschetto and Gianluca Ginoble**, true 'ambassadors' of Italian Bel Canto worldwide. The eagerly awaited live event will mark the culmination of a week of artistic excellence Made in Italy.

Music will also be the protagonist of Italy Guest of Honour inside the Pavilion designed by **Stefano Boeri**, with performances by artists called upon to enliven the daily break in the literary calendar, with **Giandomenico Anellino, Antonio Maggio, Rosy Messina, Agostino Penna and Angelica Sepe** present at the fair.