

**PROGRAMME**  
**VIBE EU PRESIDENCY TOUR**  
12<sup>th</sup> May – Basílica de San Miguel

**Georg Philip Telemann**

Concerto alla Polonese in G, TWV43:G7

**Anon**

Motet - Curre ad Virginem  
for soprano, 2 violins and continuo

**Jose de Torres y Martinez**

La Antorcha Bella - Cantada al santisimo  
for bass, strings and continuo

**Girolamo Abos**

Pensa che freme ancora  
for soprano, string and continuo

**Marc-Antoine Charpentier**

Tenebrae factae sunt, H129  
for bass, strings and continuo

**Mikel' Angelo Vella**

Sonata Opus 1 No. 4, for 3 violins and continuo

**VIBE Performers:**

Catherine Martin	violin
Nadia Debono	violin
Sarah Spiteri	violin/viola
Jacob Portelli	cello
Joanne Camilleri	harpsichord
Daniel Zapico	theorbo
Gillian Zammit	soprano
Albert Buttigieg	bass

## VIBE – Valletta international Baroque Ensemble

You might be forgiven for thinking that an ensemble dedicated to the study and authentic performance of Renaissance and baroque music would be made up of stiff academics. In the case of the Valletta International Baroque Festival, nothing could be further from the truth. The group's acronym – VIBE – is remarkably appropriate. The ensemble brings together leading and up-an-coming musicians who share an infectious enthusiasm for making music, and who seek to life breathe life into jewels of early music as if the ink were still fresh on the score.

The idea of creating VIBE was sown around ten years ago, over a meal between musician friends. Someone lamented the lack of a specialist group to perform the rich repertoire of Maltese baroque works and suggested that it might be a good idea to set up such an ensemble. A playful proposal perhaps, but one which led, several years (and much effort) later, to the birth of the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble, a group committed to historically informed performance on original instruments of Renaissance to early Baroque music. The memorable inaugural concert, held in December 2012, featured the participation of Dame Emma Kirkby – as “godmothers” go, one could not wish for better! This was just a few weeks before the first edition of the Valletta International Baroque Festival, of which VIBE was (and still is) the resident ensemble.

As one would expect, the Festival provides an important and prestigious platform for the group, but VIBE's activities are not limited to its yearly participation at this international musical *kermesse*. In the past four years, VIBE has organised several exciting concerts of Renaissance and Baroque repertoire both in Malta and abroad, with an emphasis on the music of Maltese composers such as Abos, Balzano and Mikiel Ang Vella and compositions found at the Mdina Cathedral archives. These events have seen the group work and perform alongside leading world authorities in the field, including violinists Catherine Martin, who to date mentors the ensemble, cellist Albert Brüggen, trumpet player Richard Thomas, harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani, sackbut expert Sue Addison and theroboists David Miller and Eligio Quintero, apart from brilliant singers such as Eomann Dougann and members of choir *The Sixteen*. Upcoming engagements include the group's participation in the Europe-wide celebration of Early Music Day, organised by REMA, the European Music Network, and a tour of Berlin, Paris and Madrid as part of the EU Presidency Cultural Showcase.

Lately, VIBE has also been working with contemporary Maltese composers to premiere works which either revive Baroque musical forms (such as Alexander Vella Gregory's *Concerto Grosso*) or are inspired by Malta's baroque heritage (for instance *Creta Cadis*, a setting by Euchar Gravina of a Latin text by 17th century Maltese poet and doctor Giovanni Francesco Buonamico). This dialogue between old and new is at the heart of the VIBE project and complements its mission to transmit a passion for early music to contemporary audiences.