



## 2024 Cape Town Baroque Festival ***REVELATIONS!***

The annual Cape Town Baroque Festival, presented by the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra, will take place from 21 to 24 September 2024.

The programming of the 2024 Cape Town Baroque Festival – titled ***Revelations!*** – revolves around the idea of concealing and revealing, which permeates the individual programmes on many different levels.

In the award winning ‘***Variations***’ programme (**Event 1**) the focus is on sets of variations or divisions that are built on thematic material originating from songs or hymns. Often the elaborations on the themes in these compositions became so intricate that the encoded themes were obscured, and are not recognisable on first hearing. These layers will be revealed in a very expressive way in the programme!

In a very exciting, and possibly first South African, performance of French allegorical late 17<sup>th</sup> century mini-opera ‘***Les arts florissants***’ by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (**Event 2**), we explore the idea of a first live hearing of a historical piece presented to a modern audience: early music experienced as new music. This also serves as a reminder that during the baroque period works were not so often re-performed as in modern-day concert practice, and that audiences were mostly exposed to newly composed works during concerts. In the opera, the characters Music, Poetry, Painting and Architecture resolve a dispute between Peace and Discord.

The ‘***Venice, Vivaldi, and the Ospedale della Pietà***’ programme (**Event 3**) will focus on Vivaldi and the performances at the *Ospedale della Pietà*, where the performers were situated in the loft of the chapel and was partially hidden behind metal grilles. This obscuring of the performers added a level of mystery to these performances, which contributed to it becoming a very popular tourist attraction during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The concert will take place in the SA Sendingestigmuseum where the tables will be turned: with the musicians on the lofts and the audience on ground level!

# Festival Programme

## Event 1

### VARIATIONS

**Saturday, 21 September, 11:00, Irma Stern Museum, Rosebank**

A popular genre during the baroque period was so-called 'sets of variations' or 'divisions': Composers often composed variations and embellishments on songs, folk melodies or hymns. Members of the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra, Ralitza Macheva (baroque violin), Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord) and Lynelle Kenned (soprano) present a programme of expressive sets of variations from the baroque, including music by Corelli, Caccini, Byrd, Philips and Handel. The programme also includes newly composed sets of variations for solo violin by Montreal-based composer and early music specialist Matthias Maute and a piece by South African composer Arthur Feder.

This programme has recently been awarded a kykNET Fiësta Award for best classical music production in an arts festival in South Africa in 2023, and was performed to great acclaim at the 2024 Montreal Baroque Music Festival in Canada.

**With:** Lynelle Kenned (soprano), Ralitza Macheva (baroque violin) and Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord)

### Programme duration:

60 minutes (without interval). Join us for a complimentary glass of wine after the concert.

**Date:** Saturday, 21 September

**Time:** 11:00 (doors open at 10:30)

**Venue:** Irma Stern Museum, Rosebank

**Tickets:** R250, R220 (pensioners), R100 (students)

**Book:** <https://qkt.io/fclOUu>

## Event 2

### LES ARTS FLORISSANTS

**Sunday, 22 September, 16:00, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, De Waterkant**

Lutesong Consort presents a concert performance of the French allegorical mini-opera *Les arts florissants* by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643–1704). In this *hommage* to Louis XIV (self-styled arts patron, warlord and ultimate monarch), 'the arts' are the characters: 'La Musique' (Music), 'La Poésie' (Poetry), 'La Peinture' (Painting) and 'L'Architecture' (Architecture) resolve a dispute between 'La Paix' (Peace) and 'La Discorde' (Discord).

Soloists include Lynelle Kenned (soprano) and William Berger (baritone). Expect tastefully ornamented arias and polished ensemble work by Cape Town's foremost baroque singers and period instrumentalists, lead from the harpsichord by Erik Dippenaar.

**With:** Lynelle Kenned & Elsabé Richter (soprano), Lente Louw & Vasti Zeeman-Knoesen (mezzo-soprano), Willem Bester (tenor), Keaton Manwaring & William Berger (bass), Ralitza Macheva & Annien Shaw (baroque violin), Rosamund Ender (viola da gamba), Uwe Grosser (lutes) and Erik Dippenaar (harpsichord)

**Programme duration:**

60 minutes (without interval). Join us for a complimentary glass of wine after the concert.

**Date:** Sunday, 22 September

**Time:** 16:00

**Venue:** St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, De Waterkant

**Tickets:** R250, R220 (pensioners), R100 (students)

**Book:** <https://qkt.io/kXqs9b>

**Event 3**

**VENICE, VIVALDI, AND THE OSPEDALE DELLA PIETÀ**

**Tuesday, 24 September, 16:00, SA Sendingestig Museum, 40 Long Street**

The *Ospedale della Pietà* was an orphanage-convent in Venice that was one of four so-called "Ospedali Grandi" (charitable hospices, which provided a wide range of services for the needy of Venice). In these institutions, music played an important part in the education of the inhabitants (all girls in the case of the *Ospedale della Pietà*). By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the *Ospedale della Pietà* was well-known for its all-female ensemble of singers and instrumentalists, and the music performances attracted visitors and tourists from across Europe. Vivaldi first became involved with the Pietà as violin teacher in 1703 and held various positions at this institution during his lifetime, notably between 1723 to 1740. Much of Vivaldi's sacred vocal and instrumental music was written for performance at the *Ospedale della Pietà*.

*'I have not an idea of anything so voluptuous and affecting as this music; the richness of the art, the exquisite taste of the vocal part, the excellence of the voices, the justness of the execution, everything in these delightful concerts concurs to produce an impression which certainly is not the mode, but from which I am of opinion no heart is secure.'* – Jean-Jacques Rousseau's description from 1770 of music-making at the *Ospedale della Pietà*

From other accounts we know that the performers were situated in the loft of the chapel of the *Ospedale della Pietà* and was partially hidden behind metal grilles. For the 'Venice, Vivaldi, and the Ospedale della Pietà' programme, the Cape Town Baroque Orchestra will present a selection of works that were written for, and performed at, the *Ospedale della Pietà*, as well as works by Vivaldi's Venetian contemporaries, with all the musicians on the lofts of the SA Sendinggestig Museum in 40 Long Street, Cape Town.

Come get a sense of what music making in bustling Venice during Vivaldi's lifetime might have sounded like, and join us in paying homage to the mostly unacknowledged women and girls who were the musicians in the *Ospedale della Pietà*.

**With:** Ingo Müller (baroque oboe), Elsabé Richter (soprano), Lusibalwethu Sesanti (mezzo-soprano/drag artist), The Cape Town Baroque Trio, Cape Town Baroque Orchestra, directed from the harpsichord by Erik Dippenaar

**Programme duration:**

60 minutes (without interval). A pre-concert talk will be delivered by Anna Stoddard an hour before the performance.

**Programme to include:**

Tomaso Albinoni (1671–1751), Oboe Concerto in Bb major, Op.7, No.3

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741), Laudate pueri, RV601

Vivaldi, Concerto for strings, RV127

Vivaldi, Trio Sonata in D minor, Op.1, No. 12, 'La Follia'

Anna Bon (1738–after 1769), Trio Sonata in G major, Op.111, Nr.1

**Date:** Tuesday, 24 September

**Time:** 16:00. Pre-concert talk at 15:00

**Venue:** SA Sendinggestig Museum, 40 Long Street

**Tickets:** R250, R220 (pensioners), R100 (students)

**Book:** <https://qkt.io/MS6uMH>

### **Festival Passes**

We are offering a limited number of discounted festival passes, which include access to all of the festival events.

The passes are priced as follows:

R700, R600 (pensioners), R250 (students).

To book your pass, email [info@ctbaroque.co.za](mailto:info@ctbaroque.co.za)