



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ



THE LEBANESE PIPE ORGAN WEEK (SOL: Semaine de l'Orgue au Liban) & THE TERRA SANCTA ORGAN FESTIVAL organized by the Custody of the Holy Land

The Lebanese Pipe Organ Week (SOL: Semaine de l'Orgue au Liban) is the result of a meeting between Fr. Khalil Rahme, Head of the School of Music of Notre Dame University - Louaize, and Br. Riccardo Ceriani, Superintendent of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival and Delegate for Music of the Custody of the Holy Land. In the frame of this agreement, all the concerts of the Lebanese Pipe Organ Week are included in the musical season of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival.

In the Middle East, more than elsewhere, the pipe organ is **a sign of the Christian presence**: where one can hear its sound, one finds there a church and a Christian community. In its own small way, the festival helps to give visibility to this presence, to be known also in non-religious circles, like the ones associated with music lovers and festival goers.

Organs and organ music are **artistic excellences** that only Christians can boast, but **everyone is invited** to enjoy the beauty of the largest musical instrument (organ in fact) regardless of their religious affiliation. The organists scheduled to perform in the Terra Sancta Organ Festival are **all internationally known**.

The special feature of the **Terra Sancta Organ Festival** is that it is held at **churches and shrines of the Holy Land** and in places where the Franciscan Friars of the **Custody of the Holy Land** have been present for centuries. Since 1342, the Custody of the Holy Land is a mission with a special character of the **Catholic Church** entrusted to the **Order of the Friars Minor** (Franciscans) and a diplomatic entity recognized by many countries and institutions. The nominal headquarter of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival is in Jordan.

Although it is only two years old, the Terra Sancta Organ Festival has already earned the praise of the experts for some of its unique features:

- It is the largest organ festival **in the Middle East and Levant**
- It is the only organ festival **in the world**, taking place in different states (Greece, Israel, Palestine, Cyprus, Jordan; Egypt, Lebanon and Syria), perhaps simply the only festival with this feature – a festival that is truly "international"
- In some of these places (Cyprus, Greece, Palestine, Jordan; Egypt and Syria), it is the only existing organ festival, in other words it represents **the only chance** to listen to the sound of the organ played by world famous professional organists
- Some of the (holy) places where the festival is held, attract an **interest that goes beyond that of music**
- Some events are **broadcasted live on the website** where they can be freely accessed by anyone online
- Most videos are recorded and edited in a **professional manner**; videos and audio tracks are available on the **You Tube channel** and **Sound Cloud page** of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival.
- The website www.tsorganfestival.org is in several languages: please, visit it for more information.