



SOL FESTIVAL

Semaine de l'Orgue au Liban

Lebanese Pipe Organ Week

13 -18 April 2021 – 6th music season

The sixth edition of the SOL Festival - Semaine de l'Orgue au Liban (Lebanese Pipe Organ Week) will take place regularly from 13 to 18 April 2021 despite the various organizational difficulties due to pandemic-related restrictions: the date was postponed twice, a location had to be changed, the concert for organ and orchestra cancelled, the times were brought forward due to the evening curfew and only four days before the first concert the last government decree allowed to present events not only in live streaming, but also with a small audience, up to 30% of church capacity, wearing masks and respecting social distancing.

The Lebanese Organ Week is a co-production between Notre Dame University - School of Music and the Terra Sancta Organ Festival. This year's edition, in which Lebanon is going through a serious economic crisis, would not have been possible without the collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute in Beirut, the embassy of the Czech Republic in Lebanon and Telelumiere / Noursat, which he oversaw the television shooting, as well as BEMO Bank and Marc-Henri Mainguy Foundation.

The idea of the SOL Festival is to allow everyone to listen to the sound of the pipe organ and the organ repertoire, an experience that would otherwise be precluded by many, since the organs are used almost exclusively in churches for Christian celebrations. The SOL Festival (Semaine de l'Orgue au Liban) is the only organ festival in Lebanon. In recent years, the Lebanese Pipe Organ Week has been an incentive for churches to take care of the maintenance of their organs and new ones have also been built.

This sixth season of the festival featured only five concerts, as two organs were badly damaged by the explosion on 4 August 2020 at the port of Beirut. The opening concert on April 13 in Ajaltoun is reserved for the outstanding students of the organ class of the of Notre Dame University Music School, which aims to create new organists for churches and for the accompaniment of choirs. This will be followed by two concerts by the Italian Eugenio Maria Fagiani, the first in the church of the Custody of the Holy Land on April 14 in Harissa with the Lebanese violinist Mario Rahi and the second in the church of Notre Dame de Louaize in Zouk Mosbeh. Maestro Fagiani, international concert player and organist of the "La Verdi" symphony orchestra of Milan, offered the second concert for free as a sign of solidarity for Lebanon; the choir of Notre Dame University also will present an unscheduled performance with the soprano Lara Jokhadar. On April 17, the organ of the Shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague in Mayssra is naturally entrusted to the Czech Karel Martinek, artistic director of the International Organ Festival of Olomuc and organist of the Cathedral of St. Wenceslas The closing concert, which traditionally holds on Sundays in the National Evangelical Church in Beirut, is entrusted to the Swiss organist Edmond Voffray, organist of the cathedral of Sion.

For more information: www.solfestival.org

<https://www.facebook.com/TerraSanctaOrgan/>

Program:

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Mar Zakhia church | Ajaltoun | 8:00 PM

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS OF NDU-SCHOOL OF MUSIC ORGAN CLASS

In collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture in Beirut

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Saint Anthony of Padua monastery | Harissa | 6:00 PM

EUGENIO MARIA FAGIANI (Italy), organ – MARIO RAHI (Lebanon), violin

In collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture in Beirut

Friday, April 16, 2021

Notre Dame de Louaize monastery | Zouk Mosbeh | 8:00 PM

EUGENIO MARIA FAGIANI (Italy), organ

In collaboration with the Italian Institute of Culture in Beirut

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Sanctuaire de l'Enfant Jésus de Prague - Couvent Saint Elie | Maaysra (Nahr Ibrahim) | 8:00 PM

KAREL MARTÍNEK (Czech Republic), organ

In collaboration with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Lebanon

Sunday, April 18, 2021

National Evangelical church | Beirut – Riad Essoulh | 12:00 PM

EDMOND VOEFFRAY (Switzerland), organ