

Accademia Italiana Club - Gala Concert on 28 June 2013



Last Friday on 28 June "Cerco tra mille un' anima" inaugurated a series of musical soirees commissioned by the Accademia Italiana Club for presentation to its London Public together with the international musical organization Musicfor. The soprano Jolanta Stanelyte and the pianist Guido Galterio presented an entirely Italian programme with arias from Puccini's *Tosca*, Verdi's *Otello* and *Il Trovatore* followed by songs from the great Italian *lieder* tradition with the pianist composers Tosti and Denza. By recreating the atmosphere of London in Victorian times, the evening was a great success with Stanelyte bewitching the audience with her impeccable musicality and splendid presence accompanied with great sensitivity by Maestro Galterio. Finally, the Maestro together with Maestro Lorenzo Turchi-Floris (artistic director of the concert series) played with four hands two fantasies on operatic themes by the Italian Composer Arturo Buzzzi-Peccia who was organizer of many musical events in Victorian London (Incidentally the composer of "Funiculi' Funicula' ") in particular when Puccini, Verdi and Leoncavallo, among others, came to visit.

The presence of Rosa Maria Letts who charmingly translated from Italian into English the introductions given by Maestro Galterio between pieces and then sung by our beautiful Jolanta. Our cosmopolitan London public was extremely attentive and very responsive to the programme.

The Concert has been generously sponsored by Rocco Forte Hotels and we thank Sir Rocco and his lovely wife Aliai for their support.

From September next to May 2014 the Members and Friends of the Accademia Italiana Club and of Ognisko, the Polish Club, will be transported into the drawing rooms of Victorian London in a fairytale journey with five musical soirees from Italian Artists. The musicians will take us back into a past time but for ever present, "A la Recherche du Temps Perdu' " and here now reconstructed!

Lorenzo Turchi-Floris

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