



# Maltese e-Newsletter



The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora

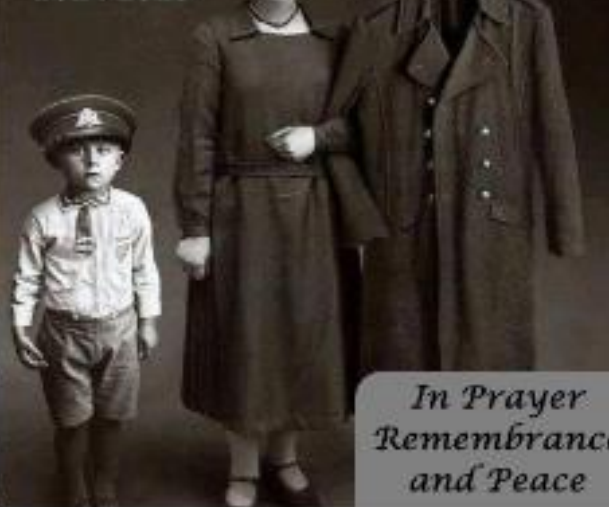
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The new members of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad (cmla) during the conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion in November 2018 together with the Minister the Hon Carmelo Abela

Centenary of  
World War one  
1914-1918  
2014-2018



*In Prayer  
Remembrance  
and Peace*

An Ecumenical Service is being held in St George's Basilica, Gozo to mark the first Centenary of the end of the First World War.



**CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AROUND  
THE WORLD**



**'JIENA MALALA' - It-Tifla li  
Tkellmet Favour l-Edukazzjoni  
u Sparawliha t-Taliban**





## Twelve new members participating in the council for the Maltese Living Abroad of this year.

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad will be holding its Ninth Annual Meeting on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st November 2018

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was established by means of Act XX of 2011 following the Emigration Conventions that were organised in 1969, 2000 and 2010 recommended the establishment of a Council composed of

representatives of Maltese communities and others with the aim of promoting the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad.

The Council is composed of 15 members chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Ex-officio). The Council for the Maltese Living Abroad convenes once a year in Malta.

This meeting is characterised by discussions, proposals, recommendations and decisions which serve as a basis for action by various ministries, department and other entities to achieve the aims for which this Council has been set up.

This Council, also provides the opportunity for councillors, not only to meet once a year, but to put forward proposals all year round, present grievances and issues related to the people they represent. Twelve new members will participate in this year's annual meeting. These members have been appointed to replace those members who completed their two three-year term (6 years) in office and according to Act XX of 2011 could not be reappointed again.

The Council is composed as follows:

**Chairperson:** The Hon. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion (ex-officio)

**Members:** Mr Alexander Grima A, Mr Angelo Grima, Ms Anita Grillo, Mrs Antonella Berry-Brincat, Mr Brandon Azzopardi, Ms Claudia Caruana, Mr Denis Muniglia, Ms Edwige Borg, Mr Emanuele Camilleri, Dr Josephine Ann Cutajar, Ms Marie-Louise Previtera, Mr Mario M Sammut, Mr Shane Delia, Profs Stephen Gatt, Ms Susan Schembri

Secretary: Mr Joseph A Xerri. The fifteen members of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad come from the different states of Australia, Canada and the United States of America, as well as the United Kingdom, France, the European Union, the United Arab Emirates and Malta.





Photo: DOI - Pierre Sammut

## Minister Abela chairs the ninth annual meeting of the Council for the Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA)

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion, Carmelo Abela opened the ninth annual meeting of the Council for Maltese Living Abroad. In his opening speech, Minister Abela welcomed the members of the council and remarked, “This council is an

opportunity for renewal. It does not mean that we are judgmental on the past, in this world if we don’t change and renew, we risk in being outdated.”

This Council is composed of 15 members with the Minister for Foreign Affairs as ex officio chairperson. This year sees the inclusion of twelve new members who replace those who could not be reappointed as they have completed their two terms of office, as stipulated under the law. The new Council is age and gender balanced, as almost 50% of the members, 7 out of 15 are females, while the list includes second generation migrants.



Photo: DOI - Pierre Sammut

Minister Abela addressed the new council by saying that their new appointment by the Prime Minister shows an act of trust and it means that they are ready to shoulder the responsibility to represent the Maltese diaspora. “We are discussing people who live in different parts of the world. We can have some intriguing discussions to find ways and means how to work together not only as council members but with others especially those of a younger generation. The challenge is to make other people interested in our country.

Carmelo Abela made reference to the fact that in this year’s edition of the Council there will be

discussions regarding the possibility of establishing regional committees so that a greater number of Maltese living abroad will have the opportunity to participate actively in initiatives relating to the Maltese diaspora. “The future of our diaspora should be a major challenge and it also brings opportunities in different areas such as business, culture and education.”

The Council for Maltese Living Abroad was established by means of Act XX of 2011 and is composed of representatives of Maltese communities and others with the aim of promoting the rights and interests of Maltese living abroad, as well as to strengthen further the relations with the Maltese that live abroad including the new generations. The Council convenes once a year in Malta.

The meeting is characterised by discussions, proposals, recommendations and decisions on various issues affecting Maltese communities abroad.. These proposals, recommendations and decisions serve as a basis for the Directorate for Maltese Living Abroad within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade Promotion in conjunction with line Government ministries, departments and Government agencies





## 5 traditions from around the world you need to adopt this Christmas Eve

**Happily ever after** In Sweden, some locals feast on Risgrynsgröt, a special rice pudding made in a large batch. But, this particular pud is hiding a single almond in it. The person who finds it gets to make a wish, or is believed to get married the following year – depending which version of the tradition your family follows.

**The Running of the Santas** Trust our American friends to come up with this rowdy tradition. Named after St Fermin's Running of the Bulls, the U.S. version is more festive pub-crawl than bullfighting scam. Each event sees hoards of merrymakers dressed as the Big Guy, schlepping between venues and tucking into some old-fashioned yuletide fizz. We suggest keeping things sensible so you can back it up for when the *real* guy in the red suit arrives the next morning.

**Put your feet up** On Christmas Eve in Norway, it's customary to hide away all brooms and similar cleaning equipment from witches and evil spirits in the hopes of preventing them from riding the skies (and hence, clearing the traffic for Santa, Rudolph and co.). We're taking this as an official invitation to put our feet up. Except for frequent trips to and from the kitchen for fruit mince pies (like [these ones](#), available from Woolworths).

**Bûche de Noël** Children throughout France place their shoes in front of the fireplace on Christmas Eve in the hopes that Père Noël (Father Christmas) will fill them with gifts. As the clock strikes 12, a midnight supper, called le Réveillon, is served followed by the sweet Bûche de Noël: a log-shaped chocolate sponge cake rolled up with whipped cream. In France, logs are symbolic of the festive season; some locals also pour wine over a log and set it on fire on this particular night, letting it burn slowly over the next few days for good luck.

**A feast under the stars** In Poland, Christmas Eve is known as *Wigilia* and it's highlighted by a special vigil supper called *Kolacja wigilijna*. Traditionally, no food is eaten until the first star in the sky is spotted. Then, 12 dishes hit the table that are customarily meat-free, and they're each meant to bestow good luck for the 12 months ahead. Some of these include *barszcz* (beetroot soup), and the hearty *rokiety* – bready pancakes with mushrooms or cabbage that are fried in butter.

**Dear Mr. Scicluna,** Thank you for giving me pleasure to receive this amazing newsletter which you produce. I thoroughly enjoy reading it and printed out for my 94-year-old mum, Violet De Felice. She told me to say hello to you and thank you. Mum sits and reads every page – God blessed her with a good eyesight still and when she finishes reading the newsletter, she passes it onto her friends to share. Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year 2019. Cheers Margi B and Vi De Felice (Adelaide – Australia)

## Bethlehem f'Ghajnisselem Nativity Village celebrating its 10th edition



Next month, the 10th edition of Bethlehem f'Ghajnisselem opens in Gozo. The Nativity Village, which is spread of 20,000sqm of land, seeks to replicate, the atmosphere and environs of Bethlehem at the time when Jesus Christ was born over 2000 years ago.

It attracts thousand of visitors from both home and abroad, to experience a truly magical event. It is also recognised as a

top 10 Worldwide Destination in Christmas. The official opening will follows weeks of hard work by the many volunteers who give up their time to make sure that this very popular Nativity Village is ready to welcome visitors on time.

The Organising Committee made up of the Ghajnsielem Local Council, the Ministry for Gozo, the Parish Our Lady of Loreto and Ghajnsielem NGOs, has for the past months met to prepare for this popular annual Christmas event. The main attraction for visitors is of course the Grotto, with the Baby Jesus in the loving arms of Mary and with Joseph by her side.

Following a map, the public can walk around the village and visit the fisherman's port, a 100 feet suspended rope bridge which they can cross to take a trip along the river on a Maltese boat, as well as the bakery, the blacksmith, carpenter, the wine tavern, farmhouse, the room of scents, open air market and the Bethlehem Inn. There will also be a Roman Garrison with live reenactments during animation hours. The tenth edition of Bethlehem f'Ghajnsielem opens on Sunday, the 9th of December and remains open until Sunday, the 6th of January 2019.



**Malta**  
Uncovered.com

## What's Malta like at Christmas and New Year's Eve?



Christmas time holds a special place in Malta, among most of the Maltese people's hearts. It's a time of festive cheer, gift giving and celebrations.

### What is the weather like around Christmas?

I'm sure you've heard that Maltese winters are very mild, and the weather around Christmas often means lots of sunshine with clear blue skies. That's not a guarantee though. Malta does have its fair share of dreary, cold and rainy days, especially during December (normally being the wettest month of the year), so it's hard to predict what the weather might be like. The best advice is to consult the weather

forecast in the days before you head to Malta.

The average temperatures for December range between 16 to 20 degrees Celsius, although with the high humidity it can feel a lot colder than you'd think, especially in the evening and during the night. The





trick when it comes to clothes is to choose lighter clothes that you can layer. A windproof jacket and umbrella are likely to come in handy either way, though.

**What is Malta like during Christmas time?** Being a largely Roman Catholic nation, the religious influence and tradition is obvious in the Maltese Islands during the holiday season. Christmas is celebrated with a lot of decoration, festive activities and events, and more spiritual practices and rituals all over Malta and Gozo.

Generally speaking, the Maltese love Christmas time. Although the country is generally more quiet during the winter months (as compared to the summer time), December does tend to bring with it a festive and cheerful, even spiritual vibe.

Parish churches hold Christmas concerts, hand made nativity exhibitions (some are

really impressive!) and plays as well as fund raising markets and fairs, and it's generally a bright and very pleasant atmosphere.

Everyone's busy getting their Christmas gift shopping done, which means most of the shops stay open late, and open on Sundays, to cater for the increased festive demand. Restaurants and clubs are also busier during this time of the year due to increased company staff parties and celebrations. Most village streets are decorated with Christmas lights and decorations, while some even blare out cheesy Christmas tunes on loud speakers through their main roads.

Most Maltese houses are decorated with traditional cribs/nativity scenes with *pasturi* (small plastic or clay figurines representing nativity figures like the shepherds, wise men and angels). Statues of the baby Jesus are placed behind windows or in balconies and lit at night. Houses are also decorated with the usual Christmas wreaths, candles and all sorts of other festive lights and decorations. Almost every household has a traditionally decorated Christmas tree; sparkling lights, tinsel and all.

Valletta and Sliema are definitely the most festive cities on the islands, with dazzling Christmas lights and decorations adorning the streets, lots of Christmas carolling and street performances and ample Christmas themed activities taking place. If you want to get some Christmas shopping done, this is the place to be. Be warned though, it can get pretty busy, especially in the area around Sliema and St. Julian's, with lots of traffic congestion and battles for public parking spaces. (That's an everyday problem when driving in Malta, it just intensifies during the holidays).

**How busy is Malta during the Christmas period?** Even though the winter months are considered to be 'low' tourist season in Malta Christmas and New Year are often fairly busy. Hotels do tend to hike up their prices, especially during the actual Christmas and New Year week, but rates are often still much cheaper when compared to the high season. Availability for accommodation is rarely a problem, although it is always advisable to reserve a room in a hotel before actually visiting the island to avoid disappointment.

If you're dining out during your Christmas trip in Malta, however, always make sure to make a reservation in advance, particularly in Valletta and Sliema/St. Julian's. Even though a lot of Maltese families choose to spend their Christmas lunches at home, a lot of catering establishments are still very busy on Christmas day, while some restaurants choose not to open for Christmas lunch.



## Maltese language faces 'digital extinction' – MEP



**Francis Zammit Dimech suggests Maltese should be integrated into Siri and Alexa**

Photo : Shutterstock

The Maltese language faces the risk of "digital extinction" due to a lack of technology support, according to Nationalist MEP Francis Zammit Dimech. Reiterating the need for the Maltese language to be boosted on digital platforms

and applications, Dr Zammit Dimech recalled how he had tabled a series of amendments on a report addressing challenges faced by languages in the digital age to tackle such a problem.

The MEP was addressing the annual Translating Europe Workshop with the topic 'Digital prospects: support for the online presence of Maltese'.

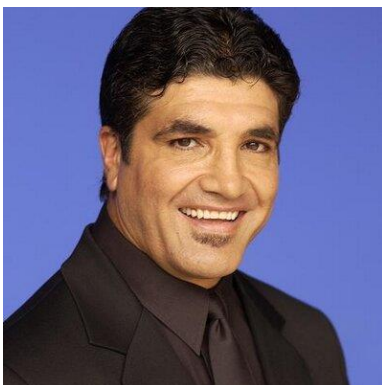
"The Maltese language is part of our national identity, which makes us proud of who we are. That is why I believe it is important to facilitate the teaching and learning of the Maltese language, which we use in our daily lives as well as on digital media," said Dr Zammit Dimech.

He said it was everyone's responsibility to ensure the Maltese language was well integrated and used within the digital sphere including on digital platforms and through digital assistants such as Siri and Alexa.

The MEP, reacting to recent news reports, expressed concern that in Malta many young people were no longer able to speak and write well in Maltese and in English and some of them were performing poorly in school as a result.

"Poor learning skills are concerning because if young people are not able to speak languages well, they will not be able to enter the job market. It is only through continuous efforts of teaching Maltese to younger generations that we will be able to keep our language alive and transmit it to the generations to come. The Maltese language is just as important to building human connections offline, as it is online."

Dr Zammit Dimech went on to say new digital media provide the opportunity to promote the use of Maltese language online to reach as many people across the world as possible and to diffuse the Maltese language. "We must all work together to make sure other digital services will be introduced in the Maltese language," he added.



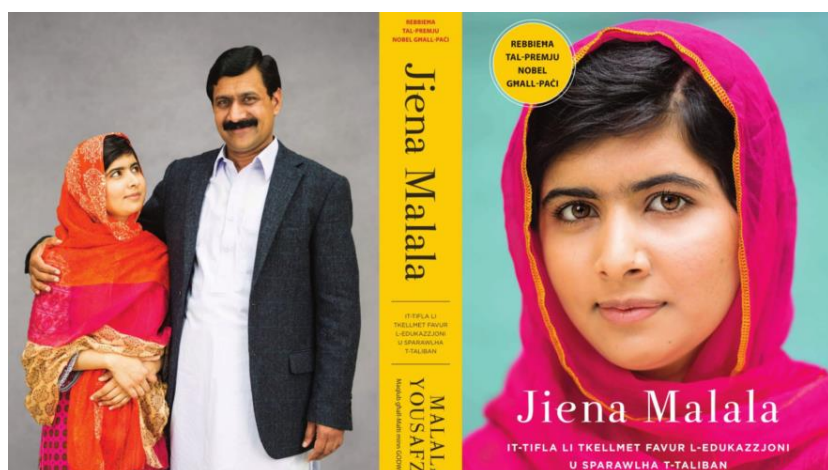
## The Maltese Falcon Is Landing

For those unaware of the origins of the 'Falcon', the expression is linked to former Rabbitohs and later Crushers captain, Mario Fenech. Born in Malta, he was nicknamed the Maltese Falcon, presumably a reference to the celebrated 1930s novel and 1940s film of the same name. Mario Fenech playing for his beloved South Sydney Rabbitohs in the National Rugby League competition.

Rugby League legend Mario Fenech will fly into Canberra Airport on Saturday as part of his journey to the twin towns of Harden Murrumburrah. Fenech will be appearing at the Harden Junior League pink jumper auction night to be held at the Harden Country Club on Saturday August 13 at 6:30pm. The community is invited to come along and

listen to Mario talk about his career which spanned 15 seasons and saw him represent NSW. Fenech is highly respected in the wider community for his work with young people.

He is an author and says his greatest love is his family. Fenech is a fitness fanatic who hits the gym at 5.30am every day. He doesn't drink and enjoys a round of golf with his mates on Sundays. Fenech is anti drugs, cigarettes and bullying. He is also well known for tackling the obesity challenges which face communities. He works closely with Sydney Children's Hospital where he is an Ambassador. he is also an Ambassador of White Ribbon for violence against women, the Pink Ribbon Breast cancer charity, the No Way Campaign say no to drugs, and regularly visit schools to lecture on topics such as diet, fitness, bullying, obesity, education and peer-pressure. Fenech also has a great sense of humour and is known for his role of 'Falcon' on the Footy Show which has been on channel 9 since 1994.



## **'JENA MALALA': Pakistani Activist's Autobiography Gets Maltese Translation**

Award-winning book by world's youngest-ever Nobel laureate will be translated to Maltese

**Tim Diacono**

Malala Yousafzai's award-winning autobiography about life in Pakistan under Taliban rule will be translated to Maltese.

Faraxa Publishing recently secured the rights to translate the 2013 book 'I Am Malala' to Maltese under the title '*Jiena Malala - It-Tifla li Tkellmet Favur l-Edukazzjoni u Sparawlha t-Taliban*'. The book will be published as a paperback in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency and RSM MT and will cost €15.

Malala published her autobiography shortly after she and two other girls were shot on a school bus by a Taliban gunman as retaliation for her activism in favour of female education. The book proved a major success worldwide, selling over 2 million copies as of last year, while Malala became the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate.



Ahead of the publication of the Maltese version, Faraxa organised a panel debate at the Mediterranean Conference Centre next Friday as part of the Malta Book Festival. Speakers will include Prof Carmel Borg from the Faculty of Education, Josanne Cutajar from the Faculty of Social Wellbeing - Gender Studies, women's rights activist Roberta Lepira, the book's translator Godwin Ellul, Maria Micallef from RSM Malta, and Education Minister Evarist Bartolo.



## Discover Malta's hidden secrets

with Shane Delia



**My Malta may be a little different from the regular tourist's Malta. For me it's about family memories, reconnecting with my cultural heritage, decompressing and a little exploration into the past of Maltese food DNA, to gain a better understanding of what my little island home's culinary identity could evolve into.**

Malta's modern day food is a direct reflection of its history, which isn't always a good thing. We have been battered and bruised by the countless wars and occupiers, all leaving Malta with a disjointed culinary landscape. But once

you peel back the layers, like bandages on a healing wound, you can start to see the raw natural beauty of Maltese culinary potential, and this is the food I want to unlock.

So, keeping all that in mind when I'm eating in Malta, I focus on simple flavours, spectacular sun-kissed produce, and the history of the food's origin.



My number one go-to is a small seafood restaurant called Terrone—a simple, tasty, clean, and fresh restaurant by the beautiful bay in Marsaxlokk. Owned by a Maltese-Australian family it has, in my opinion, the best food on the island.

A childhood memory that still brings a huge smile to my face is walking through the ancient streets in Zejtun—the city my father was born in—and searching for a little hole in the wall pastizzarija

called Rogers. No bells, no whistles, no tables and no service, but you can't leave Malta without tasting one of their ricotta pastizzi. Light and crispy pasty cooked in a centuries-old oven that I swear adds to the flavour.

If traditional Maltese food is what you're after, then you can't go past Qrendi Bocci club. This is a real suburban home-style cooking venue. You will be extremely challenged to find better Maltese braised and fried rabbit, snails and, of course, horse meat! Believe me, try the horse meat. It is stunningly sweet and tender and cooked with love and skill.

Seeing that tourism is Malta's biggest market, it does take a little skill to filter through the tacky chicken and beef tourist-driven slapped up menus that you will find in any budget tourist destination—chips, steak, and huge bowls of cheap pasta, plus deep-fried everything—but if you look carefully there are a few diamonds in the rough.

One of these little gems is Nenu's. On first impression you may think that this place is a bit gimmicky and that a meal here will be quickly forgotten, but you will be greatly mistaken. Nenu's is a really good all-rounder—it has the whole Maltese cuisine on one menu. My favourites are the Maltese cheese-filled ravioli with a simple spiced tomato and onion sauce, the braised octopus with walnuts and of course, you must try a traditional fitira—a thick Maltese style pizza that is moist and crunchy all in the same go. Be really careful not to order too much in one sitting—the serves are big and the cuisine is heavy and filling, but it's a cool place to check out in Valletta.

If you're looking for something a little higher-end, then my two picks would have to be Cafe Del Mar in St Paul's Bay for drinks, beats and people watching; or Risette in Valletta, for a contemporary, European style cuisine from a chef that is pushing the envelope.

Of course, you can't go to Malta in the summer without immersing yourself in the magical waters of the Mediterranean, and in my opinion there is only one beach to swim: Delimara Bay. A traditional Maltese beach, it has no sand, no umbrellas, no toilets, and no restaurants, so make sure you come prepared. Every time I go back to Malta, Delimara Bay is the first stop on my list. It was where I decided I wanted to become a chef; where my son, father, grandfather and I learnt how to swim; and where my aunty's ashes remain. It is very special to my family and I would do anything to be back there right now.

Seeing Gozo is a must—it's Malta's agricultural heart and hasn't been overrun with tourists or development. It's like taking a glimpse back in time to what Malta used to be. Slow paced, without stress, it is the perfect place to reconnect with your loved ones and more importantly, yourself. The best way to experience Gozo is by booking a farmhouse villa. There are so many special, hidden gems scattered throughout the island, and some areas are luxurious and stunning. The Gozitan-style fitira is also worth a go and there is none better than Mekrens bakery.



## Bormla's Immaculate Conception statue gets a facelift

**Restoration works over the past year have enabled the statue's wooden head, hands and feet regain their original colour by Kurt Sansone**

The statue of the Immaculate Conception in Bormla has undergone restoration

The statue of the Immaculate Conception revered at the Bormla parish church has undergone restoration works over the past year that have enabled the original wooden head, hands and feet regain their colour. The original statue was created in wood by Sr Maria de Domenicis around 1640. However, extensive changes were carried out in 1905 by Abram Gatt. The changes carried out at the start of the 20th century recast the statue in silver but the original wooden head, hands and feet were retained. The statue as it is known today is credited to Gatt.

The fully restored statue was unveiled to the public for the first time on Saturday 24 November during a musico-literary evening at the Immaculate Conception Collegiate church in Bormla.



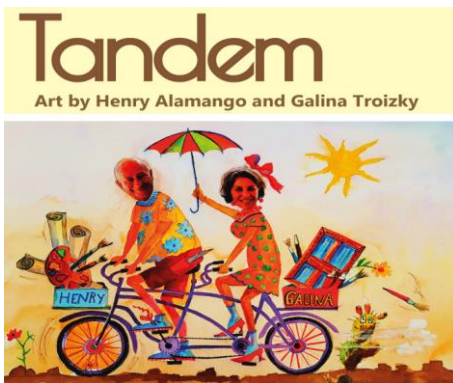
## Gender Equality & the Welfare State

**by Cyrus Vakili-Zad (Author)**

**To truly capture** an unbiased and fair account of gender inequality in Malta, I suppose a non-Maltese who knows Malta well, is best equipped to achieve this. My friend Cyrus Vakili-Zad, after nearly ten years of extensive and intensive research, has produced an in-depth study of this sensitive yet provocative topic; the status of women in Malta in a rigid male dominated society. Cyrus and his wife, Forough Hessabi, lived in Malta for several years. They experienced daily Maltese life first hand and grew to love the Island Archipelago, so much so that Cyrus has since written several books and articles on various aspects of Maltese social policy. My parents left Sliema,

Malta in 1951; I was three years of age. However since 1968 I have been back to the Islands over thirty times. Although I did not grow up on the Island I am able to offer a Maltese perspective on the subject of this book. While editing his book I was able to relate and confirm many aspects that he has so studiously





covered. In an impartial manner Cyrus has effectively written this book chronicling the “non-advancement” of Maltese women.

Women continue to be restricted to being house wives, mothers and care givers (to both their children and parents). Moreover, finding a female in a senior position in the civil service, business or in politics is an extreme rarity. The first part of the book deals specifically with “Gender equality and the Welfare State” under sub-heading “Malta-I”. Each chapter is extensively supported by Cyrus’ research, individuals he has referred or spoken to and

institutions he has contacted.

He also studied “family friendly” European models to discern which would be the best to use in Malta. He found that Sweden and France have made the greatest headway in achieving gender equality. Cyrus has further exposed the extent of gender inequality in Malta by showing how the Roman Catholic Church, the two main political parties and large domestic corporations have also effectively kept women “in their place”. In “Malta II”, Cyrus provides specific examples of male dominance within the aforementioned institutions and organizations.

In the last few years some advancement has been made, however it will take many years before the inequality is balanced. This will depend on the seriousness and effectiveness of the Government (Political Party) and the importance it places on improving this situation. One encouraging factor and glimmer of hope is when I met with Her Excellency Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, the President of the Republic of Malta. During our lengthy meeting in July 2014, Her Excellency exhibited a sincere interest in this topic and many other subjects related to the betterment of the general population.

It is the responsibility of those in power (i.e. the Church, Political Parties, Big Business, etc.) to stop offering superficial solutions and promises, as these will not rectify the situation. Anyone who is serious about resolving this complex matter cannot find a better resource than this book. Malta is in the midst of its Third Great Siege - The Male Dominated Society; and this book would serve as a pivotal tool to overcoming this all-pervasive problem. Richrad Cumbo - Toronto

#### “Tandem” Exhibition @ Il-Ħaġar

TANDEM is a joint exhibition (within the Gozo Ministry’s “Christmas in Gozo” initiative) by Russian-born Galina Troizky and Maltese artist Henry Alamango, both based in Gozo.

Galina **Troizky** graduated in Moscow in applied art and fashion design and has held various solo exhibitions locally and abroad - besides participating in several collective events in numerous countries. Henry **Alamango** is a popular artist inspired by all things Mediterranean, with a life-long attachment to Gozo. His watercolours exude a serenity and atmospherics that underscore his passion for the local environment.

TANDEM is largely – but not solely - the product of these two artists’ plein-air activity, a figurative representation of the landscape with its seasonal transformations.

This exhibition - opened by Professor Joe Friggieri on Sunday 2 December @ 11.45am - can be visited at Il-ĦAĠAR (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) till 13 January 2019, 9am to 5pm all seven days of the week. Entrance is free.

#### Wirja “Tandem” fil-Ħaġar

TANDEM hi wirja tal-arti (fl-inizjativa tal-Ministeru għal Għawdex “Milied f’Għawdex”) minn Galina Troizky, imwiolda r-Russja, u l-Malti Henry Alamango – illum it-tnejn joqogħdu Għawdex.

Wara li ggradwat f’Moska, Galina **Troizky** tellgħet wirjiet barra u f’pajjiżna – u pparteċipat f’wirjiet kollettivi f’diversi pajjiżi. Henry **Alamango**, akkwarellist popolari ispirat minn kull m’hu mediterranju, ilu minn dejjem miġbud lejn Għawdex.

TANDEM hi prinċipalment prodott tal-attività għall-arja, rappreżentazzjonijiet figurattivi tal-ambjent bil-bidliet staġjonali.

Tistgħu żżuru dil-wirja – miftuħa mill-Professor Joe Friggieri l-Ħadd 2 ta' Diċembru @ 11.45am - fil-mużew Il-Ħaġar (Pjazza San Ġorġ, Victoria) sat-13 ta' Jannar 2019, mid-9am sal-5pm sebat ijiem fil-ġimgħa. M'hemmx hlaq tad-dhul. (ANTOINE)

Hi Frank, I have been compiling a list of Maltese sayings with Phonetic overtones. I would be very grateful if you can supply me with some of these common sayings and maybe make your readers aware of my request. The type I'm looking for are words such as; inemnem, ipacpac, ilaqlaq ....etc. I know we have hundreds of these and I intend to use them as a quiz in the New Year celebrations coming up. Can you help, my friend? Eternally grateful, Joseph Joseph M. Scerri Dip FP A.F.A T.P.B Financial Planning Services

Iż-żiemel JIŻHER  
It-tigieġa TQAQI  
Il-qattus INEWWAH  
Il-baqra TGARGAR  
Il-ħanżir IHAMHAM  
Is-serp IZEKZEK  
Iż-żring ITAQTAQ  
Iż-żunżan IŻANŻAN  
Il-moghża TWETWET  
Il-wiżża TWAQWAQ  
Il-pappagall INAQNAQ  
Il-balena TKANTA

Il-ħmar JINHAQ  
Il-kelb JINBAH  
Il-papra TLAQLAQ  
Il-ħamem IBARQAM  
L-ghasfur JGHANNI  
Ix-xadina TWERŻAQ  
Is-serduq JIDDEN  
Il-werżieq IWERŻAQ  
Il-kokka TWATWAT  
Il-pespus IPESPES  
In-naghġa TINBEE  
Il-jena TIDHAQ

*ghidha bil-Malti*

### Maltese eNewsletter

The International Journal  
of the Maltese Diaspora



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maltesejournal@gmail.com



ONLY  
IN  
MALTA



## Excellence at Wardija Evarist Bartolo



These youngsters have been given opportunities where they can recognise their abilities through an entrepreneurial way. Without such help, it would have been far more difficult to achieve these results



The Wardija resource centre adopts a holistic approach which emphasises care, respect and responsibility

Last Monday I was fortunate enough to be present at the launch of the Social Enterprise Project at Maria Regina College in Wardija, which project is being financed by HSBC.

Apart from celebrating the entrepreneurship efforts of the students, I strongly feel that I was also celebrating the work of the teachers and all those involved in the administration of the Dun Manwel Attard Young Adults Education Resource Centre.

The centre caters for the needs of youngsters with different abilities at post-16 level. Entrepreneurship Education is an integral part of our school educational programme to the point that the school is continuously promoting and assisting initiatives ranging from self-employment to social enterprises and cooperatives aimed to target the disability sector. Students' efforts and experiences in this regards are also being certified and officially recognised through national and international accreditation bodies.

In fact, the school has managed to get several local and European awards that recognise its efforts in the sector. Additionally the school has involved itself directly in various projects that promote entrepreneurship activities within a Social Enterprise aspect. Honey, oil, pottery items, lavender pouches, bath scrubs and bath salts are just a few of products that are produced by the youngsters.

I acknowledge and thank the HSBC Malta Foundation for the help and support that they have given to the Dun Manwel Attard Young Adults Education Resource Centre. This project is entirely funded by the HSBC Malta Foundation and they have partnered the resource centre in providing a creative and innovative approach of improving the quality of life of people with disability.

These youngsters have been given opportunities where they can recognise their abilities through an entrepreneurial way. Without such help, it would have been far more difficult to achieve these results.

During this visit, students with different abilities demonstrated a remarkable show of entrepreneurship. One particular project that deserves special mention is the creation of a range of aromatherapy products using Maltese herbs and other ingredients. These goods were even packaged with their own label 'Wardija' and they are now even making their way into the local retail market.

The Wardija resource centre adopts a holistic approach which emphasises care, respect and responsibility.

The dedicated staff work as a team, providing discussions about behaviour, communication difficulties and other needs that students have from time to time.

The school promotes and supports initiatives that help give these youngsters pride and a greater sense of ownership on projects initiated and carried through, at the resources centre in Wardija.

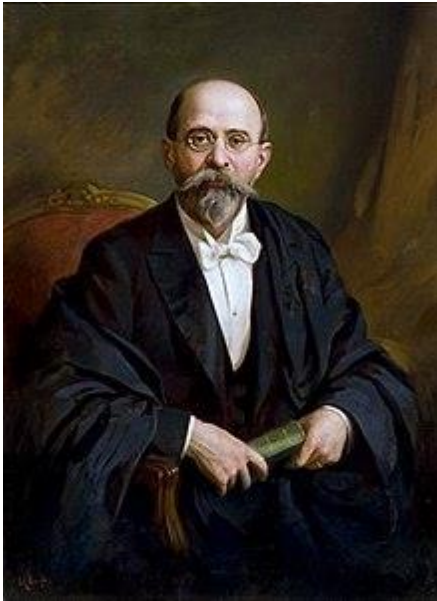
It is an excellent initiative and a best practice model that should be followed in all secondary schools. These opportunities provide an added encouragement to parents to help their children and/or youngsters to further their education, consequently helping them prepare better for life and employment.

**Maltese e-Newsletter**



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## Antonio Annetto Caruana

A.A. Caruana holding his Report on the Phoenician and Roman Antiquities in the group of islands of Malta (1888)

**Antonio Annetto Caruana** (14 May 1830 – 3 March 1905), also known as **A. A. Caruana**, was a Maltese archaeologist and author.

### Biography

Born in Valletta, Malta, Caruana showed an unusual proficiency in the knowledge of classical literature by his early adulthood. Graduating with a doctorate in Theology from the University of Malta, Caruana started a long career at the University of Malta which saw him secretary and rector of that institution for many years.[1]

He was later appointed Librarian and Keeper of Antiquities at the National Library of Malta (1880–1896) and is credited with bringing about various changes within the institution.[2] He was concurrently Director of Education in Malta's imperial administration (1887–1896).[1]

Caruana is probably best known for his activities as an archaeologist, publishing numerous books and articles including his Report on the Phoenician and Roman Antiquities in the group of the islands of Malta, first published in 1882.[1] He worked on the excavation of the Ħaġar Qim megalithic temple complex and the Domus Romana in Rabat, Malta.[3] He made his first excavations of catacombs in 1860 with Capt. Strickland and, from 1871, was active for the next thirty years in exploring myriad tombs and catacombs across the Maltese islands, which were rarely easy to get to.[4] He also worked on the cleaning and surveying of St. Paul's Catacombs in 1894.[2]

Although many of his ideas have since been challenged, Caruana is considered to be a pioneer in the field of heritage management in the Maltese Islands.

### Personal life

Caruana declined being ordained a priest to marry Maria Metropoli, one of three daughters of Dr Giuseppe Metropoli, notary to the Roman Curia in Malta, whose two other daughters married the 6th Count Preziosi and Salvatore dei Duchi Mattei.[5] Their only son, John Caruana, was a 20th century Maltese philosopher and constitutional lawyer and the son-in-law of the Victorian architect Emanuele Luigi Galizia.



### il-Lingwagg tat-tfal tal-lum

Illum morna l-beach bil-car, nagħmlu splash fil-water. Qgħadt nagħmel dive u nara l-fishies jagħmlu swim. Il-man u l-lady ta' hdejna kellhom boy daqsi, u qgħadt nilgħab miegħu bil-bally. Meta kien time up, il-mamà qaltli nimsah il-hands u nilbes ix-shoesies ha mmorru. Veru kien fun illum!

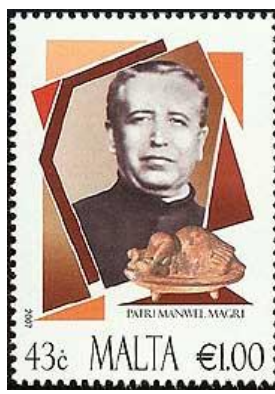
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## Fr. Emmanuel Magri, SJ, was born in

Valetta on 27 February 1851 and died in Sfax, Tunisia on 29 March 1907. He joined the Jesuits in 1871 at the Gozo novitiate in Ireland, and did his philosophical studies at Stonyhurst, England, his

regency at Santa Venera, Malta and his theology in France, Spain, and Gozo. He was ordained in 1881 in Tortosa, Spain, and later taught at St. Ignatius' College, Sliema, and was treasurer at the College of Santa Pulcheria, Istanbul, Turkey, prefect of studies at the Gozo seminary, assistant to the provincial of Sicily, rector of Gozo seminary, and finally Jesuit superior in Catania.

Amid this activity he was also a pioneer in archaeology and folk tradition. He worked on the excavation of the hypogeum at Hal Saflieni, The oldest of the important monuments in Malta, between November 1903 and 1906. It was from the main chamber of this hypogeum that the *Sleeping Lady* statue was recovered, which is featured on the stamp and is now kept in the Valletta Museum of Archaeology. He also published the results of his excavation of the prehistoric temple of Xewkija on the island of Gozo and of three stelae he discovered in a private house in Floriana, Malta. He also published more than 60 stories and 180 proverbs, and has been called with reason the Father of the Maltese Folk Tradition.

## Revisiting Maltese magic folk tales



### Marlene Mifsud Chircop

Marlene Mifsud Chircop will be delivering a talk on *It-12-il Hrafa tas-Seher Maltin ta' Stumme skont Propp u l-Funzjonijiet tal-Hrafa* at the University's Faculty of Arts Library, Tal-Qroqq, today.

Hans Stumme (1864-1936) collected 37 Maltese folk tales, 12 of which deal with magic. Fr Manwel Magri, SJ (1851-1907) and Bertha Ilg (1881-1965) also collected Maltese folk tales.

Mifsud Chircop will discuss folktales in classical literature according to American Stith Thompson (1885-1976), the influence of Russian Vladimir Propp (1895-1970), who followed in Danish Axel Olrik's footsteps, and others who studied folk narrative.

*The talk, being held at 6pm, is part of the Oral Tradition series, now in its third year. Hosted by the Department of Maltese at the University, entrance to the talk is free.*



## Daley opens up on the moments that have defined his life and music

Troy Cassar-Daley performing in Nashville, Tennessee. (Getty) (Getty Images)

He is the country music legend that so many know and love, with a career spanning 26 years, a slew of awards including over 30 Golden Guitars, and a tenth studio album which has just been released. And now, in an honest and revealing autobiography, Troy Cassar-Daley shares the most intimate and poignant moments that have shaped his career and life.

A 'living treasure' of Australian country music, the truly gifted musician and storyteller, Troy Cassar-Daley has always had a fierce connection to family and his culture and in his autobiography which was released last week, Cassar-Daley shares the stories that have made him who he is today.

Discussing his childhood, Cassar-Daley told Radio National that music was an escape for him. Growing up with a Maltese Australian father who lived in Sydney city and an Aboriginal mother in Grafton, music helped him make sense of living in two different worlds. "I had some dysfunction in my family, living between Mum and Dad. I found that a hard tightrope to walk for a while."



Cassar-Daley describes how his father would help to ease him with music when he came to visit during school holidays. "Dad would play music to me when I was crying for Mum, I would get down here for school holidays (Sydney) and would be upset wanting to go back to Grafton, and he would bring out the guitar and make up songs with my name in them and it made me feel like I belonged. And that is what music has been since that day."

Known for baring his heart on stage, fans will be interested to hear the stories that have shaped his life, the good the bad and in between. Cassar-Daley has shared what he believes are the moments that define your path, such as a time that he wanted to shoot his

stepfather.

"I was reasonably good with a gun and it was encouraged because rabbit and kangaroo shooting was a big part of our life. Being indigenous, we liked surviving off what we could get ... it was a rite of passage as kids," Cassar-Daley told AAP. "But I was at that pivotal point in life where I hated someone as much as I did that I was prepared to do something like that, like hold a gun and not even be scared. I wasn't even shaken by the whole thought about it."

"A lot of people tend to write autobiographies later in life, but I thought at 47, my memory is still okay and

I can still remember plenty of stuff" Troy joked with the hosts of NITV's League Nation Live last Tuesday night ahead of his performance on the show. "There's a lot of stories from my childhood, right from day dot. There's some confronting stuff in there too, not everyone's life is a walk in the park, but I find it's nice to be able to come through the other end, look back and think of it fondly." Troy says that felt the book was timely and has posted on his Facebook page a message to his supporters.

[Troy Cassar-Daley](#)

I failed to mention another amazing Woman yesterday on international Women's day and that was my Nanna Cassar. Thanks for the message from my first Cousin Margi Cassar. Our Nan had 21 kids, an incredibly hard life back in Malta and made a life here in Australia through all that adversity. She was loving just like my whole Cassar Family and was a beautiful soul and Matriarch for our family down in Sydney. I miss her cuddles on arrival at Surry Hills and her beautiful old hard working hands, and of course her cooking,



Nanna Cassar, me and Dad in Surry Hills, 1973.





## Songs from the soul of a nation

**Manuel Casha:**  
**Maltese Traditional**  
**Music of Ġhana and Prejġem**

For the vast majority of us, Maltese folk-singing (ġhana) is at best a closed book, a genre which we struggle to understand. A new book just published, *Maltese Traditional Music*

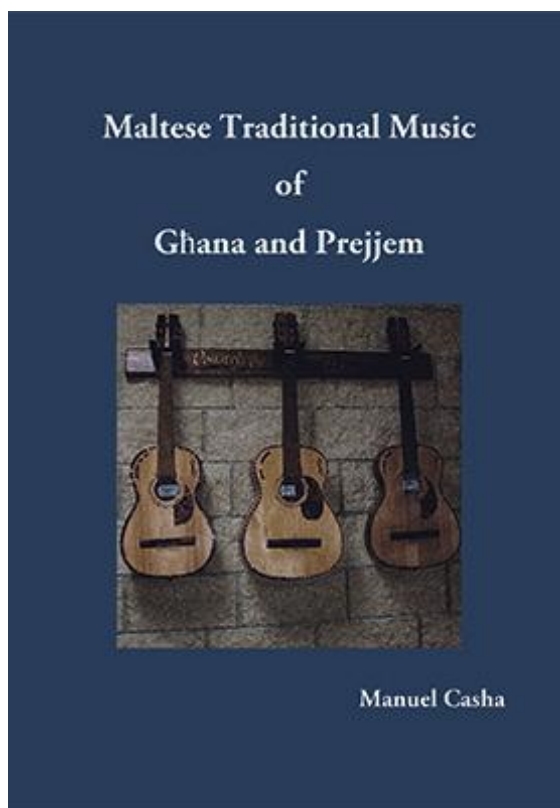
of Ġhana and Prejġem, by Manuel Casha throws a distinctly new light on this topic.

It is not often that a book dedicated to Maltese folk singing comes to hand and, for this, we have to thank Casha who has striven hard for decades to ensure that this unique form of self-expression is not lost forever. As he says in his introduction, “the soul and psyche of a nation are often embodied in its folkloric past”.

This type of folk singing was limited to certain aficionados, and was even frowned upon by the so-called educated elite. It is not surprising, therefore, that it was foreigners who published what is arguably the best collection of Maltese folksong (Bertha Ilg and Hans Stumme in Germany) over a century ago.

In the past, Maltese ġhana has been the channel through which the working classes have expressed their views, their protests, their reactions to political or religious squabbles which have occurred from time to time in Malta.

**Casha has been involved in recording and documenting ġhana for a long time. He has been a teacher of the guitar in Australia for several years, and can boast of a considerable following from young guitar players, some of whom have reached a proficiency equal to the best found in Malta.**



Through his published CDs, which are now archived in The National Library of Australia, he has ensured that future generations would be in a position to share and possibly enlarge on this heritage.

With the massive wave of migration that took place in the immediate post-war period, many folksingers left Malta to settle in Australia and elsewhere. They brought with them their guitars, as well as their love of ġhana, which they enjoyed to display, to entertain their friends and to remind themselves of the Malta they had left behind and still hankered for. By the mid 20th century, thousands of Maltese had emigrated to other countries in search of a better life, carrying with them their musical heritage to the countries of their settlement.

In a chapter on migration, Casha remarks: “They now sung about their homeland, family and friends they left behind. They sang about their battle with homesickness. They sang about the prejudices they encountered in the new countries,

where they were merely outsiders seeking acceptance. Some sang about the inequality and harsh working conditions. Some about the freezing climate, to which they were not accustomed or, conversely, the oppressing heat they toiled in.

Many sang about the loneliness of living in rural areas, in isolation on their farms or working as farm hands. Others were employed in sugarcane plantations, engaged in backbreaking work and suffocating heat, and singing about their difficult plight. One must remember that many Maltese had to face the culture shock of leaving a generally urbanised environment in Malta, to surviving in a vast land where, in some cases, your next-door neighbour lived miles away.

*TIMES OF MALTA* Stephanie Fsadni

## 'Money changed Malta for the worst'

**But former wrestler still has a love affair with the island**



Edward O'Shea and his wife Rose have been visiting the island regularly since 1963. They visit four times a year and never stay for less than a month.

A letter from the Malta Government Tourist Board, signed by then chairman J.C. Pollacco, greeted British tourist Edward John O'Shea on his first visit to the island in 1963.

Fifty-five years later, Mr O'Shea still keeps this letter and its tattered envelope – which carries a picture of the Grand Harbour and the words 'Welcome to Malta' – at his holiday home in St Julian's and guards it as if it were his most prized possession.

"I fell in love with Malta instantly," says Mr O'Shea, a former professional wrestler and civil engineer.

*Sliema front has changed completely. It's all because of greedy developers, they shouldn't let them build eight storeys or higher than that*

"I loved the warm weather, the warmth of the people and their friendliness."

He is married to a Maltese woman, Rose Borg of Rudolph Street, Sliema, who moved to South London, England, together with her extended family in 1957.

That's where she met her future husband, who lived just two doors away.

At the time, Mr O'Shea was juggling his family business and a wrestling career.

During his early days in the ring, he coached Rose's identical twins Tony and Ignatius (known as Iggy) Borg and helped them win five national titles between them. The two brothers came to Malta three times while on tours organised by the late Simon Bonello, founder of the Malta Wrestling Federation, and eventually won the title of European tag team champions.

"They were tough kids," Mr O'Shea remarks.

Mr O'Shea himself, who fought in the middle to light heavyweight category, won various titles during his 16-year stint in the wrestling world. As an amateur, he represented England in Spain, Scotland and Italy, and during his nine-year career as a professional wrestler, he won the titles of national champion of Great Britain, Southern Area Champion, London Champion and West Country Champion. His success was captured in a Times of Malta interview in August 1969.

He and Rose were engaged when they first came to Malta in 1963 and then returned as a married couple six years later. After Mr O'Shea retired from wrestling "partly due to business pressure" in the mid-1970s, the couple bought a townhouse in Luigi Apap Street, Paceville.

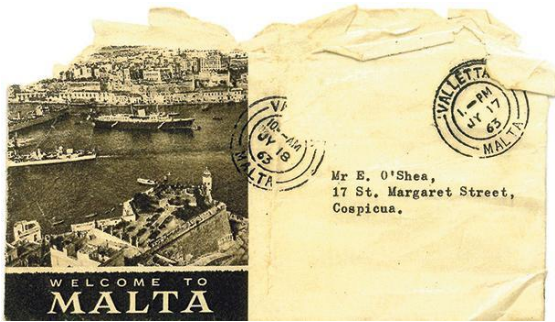
Along the years, Mr O'Shea built "strong connections" with the local community and counts former politicians and businessmen among his friends and acquaintances.

He has fond memories of those days, when children would play carefree in his "fantastic street" and he and his wife would spend hours chatting and sipping wine with neighbours outdoors. Most of these friends have since died, while others have moved as their townhouses gave way to multi-storey blocks of apartments.

Mr O'Shea, now 74, admits that he has sadly seen Malta change "for the worse".

*"Sliema front has changed completely. It's all because of greedy developers, they shouldn't let them build eight storeys or higher than that. The attitude of the Maltese has also changed... money does that."*





*The Malta Government Tourist Board Letter which Mr O'Shea received on his first visit to Malta. The letter was posted to an address in Cospicua where Mr O'Shea stayed that year with his then fiancée's family.*

He also mentions "over-immigration" and social problems in Msida Hamrun and Paceville, and laments the lack of policemen at night. Yet, despite these concerns, Mr O'Shea says he still adores his holiday island.

He and his wife, who retired from her job as a chef at a children's nursery two years ago, visit four times a year and never stay for less than a month. Their son and daughter and their grandchildren also love it here and visit regularly.

Mr O'Shea says he knows every nook and cranny of the islands but his favourite place of all is Xlendi, with its many "great restaurants". Dingli cliffs, Rabat and Mdina also rank high on his list.

And despite some mobility issues – he has to use a walking stick after suffering multiple injuries during his wrestling days and having an open-heart surgery a couple of years ago – Mr O'Shea does not intend to give up on his yearly holidays. "I'll return for as long as I can," he says with a gleam in his eye.



## A family adventure

Curtain Raiser Entertainment has recruited a number of international artists to create a Vaudeville extravaganza for the whole family.

From December 7-9, Patrick Vella, director of this show, will put on a vaudeville experience together with various Russian, Bulgarian, Czech and Maltese artists. The acts range from acrobatic adventures and comedies to new illusion acts that have never been seen on the island.

The Little Big Show will present also an impeccable light design show to complement the artists and the set which will resemble a circus on stage.

Throughout the show, guests will be entertained and surprised by a whole family of clowns from Bulgaria. The father, mother and child are all professional clowns with some new and interesting skits which are interactive, hilarious and interactive – audience members shouldn't be shy if by chance they finish up on stage.

Also present will be two illusionists, one from Malta and one from the Urals, Russia. The Maltese veteran is Brian Role, who has extensive theatrical illusion experience on cruises, Dubai, Mexico and other countries while Ilia, the Russian illusionist promises a 10-minute original act that has never been witnessed before.

Another member of the team is Ksenya, from Russia as Ilia. He will be performing an amazing bubble act which will give a different dimension to the whole stage and auditorium while the Maltese Motion Acrobats and Petr from Czech Republic will be entertaining us with their dangerous stunts, flexibility and adventure.

A great asset of this show is the act's own Charlie Chaplin, coming straight from Sofia – the resemblance and acts are equal to the original with the difference that our own Chaplin is also an amazing multi plate spinner who will mesmerise the audience with his 10-minute on stage act. Their energy is incredible while their eagerness to give a magnificent spectacle this early December is huge. Adding to that the act has some more surprises roaming in the auditorium before and after the show and interval.

Tickets are selling fast and are available from [www.ticketor.com/curtainraiser](http://www.ticketor.com/curtainraiser) or by calling 2189 5072 or 7991 8857. Tickets start from only €9 (plus tax). Platinum tickets with perks, group offers and family tickets are also available online. The Little Big Show is being staged at the City Theatre in Valletta on December 7, 8 and 9. The four shows are on Friday at 7:30pm, Saturday at 7:30pm, Sunday matinee at 3pm and 6:30pm. For more information visit [www.curtainraisemalta/thelittlebigshow](http://www.curtainraisemalta/thelittlebigshow)

## MAKE MUSIC GREAT

Dan huwa l-isem tat-tieni edizzjoni ta' dan il-Music festival li sar fir-raħal tal-Għarb organizzat mill-Kunsill tar-raħal li fetaħ il-Gimgha 23 ta' Novembru meta fil-pjazza ta' quddiem il-Knisja



Parrokkjali ttellgħet biċċa xogħol teatrali mill-isbaħ imlaqqma Qasba Żejt bis-sehem ta' għadd ta' atturi u kumpless bandistiku taħt id-direzzjoni ta' Mro Jason Camilleri.

Il-festival ssokta matul il-jumejn ta' wara bis-sehem ta' talent lokali u barrani li kien jinkludi l-Banda Viżitazzjoni mwaqqfa fir-raħal tal-Għarb f'Lulju tal-2003 u li illum għandha l-każin tagħha fil-pjazza ewlenija tar-raħal, il-Gruppo Storico, Sbandieratori e Musici 'Associazione Marduk' minn Rometta fi Sqallija, il-Banda Sta Margerita Ta' Sannat, Tropoli Folk group mill-Bulgarija li huwa grupp folkloristiku bbażat f'Malta, il-Banda Sta Marija taż-Żebbuġ, il-Balkan Hearth Folk Group mill-Bulgarija dan ukoll ibbażat f'Malta, il-Banda Nuova Mesto Quartet mis-Slovenia, il-Banda 'Farra Fanfarra' mill-Portugal, il-Banda Sant'Anna minn Marsascala, l-Imnarja Folk Group tan-Nadur, il-Banda San Gorg ta' Ħal Qormi, l-Aurora Folk Group tal-belt Victoria, flimkien mal-Banda Pietro Mascagni mill-belt ta' Milazzo fi Sqallija. Dawn kollha taw spettaklu mill-aqwa fuq jumejn fil-misraħ tal-Knisja Parrokkjali magħrufa għall-faċċata unika tagħha. Is-Sibt fl-għaxija l-programm kien jinkludi kunċert fuq palk wieħed mill-Banda Viżitazzjoni tal-Għarb u l-Banda Pietro Mascagni minn Sqallija li f'hin minnhom daqqew flimkien il-'Graduation Suite' ta' Elgar, 'Pomp and Circumstance' u 'Rondo' ta' Faure' kif koll il-'Marcia Brillante Fiona' ta' Gaetano Cannello.

Il-Ħadd filgħodu qabel ma beda l-ispettaklu fil-Pjazza tar-raħal, il-Ministru għal Għawdex Dr Justyne Caruana flimkien mas-Sindku tar-raħal David Apap kixfu monument lejn ix-xaqliba ta' Santu Pietru li jfakkar żewġt irġiel mill-Għarb li mietu matul l-aħħar Gwerra, Kalanġ Mizzi u Gużeppi Cauchi, l-uniku vittma li miet f'kamp ta' koncentrament. Qabel il-kxif tal-monument 'life size' is-Sur Charles Bezzina, Poeta u Storiku tal-Gwerra ta tagħrif dwar dawn i-żewġt irġiel mill-Għarb li tilfu ħajjithom matul l-aħħar Gwerra. Il-Mafkar tbierak mill-Arċipriet tar-raħal Fr. Trevor.

Prosit tassew lill-Kunsill Lokali ta' dan ir-raħal fil-Punent tal-Gżira Għawdxija li daħal għal din l-inizjattiva kulturali li żgur swietlu ħafna preparazzjoni u spejjes kbar imma li ma qatax qalbu u ngħidilkom li kull min attenda ħareġ iktar minn sodisfatt għaliex il-familja kollha kellha fejn tiddeverti u tistrieħ xi ftit mill-istress u mill-pass imgħaġġel tal-ħajja tas-Seklu 21.

Kav Joe M Attard      Victoria Gozo,emarjos@hotmail.com





## Malta Philharmonic Orchestra – 50 years of music

*For half a century, the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra has been Malta's leading musical ensemble.*

The orchestra was founded in April 1968, when musicians from the defunct "C-in-C" orchestra of the Malta-based British Mediterranean Fleet regrouped as the Manoel Theatre Orchestra. It continued to serve as the theatre's resident orchestra until September 1997, when it became an independent orchestra, taking up the name National Orchestra of Malta in the process. The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra assumed its present name in 2008, when it was expanded into a full-size symphony orchestra bringing together the best of Maltese talent and musicians from Europe and beyond.



The last conductor of the C-in-C orchestra, Joseph Sammut, was the orchestra's first conductor, remaining at the helm until 1992. Since then, the orchestra has been under the direction of Joseph Vella, Michael Laus, and Brian Schembri, with Mro Laus continuing to serve as the MPO's resident conductor. The MPO also works with local and international guest conductors including; Lawrence Renes, Michalis Economou, Sergey Smbatyan, and Gergely Madaras.

As Malta's only professional orchestra, the MPO is in high demand, averaging more than one performance a week. These include; symphonic concerts, opera productions in Malta and Gozo, community outreach and educational programmes as well as various concerts of a lighter nature.

The MPO is proud to represent Maltese art and culture on the world stage. Since first touring abroad in



2001, the orchestra has performed across the globe, including in China, Italy, Germany, Austria and Belgium. Presently embarking on at least one international tour each season, the MPO has performed in prestigious halls such as the Berliner Philharmonie Germany, and the Musikverein Austria.

At home and abroad, the MPO collaborates with international soloists, conductors, and ensembles on both musical and multidisciplinary projects. Recent collaborations include Beethoven's Missa Solemnis with the choir of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and 'Crystal Palace' with the dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet.

The MPO has a number of recordings to its name. These include a CD featuring works by Maltese composer Charles Camilleri for record label Naxos, as well as two CD series published by Cameo Classics; Music of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Jewish German Composers, and British Composers Premiere Collection. Our latest recording is a CD featuring the music of Polish composer Alexandre Tansman, released by the CPO Label earlier this year.

The MPO is a keen exponent of Maltese composers, regularly performing their works in Malta and abroad and premièring – as well as commissioning new compositions.

It is also responsible for the orchestral training and professional development of the next generation of Maltese musicians, through the MPO Academy and the Malta Youth Orchestra, which itself regularly gives concerts across Malta. At the same time, it is actively involved in organising educational programmes for children, through workshops and special performances.

While it celebrates 50 years of music, the MPO remains intent on delivering quality orchestral music to the Maltese islands, all the time continuing to promote Malta's musical heritage overseas.

<http://www.maltaorchestra.com/orchestra/>



## WEIRD BABIES' NAMES

A report about new baby names that appeared in the Times of Malta has been doing the rounds among the more enlightened – or possibly snobbish – members of the Maltese Internet community, with most expressing mirth at the monickers that certain people have concocted for their offspring. We must admit, we at SWAG laughed along with them as some creations seem to defy all understanding. In the light of this, we asked, is it time to look into tough legislation reigning parents in when their

kids are hatched, as some countries have?

According to the report, the most popular children's names last year were good, old-fashioned ones such as Luke, Elena and Matthew, but there was a significant percentage of people who bestowed the original titles Zveyrone, Netsrik, Jaceyraer, Zarkareia and Chinenye upon their offspring.

Others still went all hippy on us and chose Breeze, Summer, Diamond, Love, Freedom, Symphony, Dolce and Innocent, while SWAG believes those who named their kids Enonima, Kobbun, Gundula, Limoni, Hunter, Loic and Coco must be members of the international community that resides here and therefore may be outside the scope of this article as those names may be fine within their culture.. The most obvious explanation for the free-for-all naming orgy is that parents feel they want their kids to be unique, and that there is no better way for this to happen than to give them a 'unique' name. They may think it's fun, with no harm done, that it differentiates their child from everyone else, gives them a special personality, and that the kids will get used to it and even be proud of it, despite any initial difficulties at school or as young children.

Are they misguided in thinking this? According to a report on BBC news not long ago some countries think so and they're happy to step in to protect the interests of the child and to keep their society a little more uniform. While some may see this as unacceptable state interference in personal matters of the individual, others may see it as a good thing, for the sake of the child who is at the mercy of parents who may not foresee the consequences of what they're doing.

So here are a few guesses at the names we might see in the near future..

**Trump Borç Vladimir Camilleri Chastity Cassar Pho Żammit Hugo's Baby Agius Triton Muscat Gulepp Sultana Marijuana Jane Caruana.**



## ANZJANA TA' 95 SENA SSEGWI L-PARLAMENT



Mument ta' tenerezza fil-bidu tas-seduta parlamentari tal-lejla hekk kif l-Ispeaker Anġlu laqa' anzjana ta' 95 sena mir-Rabat, Malta, li talbet biex tkun preżenti fil-kamra ħalli ssegwi l-Parlament. L-Ispeaker Dr Anġlu Farrugia sellem lis-Sinjura Carmela Gauci u rringrazzja talli ħadet interess li tmur issegi s-seduta u żied: "J'Alla jkollok aktar età u aħna jkollna l-età tiegħek illi nseguw x'inhu jiġri fil-Parlament."



## Calleja heads world-class line-up for fundraising concert in Malta

This year's BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation fundraising concert is taking place next month.

Tenor Joseph Calleja heads a world class line up of performers, which will feature the concertmaster at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, David Chan, conducting the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.

Also be lending their talent to the event will be Jessica Pratt, the leading Australian soprano who sings at opera houses around the world and has been described by the New York Times as possessing a "gleaming sound," and Italian baritone Vittorio Vitelli.

All proceeds from the event will go to the BOV Joseph Calleja Foundation, set up in 2013 to provide financial assistance to promising local musical talent and underprivileged children with distinctive musical ability.

Fresh from a critically acclaimed run of *Tosca* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Mr Calleja, said, "I would like to thank the artists for generously giving up their time to support a cause very close to my heart in what promises to be a memorable night."

"The money raised by the foundation over the past five years has enabled us to give our scholars – some of whom will also be performing – an opportunity they might not otherwise have had to make an impression in the highly-competitive world of arts.

He said that "the highlight of the year for me was 18-year-old Gozitan baritone Charles Buttigieg being offered a full tuition scholarship to study Voice at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, which has an acceptance rate of just five per cent. This shows that our efforts are worthwhile."

The BOV Joseph Calleja Winter Concert will be held at the Manoel Theatre in Valletta on Saturday, the 15th of December, at 8pm, followed by a reception at the Casino Maltese.

Tickets are available against a donation of €100 each, and may be reserved through the Manoel Theatre booking website [www.teatrumanoel.com.mt](http://www.teatrumanoel.com.mt)

BOV said that benefactors who attend the concert will also have the opportunity to meet Joseph Calleja and the guest artists during the post-concert reception.

## HIGH COMMISSION AND CONSULATES FOR MALTA IN AUSTRALIA

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