

The concert for organ with the participation of Giovanni Allevi completed the 14th edition of the International Festival of Sacred Music and Art, which took place from October 28 until November 4, 2015 in Rome and the Vatican.

In an official writing, the Founder and General President of the Foundation *Fondazione Pro Musica e Arte Sacra*, Sen. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans-Albert Courtial, described it as follows: "The Festival 2015 was an enormous success: More than 600 artists among them choristers and orchestra members, 14 soloists, 6 conductors and choirmasters and 2 organists from all over the world participated at this special musical event. The international character of our Festival was confirmed by the origin countries of those artists, altogether nine this year: Japan, Germany, Sweden, Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Austria, Vatican City and Italy."

The audience showed its appreciation for the fourteenth edition of the Festival and its program, which consisted in a selection of great masterpieces of symphonies, chorales, organ music, pieces that everyone knows mixed with surprising discoveries of modern composers. More than 11.000 listeners from Germany, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, the Principality of Liechtenstein, France, Japan, China, the U.S.A., Russia, Denmark, Israel, India, Spain, Italy and the Vatican State visited the numerous concerts in the extraordinary and beautiful framework of three Papal Basilicas in Rome, Saint Peter's, Saint Paul's outside the Walls and Basilica of St. Mary Major' as also in the Basilica of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Of course, the concert with the Wiener Philharmoniker, orchestra 'in residence' of the Festival since its first edition, was the most awaited one. More than 3000 persons met in the Basilica of Saint Paul's outside the Walls to listen to the Symphony No 7 and the Symphony No 8 of Ludwig van Beethoven, directed by the swedish conductor Herbert Blomstedt, one of the greatest conductors of our times, in one of his rare appearances in Italy. A concert organized in honor and in the presence of Their Serene Highnesses Prince Hans-Adam II and Princess Marie von und zu Liechtenstein.

Beyond the possibility to listen, the Festival wants to offer a real spiritual elevation in order to promote the ecumenical spirit, occurred this year by the participation of the St. Jacob's Chamber Choir of Stockholm. In addition, for the third time in our Festival's history, the IlluminArt Chorus and Orchestra from Japan have been part of our program. The participation of the choristers and orchestra members, being part of different kinds of creeds, that are characteristic for the religious reality of the state of Nippon, could make its contribution to the interreligious dialogue between Christians and many other religions that co-exist in Japan.

Sen. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans-Albert Courtial announces the next year's XV Festival edition 2016 with the following words: "It is known, that sacred music with its transcendental character has the potential to cause a very strong spiritual experience, stronger than words or images: For that reason, religious faith is very strong connected to the music and religious rites have been accompanied by music from time immemorial. For me it is always a great pleasure and gratification to contribute to bring people to these holy places in the framework of the INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC AND SACRED ART. So I hope to see you next year, in October- November 2016"