



Press release - City of Florence

Florence launches the project for Giovanni Battista Lulli, a 'forgotten' musician

His latest work in May will open the celebrations; soon also an Institute in his name

Florence June 28, 2022 - A vast project to remember Giovanni Battista Lulli (Florence 1632 - Paris 1687), a great composer now almost completely forgotten, is the one conceived by two musicians who cultivated and loved him, Federico Maria Sardelli and his disciple Samuele Lastrucci, which will preview the performance of Lulli's last opera at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino on July 4th and which will continue with study days, concert and opera productions, recordings and even the establishment of an Institute in his name. The project partners are the Center de Musique Baroque de Versailles, the Municipality and Metropolitan City of Florence, the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the Institut Français of Florence, the University of Florence, the Modo Antiquo baroque orchestra and the ensemble I Musici del Gran Principe.

Lulli was one of the most important composers in history: creator of a new language, of a new way of playing (his is the paternity of the orchestra in the modern sense), of new musical genres. His influence in Europe was strong and uninterrupted until the French Revolution. The catalog of his works is impressive and has influenced hundreds of composers. Lulli is, together with Monteverdi, the most important and influential musician of the seventeenth century. Paradoxically, in the face of such greatness, Italy has forgotten about him. Still performed and remembered in France, Lulli is almost absent from the Italian concert, theatrical, record and didactic circuit.

“A void that must be filled - says the mayor Dario Nardella - and that sees the Municipality at the forefront with this project that starts from his hometown and wants us to become familiar with his music and his figure again. Thanks to the Teatro del Maggio for the effort in the special staging of this production which will close the opera program of the 84th edition of the Festival ”.

The Lulli Project was born on the 390th anniversary of his birth and on the 100th anniversary of the first major event on the Baroque in Florence, at Palazzo Pitti, in 1922. The appointment of 4 July with *Acis et Galatée* at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino marks the return of Lulli in Florence and for the occasion the Maggio Orchestra was specially provided with faithful copies of ancient instruments capable of restoring the original sounds. It is a courageous investment that makes Maggio one of the most avant-garde opera foundations in Italy for the interpretation of the Baroque repertoire.

Through the Lulli project Sardelli and Lastrucci wish to enhance two symbolic places of the Baroque civilization: the "Luca Giordano" Hall of Mirrors in Palazzo Medici Riccardi and the Medici Park in Pratolino. Every year, on November 28th, on the composer's anniversary, the Salone will host a study day with a final concert. In summer, on the other hand, a great musical event at the foot of the Giant of the Apennines will bring the Lullian repertoire to the general public, thus returning to Pratolino the original task of welcoming and spreading Baroque music. The constitution ceremony of the Institute named after Lulli will instead take place in September in the Sala dei Gigli of Palazzo Vecchio.