



Inauguration of the 62nd Salone del Mobile.Milano

Riccardo Chailly and Juan Diego Flórez usher in the Salone del Mobile.Milano

Long-time partners **Teatro alla Scala** and **Salone del Mobile.Milano** are set to host an exceptional musical event. On Monday, April 15 at 8 p.m., the inaugural evening will spotlight the **Teatro alla Scala Orchestra**, under the baton of Maestro **Riccardo Chailly**. Renowned tenor **Juan Diego Flórez** will grace Piermarini's hallowed halls with a selection of overtures, intermezzi, and arias from the works of **Giuseppe Verdi**, **Vincenzo Bellini**, and **Giacomo Puccini**, in this the centenary of his death. The evening will commence with the Overture to *Nabucco*, the masterpiece that brought **Verdi** acclaim at La Scala in 1842 and took on a symbolic role during the Risorgimento. The symphony hints at the famed "Va' pensiero" chorus.

The Prelude from *La Traviata* (1853) creates an intimate ambience, leading into Alfredo's fervent Act II aria, "Lunge da lei... De' miei bollenti spiriti". This transitions into the mellifluous strains of bel canto in Vincenzo **Bellini's** *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* Overture (1830), which also features the tenor's heartfelt entrance aria, 'È serbata a quest'acciaro'. Verdi reappears with dance pieces from two of his most grandiose and internationally acclaimed operas: *Don Carlo* (Paris 1867) and *Aida* (Cairo, 1871). Marking the centenary of Puccini's death, the poignant intermezzo from *Manon Lescaut* (1893) comes alive, introduced by the velvety tones of the viola and cello, and culminates in Rodolfo's celebrated aria from *La Bohème* (1896), 'Che gelida manina'. Concluding the formal program is the Overture to Verdi's *Forza del destino*, a staple for the orchestra and conductor as they gear up for La Scala's opening night on December 7.

Riccardo Chailly

A former principal conductor of some of Europe's leading orchestras, such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Leipzig Gewandhaus, as well as the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano, Riccardo Chailly has been the music director at the Teatro alla Scala and the Lucerne Festival Orchestra since 2015. He is a regular guest conductor for major orchestras, including the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics.

Chailly's first foray into opera was at La Scala in 1978 when he was asked by Artistic Director Claudio Abbado, whom he had assisted in legendary productions like Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, to step in for Gianandrea Gavazzeni for the new production of Verdi's *I masnadieri* during the theatre's bicentennial season. This marked the beginning of an uninterrupted musical journey with the Milan opera house, where Mastro Chailly has developed a repertoire primarily focused on Italian composers like Rossini, Verdi, and Puccini, yet also expands to include works by Stravinsky, Mussorgsky, and Prokofiev in the realm of opera.

Notable collaborations with distinguished directors ranging from Pizzi, Bussotti, Cobelli, Ronconi and Zeffirelli to Gabriele Salvatores, Davide Livermore, and Leo Muscato, have significantly enriched the landscape of Italian theatre, whilst internationally, Cox, Lehnhoff, Carsen, and Hermanis should also be mentioned.

Maestro Chailly's symphonic repertoire encompasses over 150 concerts in Italy and abroad with the La Scala Orchestra and Filarmonica della Scala, and other orchestras including Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, and the Wiener Philharmoniker, spanning from classical to contemporary.

As for tours, the 2007 American tour with the Filarmonica della Scala stands out. More recently, the Orchestra made a grand return to major concert venues: the Filarmonica performed at the Salzburg Festival, Lucerne and the Proms, while the La Scala Chorus and Orchestra have graced all the major European capitals.

Juan Diego Flórez

Hailing from Lima, Peru, Juan Diego Flórez's musical journey began early on singing and playing rock and Peruvian popular music. His passion led him to the National Conservatory of Peru for formal study. Later, he was awarded a scholarship to attend the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. In 1996 he made his debut at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro, as Corradino in *Matilde di Shabran*.

At twenty-three he made his groundbreaking debut at La Scala in *Armide*, under the baton of Riccardo Muti. From that point forward, his career skyrocketed, and he appeared in the world's leading venues, performing alongside renowned conductors.

In a historic 2007 performance at La Scala, he encoired "Ah! Mes amis", a notoriously challenging aria from *La Fille du régiment* that features nine high Cs. This was the first such encore since 1933, a feat later replicated at the Metropolitan in New York and the Paris Opéra. Memorable performances at La Scala include Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* (2005), Rodrigo in Rossini's *Otello* (2015), and Orphée in *Orphée et Euridice* (2018). He also participated in the opening of the 2020-2021 season, *A riveder le stelle*, and in 2023 he was Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, conducted by Riccardo Chailly.

Renowned for his bel canto roles, Juan Diego Flórez has broadened his repertoire in recent years to encompass works from the French Romantic period. His recent performances include the role of Raoul de Nangis in *Les Huguenots* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Gennaro in *Lucrezia Borgia* at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich and in a concert version at the Salzburg Festival, Hoffmann in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* at the Opéra de Monte-Carlo, Ricciardo in *Ricciardo and Zoraide* at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro, Alfredo in *La Traviata* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Des Grieux in *Manon* and *Faust* in the eponymous opera at the Vienna Staatsoper, and Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at the Zurich Opera. He has recorded a CD of Mozart arias and a CD of Latin American folk songs titled '*Bésame mucho*'. His numerous accolades include the Gran Cruz de la Orden El Sol del Peru and the title of 'Österreichischer Kammersänger'.

In 2011, he established "Sinfonía por el Perú", a social initiative inspired by Venezuela's El Sistema that fosters the artistic and personal growth of children and young people. In recognition of his efforts, he was appointed as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador in 2012. Additionally, the World Economic Forum honored him with the Crystal Award in 2014.