

Dear Friends,

As vice-chairperson of WFAO and co-organizer of the WFAO-Amateur Orchestra Festival it is a real pleasure to welcome you in Milan.

A few days ago I saw on television Daniele Gatti - the new principal conductor of the Orchestra of Concertgebouw Amsterdam - , walking through Milan and showing extensively the G. Verdi conservatory and the Teatro alla Scala. He explained how much the musical life in Milan inspired his future.

Looking to this I thought of our coming WFAO-orchestra and how privileged we are that we, can take part and share the musical life of one of the most important historical and musical capitals of the world.

Two years ago, at the WFAO-General Assembly in Toyohashi, Tommaso Napoli accepted to organize the first WFAO-Amateur Orchestra Festival in Milan during the World Expo 2015.

Past months, we had to overcome many difficult situations. Even in the beginning of August last changes in the program had to be decided. But finally, after a tremendous work of Tommaso, we are ready.

AIMA, MiToSettembreMusica and WFAO are waiting to welcome amateur-musicians from more than 15 countries and from 4 continents in Milan.

During 3 days, the orchestra will prepare Puccini-Arias and Sibelius' Second Symphony in the same environment where so many great musicians grew up and in the same concert-hall where a few days before the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin will give his concerts.

The orchestra is complete. Nevertheless some more strings, violas(!), can only make the orchestra sounding better. For those who didn't announce their attendance or participation, it isn't to late! You can still write to wfao2015milan@gmail.com.

Tommaso will certainly find a nice place in the orchestra. The orchestra, the city of Milan, the expo: it is worth to do the trip!

At this first WFAO-Orchestra-Festival in Europe, 4 WFAO-board-members, Joe Yamaji, Kikuko Morishita, Tommaso Napoli, myself and the EOFed-president, Daniel Kellerhals will participate in the orchestra.

All this work doesn't come for free. It costs time and money. The time that we spend to set up the festival is volunteer-time however costs has to be made and the money doesn't fall like drops out of the sky.

We hope that most of the participants will join or remain member of our organizations.

More information on request.

Looking forward to meet you all in good health in Milan!

Warm regards,

Alex

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