

With Ottavio Dantone as Musical Director and the Accademia Bizantina as orchestra in residence, the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music is breaking new ground for the next five years.

Innsbruck, 16 June 2024

The Italian harpsichordist, pianist, and conductor Ottavio Dantone will take over the Musical Direction of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music for the next five years. During the same period, the Accademia Bizantina from Ravenna, Italy, which he has conducted since 1996, becomes "Orchestra in Residence". Ottavio Dantone as Musical Director and Eva-Maria Sens as Artistic Director will replace Alessandro De Marchi, the Artistic Director of the Innsbruck Festival from 2010 to 2023. The top musicians of the Accademia Bizantina will perform the grand opening in Innsbruck with "Il trionfo della Fama" by Francesco Bartolomeo Conti on 6 August and the premiere of Geminiano Giacomelli's "Cesare in Egitto" on 7 August.

Ottavio Dantone and the Accademia Bizantina can be experienced in many ways at this year's Innsbruck Festival, setting an example for the coming years. A first highlight is the rediscovery of "Cesare in Egitto" by Geminiano Giacomelli (1692-1740). First performed in 1735, it became his most successful opera during his lifetime. Under the direction of Leo Muscato, stars of the baroque scene such as Arianna Vendittelli as Cesare, Emőke Barath as Cleopatra and Margherita Maria Sala as Cornelia – all awardees of the Innsbruck Cesti Competition – will be performing. Further performances at the Tiroler Landestheater will take place on 9 and 11 August. The Concerto inaugurale "Il trionfo della Fama" by the Habsburg court composer Francesco Bartolomeo Conti will be performed under the title "Famos!" on 6 August. La Stagione Armonica and NovoCanto as well as the outstanding soloists Benedetta Mazzucato, Sophie Rennert, Nicolò Balducci, Martin Vanberg and Riccardo Novaro will join the Accademia Bizantina. Ottavio Dantone also presents himself at the festival as an expert in chamber music in the new series "Ottavio plus". Additionally, at the "Werkstattkonzerte" ("Concerts in workshop"), he explains the musical process behind the interpretation of the bare notes and their realization on stage.

The Innsbruck Festival of Early Music will take place for the 48th time this year from 21 July to 30 August - with many concerts, events and three operas. In addition to Giacomelli's "Cesare", the programme includes Frideric Handel's "Arianna in Creta" under the musical direction of Angelo Michele Errico with last year's Cesti competition participants (premiere on 17 August). Moreover Christoph Graupner's "Dido, Königin von Carthago" will be performed by the La Cetra Baroque Orchestra conducted by Andrea Marcon and an exquisite ensemble of soloists (premiere on 25 August). This year's motto "where do we come from and where are we going?" refers to the tried and tested, but also to the future, which will be shaped by the new dual leadership of the festival, Eva-Maria Sens and Ottavio Dantone.

[The complete programme of the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music](#)

[Information about the Accademia Bizantina](#)