

Vivante Productions presents

MARE NOSTRUM

A Concert. A Journey.

ماري نوستروم

حفلة موسيقية. سفر.

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A film by

Michelle Brun & Stefan Haupt

Vivante Productions presents a film featuring Jordi Savall, Aikaterini Papadopoulou, Michaël Grébil, Pedro Estevan, Andrew Lawrence-King, Haïg Sarikouyoumdjian, Yair Dalal, Gürsoy Dinger, Yurdal Tokcan, Hakan Güngör Directed by Michelle Brun & Stefan Haupt Music from the Mare Nostrum concert, conducted by Jordi Savall with Hespèrion XXI, La Capella Reial de Catalunya and the Scuola Vivante choir Camera for the concert Carlotta Holly-Steinmann, Tobias Dengler, Georges Gachot Camera for the Morocco trip Sina Loop, Lia Sedf, Dominik Bühler, Veronika Müller Mäder Sound for the concert Marco Teufen Sound for the Morocco trip Tobias Keel, Jürg Mäder Editing Michelle Brun Graphic design Peter Bäder Narration Sina Loop Sound editing and mixing Guido Keller, Magnetix Tonstudio AG Colour grading Roger Sommer Producers Veronika Müller Mäder, Jürg Mäder with the generous support of Diction AG, HEM Stiftung, Stiftung Fürstlicher Kommerzienrat Guido Feger and others.

Press booklet

MARE NOSTRUM

A Concert. A Journey.

A film by
Michelle Brun & Stefan Haupt

with

Jordi Savall
Spain

Aikaterini Papadopoulou
Greece

Michaël Grébil
France

Pedro Estevan
Spain

Dimitri Psonis
Greece

Andrew Lawrence-King
England

Haïg Sarikouyoumdjian
Armenia

Yair Dalal
Israel

Gürsoy Dinçer
Turkey

Yurdal Tokcan
Turkey

Hakan Güngör
Turkey

and

Students from the Scuola Vivante
Switzerland



Brief description

In „MARE NOSTRUM – A Concert. A Journey.“ students from the Scuola Vivante are preparing for a concert with Jordi Savall and his 18-piece ensemble from 11 different countries by asking him and his fellow musicians the questions they have always wanted to have answered. The musicians talk about their lives and the places they call home. They talk about their instruments and their love of music. Working together and interacting with music creates connections.

A month after the concert, a school trip takes the students to their partner school, the „école vivante“, in the High Atlas region of Morocco. The young people and the staff travelling with them set off, leaving the familiar behind, to come into contact with a part of that world that is expressed through music at the concert. The result of days spent on the road – travelling through Switzerland, France, Spain and Morocco – is a travelogue from the young people’s perspective.

The music of Jordi Savall accompanies the travellers like a protecting hand. From then on, in the changing images of the landscape, the music unfolds in a new way and it is as though it finally reaches its full dimension on this journey.

In the film “MARE NOSTRUM – A Concert. A Journey.“, the directors Michelle Brun and Stefan Haupt weave Mediterranean music and the discussions with the world experienced by the young travellers camera in a playfully humorous and moving way. It is an all-embracing work of art, which shows the dialogue of three generations of the three largest monotheistic world religions from eleven countries around the Mediterranean Sea, while striving to find inner and outer peace.

Logline

A journey to the sounds and also to the silence, to other cultures, as far as Africa and then back across the sea, to foreigners and friends and ultimately back to ourselves.

Regie

Michelle Brun is a freelance filmmaker and film editor. She studied at ESCAC in Barcelona, where she specialised in documentary film production. Since 2006 she has produced a number of films, including her own documentaries, such as „Water Runs Deep“ and „Tales Wander“. In 2014 she started setting up and leading the film class „Tele Vivante“. Since 2016, she has been a member of the production company „Vivante Productions“.

Stefan Haupt has been working as a director and freelance filmmaker since 1989. In 1998 he founded the production company Fontana Film. His feature films and documentaries, such as „Facing Death: Elisabeth Kübler-Ross“, „The Circle“, „Dark Fortune (Finsteres Glück)“ and „Sagrada: The Mystery Of Creation“ have brought him international recognition and numerous awards.

Produktion

The producer of this is VIVANTE PRODUCTIONS, part of the non-profit Scuola Vivante Association, let by Jürg Mäder and Veronika Müller Mäder.

Veronika Müller Mäder (born 1963)

Teacher, entrepreneur, trained in Logotherapy and Existential Analysis,
Founder and joint head teacher at the Scuola Vivante (since 1993)

Jürg Mäder (born 1964)

Teacher, entrepreneur, supervisor and organisation consultant
Founder and joint head teacher at the Scuola Vivante (since 1993),
board member of the Scuola Vivante Association

Since 1991, the Scuola Vivante Association has been working in the field of education (school, as a training provider and in the founding of new schools), in the field of leisure activities (Brütwerk craft and design workshop, Jugend Technikum – youth technology competition, courses for children and young people), as well as in the cultural sphere (concerts such as „Orient Occident“ and „Mare Nostrium“ with Jordi Savall, Children’s Culture Weeks).

In order to make this modern approach to education – awarded the Swiss School Prize (Schweizer Schulpreis) in 2013 – accessible to a large number of interested parties, in 2014 the Scuola Vivante Association further expanded the scope of its activities to include „Vivante Productions“ and „edizione vivante“: audio-visual productions, as well as books, materials for teaching and learning, and Internet publications.

The founders and current head teachers, Jürg Mäder and Veronika Müller Mäder are setting up these two new areas gradually, in collaboration with Michelle Brun and with the assistance of external specialists. The film „MARE NOSTRUM – A Concert. A Journey“. is their first production.

Jordi Savall

Jordi Savall was born in Barcelona in 1941. Like many other musicians, he began his musical training at the age of six as a member of the boys' choir in his hometown of Igualada. He first studied the violoncello at the Barcelona Conservatory, before researching early music and taking up the viola da gamba. Within a very short time, he became one of the most important researchers and interpreters of music written before 1800. His creative power has taken him – for many years together with his late wife, Montserrat Figueras – to concert halls, churches and cathedrals all over the globe.

Together with Montserrat Figueras, he founded the ensembles Hespèrion XXI (1974), La Capella Reial de Catalunya (1987) and Le Concert des Nations (1989), as well as his own record label, Alia Vox (1998).

For more than 40 years, Jordi Savall and Montserrat Figueras – his wife, who died in November 2011 – have worked tirelessly to find, through their music, dialogue between cultures and peoples. In 2008, UNESCO awarded Jordi Savall the title of „Artist for Peace“. In the same year, the European Union named him as their Ambassador for Intercultural Dialogue. In addition to countless other awards and honours, in 2010 he received the International Music for Peace Award at the des Praetorius Music Awards in Niedersachsen, Germany. In 2012 for his life's work, he received the prestigious Danish Music Award, equivalent to a Nobel Prize for Music. „Léonie Sonning“.

In his performances, Jordi Savall combines the highest level of artistic quality with a humanist message:

„As artists we have a duty to maintain a feeling of hope and to give people courage.“



La Capella Reial de Catalunya

Inspired by the medieval vocal ensembles known as the Chapels Royal (*capillas reales*), in 1987, Montserrat Figueras and Jordi Savall decided to bring this medieval institution – founded in 1297 by James II of Aragon – back to life. As a result, La Capella Reial was formed. The new ensemble is devoted to the preservation and performance of the polyphonic vocal heritage of the Middle Ages and of the Hispanic and European golden era before the 19th century. La Capella Reial seeks to express the musical roots and cultural traditions of the Iberian Peninsula, as well as to research and preserve them.

Hespèrion XXI

In 1974 Jordi Savall and Montserrat Figueras, together with Lorenzo Alpert and Hopkinson Smith, founded Hespèrion XX (renamed Hespèrion XXI at the turn of the new millennium) in Basel, an ensemble for ancient music, which – by applying historical criteria and using original instruments – sought to preserve and enhance the rich and fascinating repertoire prior to the 19th century.

Today, Hespèrion XXI is a key point of reference for those seeking to understand musical development in the period from the Middle Ages up to the Baroque era. The value of this ensemble's work, present in the preservation of works, musical scores, instruments and unpublished documents, is immeasurable. Among other works, the repertoire of Hespèrion XXI includes works of the Sephardim, Castilian romances, works from the Spain's Golden Age and from the Europe of nations.



Scuola Vivante

The Scuola Vivante is a forward-looking, state-accredited, privately sponsored, educational initiative in Buchs, canton St. Gallen, Switzerland. It comprises a school, design workshop and courses for children, young people and adults. The partner school in Morocco – the „école vivante“ – has been teaching since 2010, initially in close collaboration with the Scuola Vivante. Since April 2010, the Scuola Vivante has been a member of the network of UNESCO-associated schools and was awarded the Swiss School Prize in 2013.

Encounter with the world

As key issue educational issue for the Scuola Vivante is its commitment to life in its diversity, to a fair world, to the dialogue between different cultures, to democratic values and to treating the earth and oneself with care.

Learning outside of the classroom or in comprehensive vocal training are fixed components of the curriculum. The school choir has participated at events in various locations and regular school trips also take students over the border into new regions with different languages and cultures. These encounters with the world open up new horizons and sharpen one's view of the world.

They provide space to promote knowledge of the world and, in a natural way, lead to people developing a sense of responsibility. As a member of the network UNESCO-associated schools, the Scuola Vivante supports the organisation's objectives:

„The associated schools are committed to a culture of peace, to international understanding between peoples and cultures, to access to education for all, to sustainable development and respect for human rights. The associated schools are concerned with the four main pillars of education: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be.“



école vivante

In the High Atlas region of Morocco, in the valley of the Berber tribe of Ait Bouguemez, at 1800 metres above sea level, and in the middle of what was originally rough, mountainous terrain, lies the école vivante, a youth and educational institution of the non-profit organisation Association Vivante.

The école vivante creates space for interaction, support and development; a place that brings people from different sections of society with different languages, cultures and religions together.

It combines the old with the new. Here, community groups, customs and traditions are maintained and intercultural exchanges are promoted.

The Association Vivante offers motivated young people, in a sustainable way, the opportunity to access the world and new possibilities. The école vivante is led by the husband-and-wife head teachers Stefanie Tapal Mouzoun and Haddou Mouzoun.



On music in the film

Thoughts of the writer Amin Maalouf about the music project „Mare Nostrum - Dialogue des musiques chrétiennes, musulmanes et juives autour de la Méditerranée“
(Extract of the booklet of the CD „Mare Nostrum“)

The concert „MARE NOSTRUM“, a dialogue of souls

Listening to these vocal and instrumental pieces from East and West, deftly gathered together by Jordi Savall, is no ordinary experience, because, in addition to the aesthetic emotion, we are made to experience an even more intense emotion, that of magically communing with our reconciled humanity.

Did our humanity not lose some part of its soul in the second half of the 15th century with the simultaneous demise of Sephard and al-Andalus, forty years after the fall of Byzantium? At the time, mental and spiritual bridges between East and West were destroyed which have never been repaired. The Mediterranean ceased to be cradle at the centre of our cultural universe, and instead it became a battlefield and a barrier.

Nowadays, our common sea is like an invisible Wall dividing the planet into frightened North and desperate South, separating world communities that have got used to distrusting „the Other“ and keeping their distance. The Arab world and the Jewish world seem to have forgotten their former fruitful kinship; Muslim East and Christian West have become locked in a dialogue of the deaf.

If we are to restore some hope to our disoriented humanity, we must go beyond a mere dialogue of cultures and beliefs towards a dialogue of souls. As we stand at the beginning of the 21st century, that is the irreplaceable mission of art. And that is exactly what we feel as we listen to this superb music from around the Mediterranean, the product of diverse times and lands. Suddenly we discover, or rather rediscover, that those civilisations we had thought of as remote from one another, even as enemies, are astonishingly close and intimately connected to another.

On this journey in time and space, we constantly find ourselves wondering whether the conflicts to which we have grown accustomed might in the end be illusory, and whether the true nature of human beings and cultures is to be found in this dialogue of instruments, voices, chords, cadences, gestures, improvisations and common breath. We then feel welling up in us a profound joy, born out of an act of faith: the diverse does not have to be a prelude to the adversarial; our cultures are not enclosed behind impenetrable barriers; our world is not doomed to interminable rifts; I can still be saved.

After all, hasn't that, since the dawn of the human adventure, been the overriding purpose of art?

Amin Maalouf

Jordi Savall and the Scuola Vivante

The core element of Jordi Savall's work is the search for that thing connects: the common musical language of different cultures, peoples and religions, the link between music and history. In this search, he not only brings forgotten traditional music back to life; more importantly, he also gets closer to the old longing in people to meet in peace, and to be able to live in peace.

In April 2014, after „Orient Occident“ this joint venture endeavour between Jordi Savall and the Scuola Vivante led to the second joint performance in April 2014, the concert „Mare Nostrum – Dialogue of Ottoman, Jewish and Christian Music from around the Mediterranean“. With Jordi Savall, there were 18 outstanding instrumentalists and vocalists from Armenia, Turkey, Greece, Israel, Italy, France, Catalonia, Spain, and England on stage in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (Herz Jesu Kirche) in Buchs (canton St. Gallen) – a musical journey around the Mediterranean Sea, with stories of waves of migration and dialogues between the three largest monotheistic religions. For the final part of the concert, Jordi Savall integrated the Scuola Vivante choir into a Turkish, Arabic and Hebrew variation of the folk song Ghazali – a song that had spread all around the Mediterranean region and was and is still sung or danced in the different countries – each in a slightly altered form in the respective national language – yet unmistakably the same piece of music.

By incorporating the choir of children and young people from the Scuola Vivante, Jordi Savall created an arc from ancient music – with its central objective of keeping history in mind – in relation to the presently worsening political, social and religious situations between North and South and East and West; then taking the arc through the generation who will be responsible for the future. This generation is given a voice at the concert, is urged to take part in these dialogues and make a commitment to a fair world.



On the making of the film

The film „MARE NOSTRUM – A Concert. A Journey“ combines three stories: the „Mare Nostrum“ concert by Jordi Savall and the choir of the Scuola Vivante; interviews with the ensemble musicians, and finally the school trip to the „école vivante“ partner school in Morocco.

The music and concert recordings are like a thread running through the film. They are interspersed with a wide variety of interesting, humorous and profound interviews with Jordi Savall and nine musicians from Hespèrion XXI, from Armenia, France, Greece, England, Israel, Spain and Turkey. These conversations were held on the fringes of the concert and on the premises of the Scuola Vivante – together with students, parents and teachers. Using professional cameras and operators, a camera operated by school students, a sound engineer and a student acting as a sound assistant; each of the interviews and also the „Mare Nostrum“ concert were filmed and recorded – both under the direction of Stefan Haupt and Georges Gachot.

The impressions and experiences document an unbelievably rich and profound journey on the school bus from Switzerland to Morocco, recorded in over 400 hours of film footage – filmed by the young people themselves, under the stewardship of Veronika Müller Mäder, following a professional induction and training in handling a camera from camerawoman Carlotta Holy-Steinmann, training in sound recording from sound engineer Marco Teufen, as well as training in issues in film images and direction from Stefan Haupt.

The camera equipment was purchased with part of the prizemoney from the Swiss School Prize, won in 2013. The students travelling to Morocco were responsible for funding the trip themselves – which included drawing up a budget and a financial plan.

A storage room in the school building is converted into an editing room. Michelle Brun, co-director and film editor watches the countless hours of film footage and, together with Stefan Haupt and in close collaboration with Veronika Müller Mäder and Jürg Mäder, starts to edit the film.

The students continue to be involved at every stage. They transcribe all the German, English and French interviews with the musicians and make their diaries, written correspondence with the musicians, blog entries, drawings and other content available to those in the cutting room for inclusion in the film. This very personal material from the students is used to create the off-camera voice, which guides and accompanies the viewer as they watch the film.

Michelle Brun and Stefan Haupt arrange vocal casting to find the right voice. Sina Loop records the off-camera voice in a recording studio in Zurich, accompanied by some of her fellow students who are invited along to listen.

The company „Diction“ begins the task of translating the subtitles into eleven languages – the mother tongues of all of the musicians involved: French, English, Catalan, Spanish, Arabic, Hebrew, Turkish, Armenian, Greek and Italian.

Small groups take part in colour grading – determining the colour of the film. Michelle Brun gives the first courses in professional film editing. A sound mixer and graphic designer invite students to look over their shoulders as they work.

Right up to the final version, time and time again students are invited to watch interim versions and to have a part in the stages of development and voice their opinions.

Background

The film „MARE NOSTRUM – A Concert. A Journey“ is the completion of an educational project lasting several years at the Scuola Vivante – in a team of teachers, students, parents and all of their respective predecessors, course leaders, project workers, musicians and filmmakers.

Supporting diversity in life, making a commitment to a fair world and to dialogue between the different peoples and cultures, as well as treating the environment and ourselves with care have all been contained in the core educational concern of the Scuola Vivante for the last 25 years. This endeavour – initiated after a school trip with students in 2007 – bore fruit: the partner school école vivante, which began its seventh year of operation in the summer of 2016.

Students and teachers of the Scuola Vivante have now travelled to the remote Ait Bouguemez region in Morocco's so-called „Happy Valley“ several times to visit the école vivante. The school is currently a primary school with around 40 children. There is a lot of work, passion and love involved in this partnership.

This commitment to peace and for the establishment of this innovative educational project in the High Atlas mountains saw the Scuola Vivante being accepted into the UNESCO network of associated schools.

In connection with this, the Scuola Vivante experienced the joy of recruiting Jordi Savall – one of the most significant contemporary musicians and researchers into ancient music, as well as a cultural ambassador for UNESCO – for the joint concerts such as „Orient – Occident“ and „Mare Nostrum“. „Mare Nostrum“ took place in April 2014 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (Herz Jesu Kirche) in Buchs (canton St. Gallen), organised by the school.

On a 16-day school trip in May 2014 – one month after the „Mare Nostrum“ concert, a group of lower-secondary level students from the Scuola Vivante travelled overland on a part of this journey, as well as over the sea and back – to visit their partner school in the High Atlas region of Morocco. This journey of around 4500 kilometres began in Switzerland, travelling through France, Spain, across the Straits of Gibraltar to Tangier, to the blue city of Chefchouen, to Fes and Marrakech and into the Ait Bouguemez valley, the home of the école vivante and the final destination on the journey.

The preparation of the students for the ‚Mare Nostrum‘ concert with Jordi Savall and Hespèrion XXI involves a great deal of intensive work in advance during lessons.

The musicians, their home countries, the political situation, the instruments and the Mediterranean region all become the focus of educational work. It is here that one of the great strengths of the Scuola Vivante becomes apparent: the ability to work together within a topic and to integrate this common approach into the school day in the different disciplines and subjects. It could be in Geography or History, in Algebra or Geometry, in Music or Art, in an analysis of the Arab Spring or Islam, in Mediterranean cuisine or in the preparation of school trips or in the organisation of a concert.

This may also include vocal training, the focus on thematic content and interesting encounters and being open to new experiences.

The concert is a success. Meeting Jordi Savall and the world-class musicians leaves a deep and lasting impression on the students.

Ensemble

Lior Elmaleh *Vocals*
Gürsoy Dinçer *Vocals*
Aikaterini Papadopoulou *Vocals*

La Capella Reial de Catalunya

David Sagastume *Countertenor*
Lluís Vilamajó *Tenor*
Furio Zanasi *Baritone*
Daniele Carnovich *Bass*

Hespèrion XXI

Pierre Hamon *Flutes and bagpipes*
Michaël Grébil *Lute and cithar*
Andrew Lawrence-King *Harp*
Pedro Estevan *Percussion*
Haïg Sarikouyoumdjian *Ney and duduk*
Gaguik Mouradian *Kamancha*
Hakan Güngör *Kanun*
Yurdal Tokcan *Oud*
Yair Dalal *Oud*
Dimitri Psonis *Santur and morisca*
Erez Shmuel Mounk *Percussion*
Choir of the Scuola Vivante
Jordi Savall *Fiddle, rebab and musical direction*

Film credits

Team

Camera (Konzert): Carlotta Holy-Steinemann, Tobias Dengler, Georges Gachot
Camera (Morocco journey): Sina Loop, Lia Secli, Dominik Bühler, Veronika Müller Mäder
Sound (Konzert): Marco Teufen
Sound (Morocco journey): Tobias Keel, Jürg Mäder
Editing: Michelle Brun
Sound editing and mixing: Guido Keller
Colour Correction: Roger Sommer
Music: Jordi Savall mit Hespèrion XXI, La Capella Reial de Catalunya
and the Choir of the Scuola Vivante

Performers

Jordi Savall, Aikaterini Papadopoulou, Michaël Grébil, Pedro Estevan, Dimitri Psonis,
Andrew Lawrence-King, Haïg Sarikouyoumdjian, Yair Dalal, Gürsoy Dinçer, Yurdal Tokcan,
Hakan Güngör, students from the Scuola Vivante

Original title: MARE NOSTRUM – Ein Konzert. Eine Reise.

Format: DCP

Recording format: Apple ProRes 422 HQ

Length: 57 Minuten

Audio format: 5.1

year of production 2015

Languages: German, French, English, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Berber

Subtitles: German, French, Italian, English, Spanish, Catalan, Türkisch, Greek,
Hebrew, Armenian, Arabic

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Links

www.marenostrum-film.ch

www.scuolavivante.ch

www.alia-vox.com

www.ecolevivante.com

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