

## A cheerful homage to the Baroque for this year's last concert in the Rector's Palace

**Dubrovnik, 24th August, 2014** – The Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, conducted by the Italian conductor Nicola Giuliani, bassoonist Matija Novaković and pianist Diana Brekalo performed last night, 23<sup>d</sup> August, in the Rector's Palace atrium and played the works of Gian Francesco Malipieri, Milko Kelemen and Alfred Castella.

The program, which consisted of contemporary pieces serving as a sort of homage to the masters of the Baroque, filled the Palace with serene melodies and cheered up the audience. One of the pieces performed was *Vivaldiana* by the Italian author Gian Francesco Malipieri, made in 1952, which consists of parts from six different Vivaldi's concerts and is characterized by a successful combination of a cheerful sound of Vivaldi's works and an imaginative modern orchestration. There is another person responsible for the revival of interest in Vivaldi's works in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Italian composer Alfredo Castella, whose *Scarlattiana* was beautifully performed with the orchestra by the well-prepared pianist Diana Brekalo. This piece demonstrates an abundance of easily recognizable melodies and themes of the Italian Baroque master Domenico Scarlatti, as the name suggests, and offers us a fresh new glance at the music of the 18<sup>th</sup> century from the perspective of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the central part of the program, between the works of the two Italian authors, a piece by Croatia's perhaps even greatest avant-garde music author Milko Kelemen was performed, and his *Concert for bassoon and strings*, made in 1956, was played by fagottist Matija Novaković with the string section of the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra. This is another cheerful piece with a hint of folk tunes, which fit the rest of the program perfectly.

Bassoonist **Matija Novaković** and pianist **Diana Brekalo** have showed how exceptionally well-prepared they were, and this performance by the **Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra** with guest soloists and conductor turned out to be a real music treat which attracted a great audience to the Rector's Palace atrium.

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