



'VOICES OF HAITI' IN ITALY THE CHOIR OF ANDREA BOCELLI FOUNDATION AT TEATRO DEL SILENZIO

European debut for sixty young Haitian singers, the stars of ABF musical project: they will sing next to Bocelli at the famous summer concert in Lajatico, but also in Rome in front of the Pope, and at the opening of Zeffirelli Foundation

They will stay in Tuscany, in Andrea Bocelli's birthplace. They will be among the stars – on Thursday August 3rd in Lajatico – of the Teatro del Silenzio, the celebrated musical event that every year gathers more than fifteen thousand people coming from everywhere to applaud the most beloved Italian tenor in the world.

The sixty young singers of the choir 'Voices of Haiti', the result of an educational project of the Andrea Bocelli Foundation carried out in the Caribbean Island, will perform alongside the founder. The first European tour of VOH – after the festive and demanding debut of last September in New York at the Lincoln Center and at the United Nations – will take place right where everything started, where the educational project was conceived, and where, the whole year round, we work to ensure its continuity.

The twelfth edition of the Teatro del Silenzio, titled 'Canto della Terra', will expand its musical horizons by offering in addition to a wide operatic performance also dances, folklore, popular romanzas and songs from the five continents.

Together with many international guest artists who, as usual, will enrich the event, there will be even the Haitian Choir, made up with children coming from the slum of Port-au-Prince.

Grown up in a context of extreme poverty thirsty for beauty, eager to learn, through a highly professional educational path, the young singers have reached a great understanding, have become aware of discipline, passion, love for music and of the joy of sharing. Therefore, what they can convey through their singing is pure joy.

Among the further appointments of their Italian debut, 'Voices of Haiti' will be on July 31st in Florence, where they will perform for the opening of the Zeffirelli Foundation. While on August 2nd, in Rome, they will have the extraordinary opportunity to meet Papa Francesco for whom the choir will perform in the course of the Morning Audience.



The presence of the Caribbean Choir at Teatro del Silenzio aims at focusing the international attention on Haiti, by celebrating the strength of its colors and its people in a unique and significant place both for the Foundation and for the family of Maestro Bocelli: Lajatico.

The Haitian kids will already be in Italy one week before the concert for the rehearsals and to take part in one of the 'Extra' events of Teatro del Silenzio, bringing their testimony and their vitality.

Conceived as a structured and stable educational reality, this project offers the opportunity to children and young Haitians coming from extremely disadvantaged situations to enhance their talent thanks to a highly specialized training, benefitting also of a wealth of opportunities, precious for their future.

Director of "Voices of Haiti" is Malcolm J. Merriweather, a professor at Brooklyn College Conservatory (CUNY); the organization will avail itself of a team of Haitian collaborators made up of musicians, teachers, and administrators.

A series of interdisciplinary initiatives will be an integral part of the project, and will be regularly organized for the benefit of the young singers, during their trips. Thus the learning experience will be complete, and will also include a deepening on culture, traditions, and customs of the countries that will host the performances. In Italy they will visit Rome, Pisa and Florence, thus living an experience of knowledge and strengthening of their identity, and also consolidating the capability of having confidence in themselves.

The Andrea Bocelli Foundation is present in the Caribbean country with several projects, providing education, food and health care to thousands of children.

VOICES OF HAITI PROJECT

Being perfectly aware that art, and music in particular, have the capability to convey concepts like beauty and self-expression, the Andrea Bocelli Foundation with Fondation St Luc, the local partner, have decided to inaugurate the project "***Voices of Haiti***" in the willingness to allow the most talented students of the ABF - Fondation St. Luc schools system to express their artistic qualities in the field of singing.

THE LOCAL PARTNER

The Fondation Saint Luc is a Haitian non-profit Catholic-oriented organization working in the field of Education, health care, community development as well as agricultural and management of emergencies that every year benefit about 90,000 people. Founded by Father Rick Frechette CP, American priest and doctor, and developed and expanded under the leadership of Jean NebezAgustin, the Foundation is the result of over 26 years of working experience in Haiti. Particular attention is given to the involvement of young Haitians, many of whom have grown up in the



orphanages of Nos Petits Frères et Soeurs, sharing with them a vision of development of Haiti based on hard work, moral integrity, Christian values, and the inspiration gained from young Haitians themselves. The programs of the Foundation St. Luc employ over 1,000 people. Fondation St Luc is represented in Italy by Fondazione Francesca Rava – NPH Italia Onlus.

Data XX/07/2017

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