



The 5th Accademia Solti: Opera “finishing school” for bel canto in Tuscany in memory of Sir Georg Solti

1-20 July 2008, Castiglione della Pescaia

www.accademiasolti.org

Tuscan town and famous chef Alain Ducasse's L'Andana Hotel in the Maremma welcome young singers to share a passion for its traditions of music, sun, sea, and gastronomy

Created in memory of Hungarian conductor Sir Georg Solti, the annual Accademia Solti in the picturesque Tuscan seaside town of **Castiglione della Pescaia** has been training the next generation of opera singers in Italian bel canto singing for 5 years. This year's Academy, under the aegis of **Lady Valerie Solti**, runs from 1 July to 20 July 2008, opening with 5 days of masterclasses with **Founding Artistic Patron Dame Kiri Te Kanawa** and **Frederica von Stade** at **Alain Ducasse's country house hotel L'Andana in the Maremma region of Tuscany**. The course concludes with two concerts in Castiglione della Pescaia – a free concert for the town in Piazza Solti on Friday 18 July and a private concert in **L'Andana** on 19 July hosted by celebrated chef **Alain Ducasse**. As in past years, this will be followed by further public showcases in London over the coming year, including an evening at the Italian Embassy, hosted by the Italian Ambassador on the 11 November.

Now established as one of the leading bel canto singing courses, the Accademia Solti received over 80 applications to attend the 2008 course. Each year, it offers 14 scholarships for young singers and 2 répétiteurs from all over the world to attend the 3-week course. The full immersion in the bel canto tradition and Italian way of life, thanks to the support of the town and local entrepreneurs, gives the singers an unique experience. This holistic approach has far-reaching, lasting impact on their future careers, in whatever repertoire.

Lady Valerie Solti inaugurated the academy 5 years after her husband's death, in order to pass on his passion for music, his unstinting support of young singers (such as both Te Kanawa and von Stade) and also his love of the local area. Georg Solti bought his first house in Castiglione della Pescaia. It has continued to be the Solti Family's summer home for over 45 years.

As Valerie Solti explains, “It has been 10 years since my husband's death which rather than a memory of his departure from this world, should be a celebration by young singers from all over the world of the energy, passion and love of music which he shared with all of us who had the privilege to be caught up in the magic of his music making. Above all, I am delighted that these young singers can enjoy a place where my husband loved studying scores and spending time with his family and friends. He always had the dream to hold masterclasses here in Castiglione. With the Accademia, I hope in a way that we are fulfilling that dream.”

The passion for the area is shared by celebrated chef **Alain Ducasse** and wine producer **Vittorio Moretti**, who together run the elegant local country house hotel L'Andana. L'Andana is hosting the Accademia Solti's masterclasses with Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Frederica von Stade during the first week of the course. Now guests of L'Andana and its Michelin starred restaurant Trattoria Toscana can enjoy the benefits of listening to and watching these young singers as they develop and learn from some of the greatest singers of the day.

L'Andana Hotel

<http://www.andana.it> or <http://www.alain-ducasse.com>

L'Andana Hotel, which marries together the artistry of wine specialist Vittorio Moretti and world-class chef Alain Ducasse, offers 33 rooms in a unique corner of Tuscany, far from the main tourist trail. Just set back from the Tuscan coastline and outside of the seaside town of Castiglione di Pescaia, the Andana is situated between Civitavecchia and Livorno, almost opposite the island of Elba. It is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World and considered one of the finest hotels in Italy with its outstanding Michelin starred restaurant.

The Accademia Solti would like to thank the following partners for their continuing support in promoting the next generation of young singers: Nando Peretti Foundation, Royal Academy of Music, The Solti Foundation, Comune of Castiglione della Pescaia, L'Andana, Tenuta la Badiola, and Anonymous benefactors.

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