

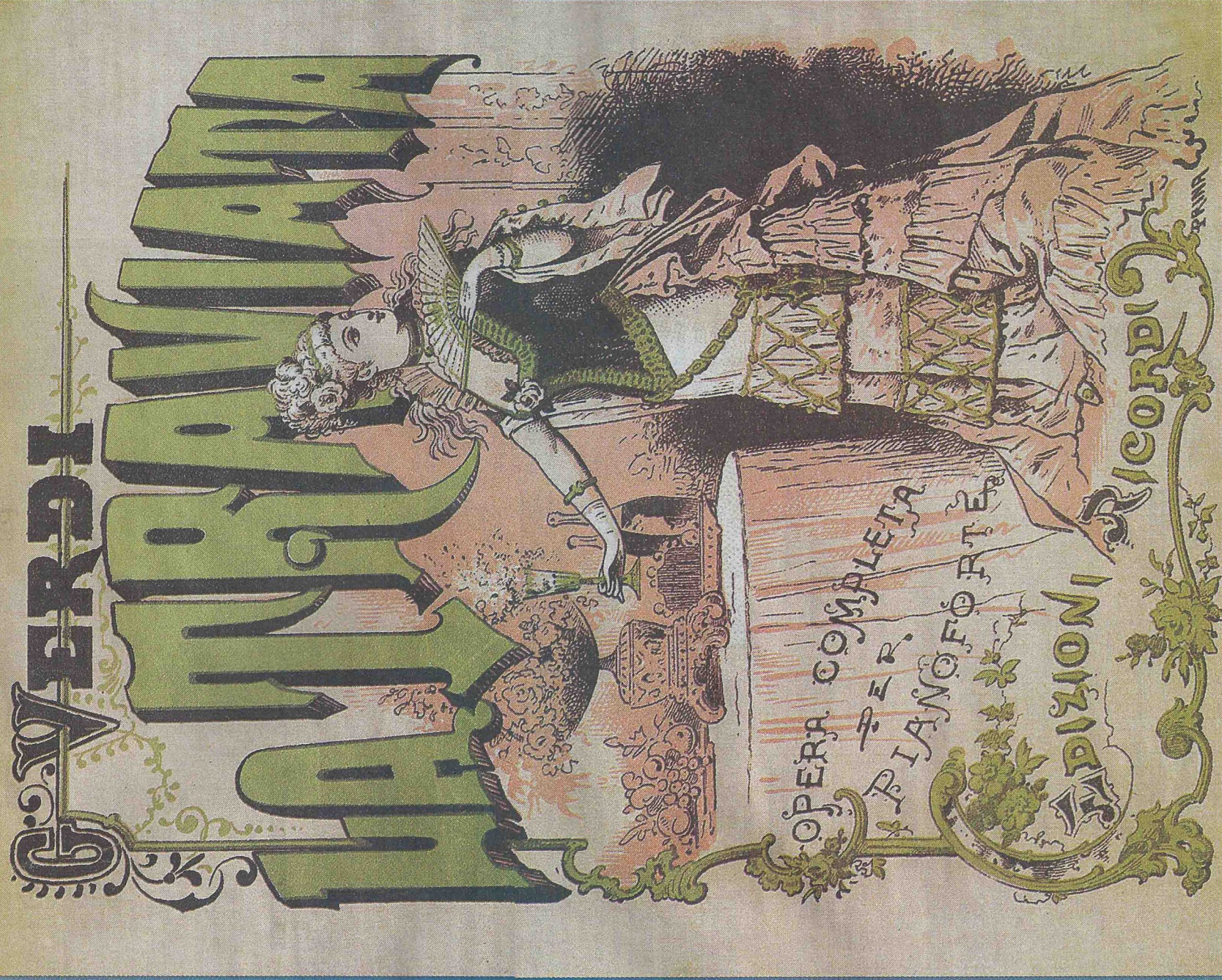
THE CYPRUS
WEEKLY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013

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PULL-OUT

Lifestyle

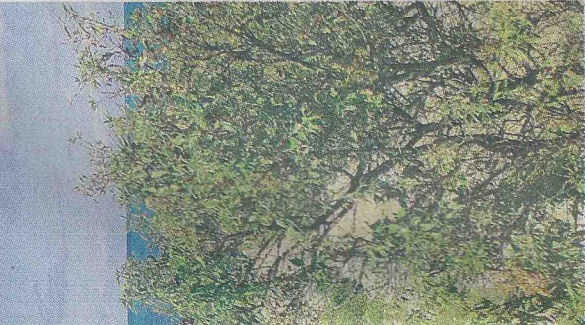
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Cyprus celebrates Verdi's 200th anniversary > 63

View from the acropolis of Chersonesos



...same problematic. Thus in April 1778 about 50,000 Greeks, under the leadership of their Bishop Ignatios, encouraged by Empress Aikaterini, found their way to the Sea of Azof, where they built a new city and a number of small Greek villages in the area of present-day Mariupolis. Half of the population of this area continues to be of Greek descent to the present day.

Chersonesos, Sebastopolis, the peninsula of Crimea are today searching for their cultural identity within the vast country of Ukraine. Their recent past is the Soviet Union. Beyond that is the Tsarist Russia and even further back they are conscious of another glorious past, which linked the East with the West, the Byzantine era and the Greek colonisation. Traces of this past are to be seen not only in the monuments and museums of Chersonesos, but also in the neoclassical architecture of Sebastopolis (a city with a Greek name). At the ceremony of September 20 in the ancient theatre girls dressed with Greek 'chitons' and 'himatia' recalled the civic oath of Chersonesos and danced a Greek 'syrtaki'.

The celebration ended with a banquet in a Greek restaurant... It is certainly gratifying to see that our long Greek cultural heritage is still appreciated and remembered in the land of Tauric Chersonesos, the land of the Argonauts.

200 years of Giuseppe Verdi

EVENTS IN NICOSIA AND LARNACA

By Melissa Hekkers

Two hundred years down the line and Giuseppe Verdi's music is still hailed as some of the greatest operatic works of all time.

Leading up to marking the bicentenary of his birth on October 10, the Italian Embassy in Nicosia has put together a tribute visual and acoustic programme to celebrate the composer's life.

Verdi was born in Le Roncole, a village near Busseto. While following his first lessons in composition in Busseto, Verdi moved to Milan at the age of 20 to pursue his studies and attended operatic performances and concerts of specifically German music.

It is here that Milan's beanonide association convinced him to pursue a career as a theatre composer and in the mid-1830s attended the Salottto Maffei Salonus.

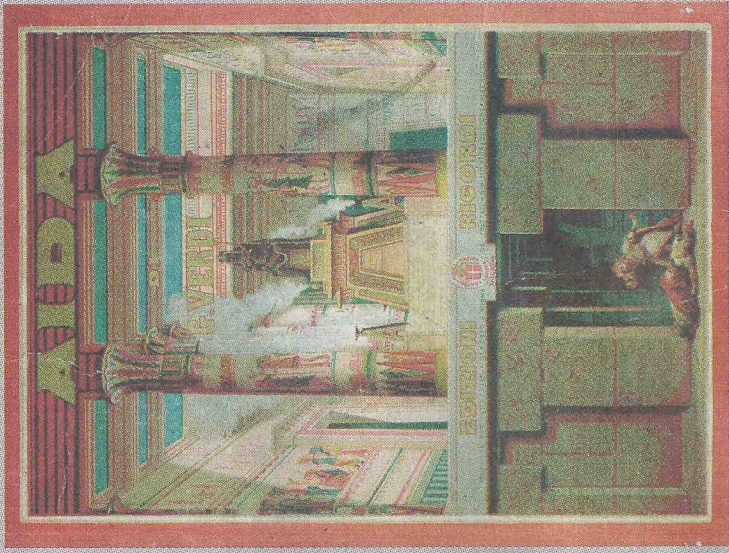
Returning to Busseto he became the town music master and was supported by Antonio Barezzi, a local merchant and music lover, who had long supported Verdi's musical ambitions in Milan. It was in Barezzi's home that Verdi gave his

first public performance in 1830.

Unlike most of the visual artists at the time, opera was commercially profitable and accessible to most classes of society, making it an effective means of reaching the 19th century public. Verdi used musical theatre to contrast noble ideas with the corrosive effects of power, love of country with the inevitable call for sacrifice, and the lure of passion with the need of social order.

For a decade that Verdi described as his 'galley years', after 1843, he wrote a large number of operas including Macbeth (1847), considered as one of his most important works by many. His mature work was Rigoleiro which premiered in 1851 and many of his operas, such as La Traviata (1853), Aida (1871) and Otello (1887), emphasise the dramatic element, treating personal stories on a heroic scale and often against political interests.

Verdi is also renowned for his Requiem (1874). He wrote Falstaff in 1893, based on Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor. In 1853, he wrote Il Trovatore, produced in Rome and La



Traviata in Venice. Specifically La Traviata, based on Alexandre Dumas' play, 'The Lady of the Camellias' became the most popular of all Verdi's operas, listed as the most performed opera worldwide. Between 1855 and 1867 an outpouring of great Verdi operas followed.

In 1837 he completed his last work, a setting of the traditional Latin text Siabab Mater, the last four sacred works that Verdi composed. In October 1894 the French government awarded Verdi the Grand Cyoix de la Legion d'honneur, the first non-French to receive the award.

Verdi's initially married his

student Margarita who was also Barezzi daughter in 1836. Margarita gave birth to two children who both died in infancy while Verdi was working on his first opera. Shortly afterwards, Margarita died at the age of 26. He eventually married in 1859 to soprano, Giusepina Stepponi.

Verdi died in 1901 after he suffered a stroke. His burial was initially in Milan's Cimitero Monumentale. A month later Verdi's body was removed to the 'Crypi' of the Casa di Riposo per Musicisti, a rest home for retired musicians that Verdi had recently established.

Tribute programme

In Nicosia and Larnaca:

Concert: Tomorrow Sunday, 8.30pm at Nicosia's Farnagusta Gate and on Monday at 8pm at Larnaca Municipal Theatre, there will be two live concerts by Bel Canto Ensemble, with Hosaria Buscemi, soprano, Ivan Nardelli, flute, Antonio Arcuri, clarinet, Massimi Celiberto, horn and Alessandro Vuono, piano, who promote Italian musical culture all over the world.

Exhibition:

'Verdi's Musical Scores Anthological Exhibition' covers original scores of Verdi's music from 1842 to 1893. The exhibition attempts to see present Verdi's music through the visual arts. The scores presented are all original edition and most of them are illustrated by artists personally chosen by Giuseppe Verdi himself. The illustrations produced through woodcutting or lithography techniques with one

of the scores realised by Roberto Focosi, Verdi's official portraitist. The scores are available in various editions (French, Russian and Egypt). All texts and captions will be in Italian and English. The exhibition will be staged at the Farnagusta Gate, opening on Sunday evening and continuing until October 10 from 10am to 1pm and 4pm to 8pm.

More information on 22357617

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