Call for composition applications for Mdina Biennale concert

APPLICATIONS are being received for a composition competition as part of a concert of a capella choral music 'Versus – Of God and Man' which will take place at the Mdina Cathedral on 25 November as part of the Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale between 13 November and 7 January.

The concert is being held with the collaboration of the Marigold Foundation and proceeds will go towards the Foundation's causes.

For this concert the chamber choir 'Collegium Musicale' from Estonia will be performing music by the Maltese composer Reuben Pace as well as music by Estonian composers.

This renowned chamber choir was founded in 2010 by Endrik Üksvärav who is also the principal conductor of the choir and a professional tenor. The repertoire of the choir extends from renaissance to contemporary music, with a focus on early music and the work of Estonian composers (Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Veljo Tormis etc).

The Collegium Musicale choir of Estonia will be performing at the Mdina Cathedral Contemporary Art Biennale

The choir has won several awards including the Gran Prix in Gorizia, Italy (first prize) and the Gran Prix in Arezzo, Italy (second prize). They also released several CDs including Peegel peeglis with the music of Arvo Pärt and Pärt Uusberg and also Roxanna Panufnik`s Tallin Mass for Warner Classics. The choir has also toured extensively with performances in Italy, France, and Japan. Last year the choir was awarded Choir of the Year 2014 by the Estonian Choral Association.

The submitted composition must satisfy crucial requirements; a duration of not more than three minutes; text which should preferably be of a religious nature in English, Italian, Latin, Maltese or Estonian; a scoring for chamber choir SATB (16 performers) a capella, and any style or idiom which excludes the use of electronics.

The deadline for submissions, with an entry fee of €25, is 1 November, 2015.

There are no age or nationality restrictions. The first four works chosen will be workshopped with the choir in the period between November 19 and 24 in Malta. The winning entry shall be performed publically on 25 November. A recording of the performance shall be made for personal use only.

Three copies of the score and queries about fee payment should be sent to the following address: 'House of Music', Triq Dun Manwel Żammit, Siġġiewi, SGW 3014, Malta.

The name of the composer should not appear on the score itself but details of the composer including contact details should be put on a separate application sheet. A piano reduction should also be included in the submission.

A pdf of the score and a MIDI rendering in mp3 format should be sent to pacereuben@gmail.com. Queries and the application sheet should be sent to the same email address

New CEO for MAPFRE Middlesea

MAPFRE Middlesea plc has announced the appointment of Felipe Navarro López de Chicheri as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Navarro López de Chicheri, a Spanish national, is an insurance professional with a proven track record within MAPFRE, having held various senior management positions both at MAPFRE Vida and MAPFRE S.A.

Navarro López de Chicheri takes over the helm at MAPFRE Middlesea from Alfredo Muñoz, who has led the company for the past four years. Muñoz will taking on a major role at another company within the MAPFRE Group.

Navarro López de Chicheri, who holds a degree in Economics from the Universidad Computense de Madrid and an MBA from the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares in Spain, joined the MAPFRE Group in 2002.

Apart from his top management roles within the Group, he is also currently a member of the boards of a number of Spanish companies operating in the Life and Pension insurance sector. He is also a board member at MSV Life plc and was a board member at MAPFRE Middlesea plc between 20 April 2012 and 29 April 2014.

"We are delighted to announce the appointment of Felipe Navarro López de Chicheri as CEO," said Martin Galea, Chairman of MAPFRE Middlesea.

"Felipe is an experienced insurer with an impressive track record. Throughout his career, he has proven himself as a corporate leader, possessing strong business acumen and technical expertise in the sector," added Galea.

"We are confident that Navarro López de Chicheri will continue to steer the company towards the goals we have established, along the lines so successfully set by his predecessor Alfredo Muñoz. We take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to Alfredo for the strong leadership he displayed during his tenure as President and CEO, and for his critical contribution to the success of the company. We wish him all the best in his future assignment within the MAPFRE Group."

The appointment of Navarro López de Chicheri as MAPFRE Middlesea's new CEO is subject to regulatory clearance and approval by the Malta Financial Services Authority.

For more information about MAPFRE Middlesea please visit www.middlesea.com

Bavaria non-alcoholic beer supports President's bike ride for the Malta Community Chest Fund

CHILLED Bavaria non-alcoholic beer was offered to over 3,000 bikers who gathered at the Verdala Palace in Buskett for the second annual President's Night Bike Ride. With its unique 0.0% alcoholic content, the malt beer is specially brewed to contain no alcohol.

Sponsoring the Bike Ride through Bavaria N.v and Beer House Ltd, GSD Marketing Ltd reiterated the company's broad CSR programme, particularly to raise funds for noble causes like the Malta Community Chest Fund through fun and sport activities.

Over 3,000 bikers enjoyed Bavaria non-alcoholic beer (pictured right) at the second annual President's Night Bike Ride

"Beer is something that goes down well with bikers in the summer heat and we felt non-alcoholic Bavaria was the most suitable product to offer these bikers - something refreshing without compromising their state of alertness," said Martin Agius, Sales and Marketing Manager of GSD Marketing.

The bike ride was held in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund, which is chaired by the President of Malta and is the only national fund that aids people facing serious illnesses and poverty.

Bikers started gathering at Verdala Palace at 6pm to leave for their destination, while cyclists departed from San Anton Palace in Attard. With an impressive turn-out of approximately 4,000 participants in total, both parties ended in Montekristo estates in Hal Farrug at around 8pm.