

The **Stresa Festival** presents the 2010 season, prestigious appointments that have been inserted into a perfect itinerary that will culminate in 2011 with festivities celebrating 50 years of activity. The three **Spring Concerts** were the explosive beginning to the Festival, which for the fourth year in a row will be performed under the High Patronage of the Presidente della Repubblica, hosting artists of international eminence such as

Richard Galliano

with

Gonzalo Rubalcaba

,

Goran Bregovic

and

Philip Glass

.

The highlight of the

Musical Meditations

(July 30–Aug. 7), which will present music composed between the Renaissance and the late Baroque periods, will be the traditional complete sequence of J.S. Bach's

Six Cello Suites

, assigned this year to the German

Alban Gerhardt,

at the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso in Leggiuno. Rendezvous for connoisseurs too with

La Colombina

, which will interpret

Ad Vesperas

by

Tomas Luis de Victoria;

Cappella della Pietà de' Turchini

, conducted by

Antonio Florio

and committed to a programme with music by Benevoli and Pergolesi, and with

Enrico Pieranunzi,

who will offer his

Pieranunzi plays Scarlatti

.

The central part of the Festival, which this year is entitled

Visions

, presents precious and less familiar works by celebrated composers from the late 1700s and the early 1900s. Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann will be alternated with Tchaikovsky and Dvořák, Prokofiev and Shostakovich, Scriabin and Richard Strauss, composing an ample and suggestive musical offering, through performances of high interpretative value thanks to the presence of artists celebrated the world over.

The opening concert will be offered by the

Sydney Symphony

, conducted by

Vladimir Ashkenazy,

which will perform Sibelius's

Rakastava Suite

, Skrjabin's

Symphony No. 3

and Beethoven's

Piano Concerto No. 5

,
Daniele Petralia

soloist. On August

24 the

Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

, conducted by the violinist

Rachel Podger

and with viola soloist

Pavlo Beznosiuk

, will perform music by Haydn, Mozart and Spohr, while on August 27

Gianandrea Nosedà

, Artistic Director of the Festival, will conduct the

European Union Youth Orchestra

in a programme with music by Karłowicz, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. The

Cleveland Orchestra

, conducted by its Music Director

Franz Welser-Möst

, arrives in Stresa on August 29 and here it will close its European tour performing Schubert's

Symphony No. 4

and

A Hero's Life

by Richard Strauss. The

Stresa Festival Orchestra

, conducted by

Gianandrea Nosedà

, will perform twice on the stage of the

Palazzo dei Congressi. On September 2, Mozart's

Idomeneo

in semi-staged form is proposed, boasting a vocal cast of international acclaim, composed of

Francesco Meli, Laura Polverelli, Alessandra Marianelli, Barbara Frittoli

and

Alessandro Liberatore

, accompanied by

Marco Berrini

's

Ars Cantica Choir

. The Festival Orchestra will close the 2010 season on September 5 with

Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1

, performed by Greek violinist

Leonidas Kavakos

and Dvořák's

"The New World" Symphony

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Performances by prestigious ensembles the

Brunello Baroque Experience

(August 23),

Ensemble Berlin

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The Berliner Philharmoniker's Soloists

– August 30) and the

Borodin Quartet

(August 31) and soloists internationally renowned such as

Thomas Zehetmair

who, on August 28, will perform the entire

Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin

by J.S. Bach, and the pianist

Piotr Anderszewski

(September 3).

Finally, on September 4 the closing concert of Stresa Music Academy 2010: the singers chosen from "Giovani all'Opera" held by

Natale De Carolis

will undertake the semi-staged opera

Il matrimonio segreto

by Cimarosa, accompanied by the

Orchestra Giovanile Italiana

conducted by

Andrea Battistoni

, a young talent made a name for himself in the Conducting Masterclass last year.

Among the unique venues of the festival, on Lake Maggiore and its surroundings, some of the most noteworthy are: the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso, perched on a rock overlooking the lake, the magnificent Tapestry Hall in Borromeo Palace on Isola Bella, the Loggia del Cashmere, the beautiful garden on Isola Madre, Rocca Borromeo (Borromeo Castle) in Angera, the Visconteo Castle in Vogogna, the monumental Church Madonna di Campagna in Verbania, the splendid Old Church of Belgirate and Villa Ponti in Arona.