



Teatro
Sociale
Como

AsLiCo

Teatro Sociale di Como
T. +39.031.270170 - info@teatrosocialecomo.it
teatrosocialecomo.it -    

Il Teatro, tra i più antichi e suggestivi del Nord Italia, venne inaugurato nel 1813, l'anno più noto agli appassionati di musica per la nascita di Richard Wagner e Giuseppe Verdi. Nel 1811 cominciarono i lavori di costruzione ed il progetto fu affidato all'architetto Giuseppe Cusi. La sala, dopo numerosi interventi e restauri, ha attualmente la forma di una cassa di violoncello, con 5 ordini di posti di cui: 3 ordini per i 72 palchi di proprietà privata, oltre al palco reale, e 2 ordini per le gallerie (IV e V ordine). Nel 1938 l'Arena del Teatro Sociale veniva trasformata in teatro all'aperto, con una struttura capace di contenere fino a 4000 persone, tutt'oggi usata durante il Festival Como Città della Musica. Il Teatro Sociale di Como è altresì noto con l'appellativo di "Piccola Scala", dal momento che ospitò il Teatro alla Scala, dopo il bombardamento del 1943.



A Como, nell'arco dei secoli, si esibirono grandi interpreti: da Giuditta Pasta e Maria Malibran a Toti Dal Monte, Simionato, Favero, Pagliughi, Cigna, Barbieri, Carosio, Caniglia, Zeani, Scotto, Olivero, Kabaivanska, Devia, e poi ancora Tamagno, Gigli, Pertile, Schipa, Merli, Filippeschi, Del Monaco, Tagliabue, Pasero, Bechi, Poggi, Stabile, Bastianini, Rossi Lemeni, Bruscantini, Di Stefano, Bergonzi, Kraus, Dara, Giacomini, Nucci, per menzionare solo alcuni nomi. Molti furono anche i grandi direttori d'orchestra, da Arturo Toscanini a Riccardo Muti.

Straordinarie furono le atmosfere create dai grandi virtuosi e artisti, riportate nelle cronache del tempo: 1823, Nicolò Paganini «*fece sentire in quell'accademia il suo violino toccato dalle dita del suo genio portentoso e sublime. Dal teatro tutti partirono meravigliati e convinti non poter altri arrivare a tanto valore*». Nel 1837 Franz Liszt vi eseguì *La serenata e L'orgia*. Il 24 dicembre 1837 nasceva a Como, da Franz Liszt e Madame d'Agoult, Cosima Liszt, futura sposa di Richard Wagner.

Dal primo gennaio 2002 la gestione degli spettacoli e l'intera attività teatrale è passata all'AsLiCo. Il Teatro, aperto oltre 300 giorni all'anno, fa parte del circuito OperaLombardia, ed è sede di numerose attività: una stagione d'opera, concerti, balletti, in cui si alternano generi e contaminazioni diverse; il Teatro è altresì sede delle Scuole del Teatro. Il Concorso per Giovani Cantanti Lirici, che nel 2019 ha festeggiato la 70esima edizione, è stato trampolino di lancio per alcune delle voci più applaudite.

Tra i tanti progetti rivolti alla formazione di un nuovo pubblico, detiene un primato importante Opera Education, noto e riconosciuto in tutta Europa, che si articola in 5 grandi macro-attività: Opera meno 9 (per le mamme in dolce attesa); Opera baby (per bambini da 0 a 3 anni); Opera kids (per bambini da 3 a 6 anni); Opera domani (da 6 a 14 anni; nata nel 1996, che chiama a raccolta ogni anno più di 3000 insegnanti e 140.000 bambini); Opera it (per adolescenti da 14 a 18 anni).

Il Teatro è un luogo storico, visitabile sia in aperture prestabilite, sia in visite guidate dedicate, con una prenotazione che comprenda minimo 15 persone. Sovente vengono abbinati agli spettacoli visite a tema e guide all'ascolto, insieme a degustazioni di prodotti tipici del territorio. Questo *format*, con un concetto di *experience* che può essere declinato in innumerevoli varianti, in cui i visitatori vengono accompagnati ed il più possibile coccolati, può, a seconda della disponibilità degli artisti, comprendere anche incursioni nel *backstage*; la durata può variare dai trenta ai sessanta minuti, a seconda delle esigenze dei partecipanti, che già possono fruire del servizio in italiano e in inglese.

The Theater, one of the oldest and most astonishing in Northern Italy, was inaugurated in 1813, the year best known to music lovers for the birth of Richard Wagner and Giuseppe Verdi. The construction work began in 1811 and the project was assigned to the architect Giuseppe Cusi. The hall, after numerous interventions and restorations, currently has the form of a cello box with 5 orders of seats including: 3 orders, for the 72 privately owned boxes, in addition to the royal box, and 2 orders (4th and 5th) as galleries "loggione". In 1938 the Arena of the Teatro Sociale was transformed into an open-theater, with a structure that hosts up to 4000 people, still used during the Festival Como Città della Musica. Teatro Sociale is also known with the nickname of "Piccola Scala", since it hosted the activities of Teatro alla Scala, after the bombing of 1943.

In Como, over the centuries, great singers and musicians performed: from Giuditta Pasta and Maria Malibran to Toti Dal Monte, Simionato, Favero, Pagliughi, Cigna, Barbieri, Carosio, Caniglia, Zeani, Scotto, Olivero, Kabaivanska, Devia, and Tamagno, Gigli, Pertile, Schipa, Merli, Filippeschi, Del Monaco, Tagliabue, Pasero, Bechi, Poggi, Stabile, Bastianini, Rossi Lemeni, Bruscantini, Di Stefano, Bergonzi, Kraus, Dara, Giacomini, Nucci, to name just a few, and, among conductors, several from Arturo Toscanini to Riccardo Muti. Extraordinary were the atmospheres created by the great virtuosos and artists, reported in the chronicles of the time: for instance, in 1823 Nicolò Paganini «*made his violin felt in that academy, touched by the fingers of his portentous and sublime genius. From the theater, everyone left, amazed and convinced that others could not reach that talent*». In 1837 Franz Liszt performed *La serenata and L'orgia*. On December 24, 1837, Cosima Liszt, future bride of Richard Wagner, was born in Como, by Franz Liszt and Madame d'Agoult.

From 1st January 2002 the management has passed to the AsLiCo. The Theater, open more than 300 days a year, is part of the OperaLombardia circuit, and organizes and hosts numerous activities: a season of opera, concerts, ballet, different genres and contaminations; the theater's life also includes the Theater Schools. The Competition for Young Opera Singers, which celebrated its 70th edition in 2019, has been a fundamental step, for some of the opera stars. Among the many projects, planned to reach a new audience, holds an important record Opera Education, well known and acknowledged throughout Europe, which is divided into 5 large macro-activities: Opera -9 (for expectant mothers); Opera baby (for children from 0 to 3 years); Opera kids (for children from 3 to 6 years); Opera domani (from 6 to 14 years old, born in 1996, which reaches more than 3,000 teachers and 140,000 children each year all over Italy and abroad); from Opera it (for teenagers from 14 to 18 years).

The Theater is an historical place, open to visitors both in pre-scheduled openings and dedicated guided tours, with a reservation for a minimum of 15 people. Guided tours are often combined with shows, talks to present the performances, along with tastings of typical local products. This format, with a concept of 'experience', that can be declined in countless variations, in which visitors are accompanied and taken care of, depending on the availability of the artists, include also backstage tours; the duration can vary from thirty to sixty minutes, depending on the needs of the participants, who can already benefit from the service in Italian and English.

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