

40 plus 5: Accademia Bizantina @ Innsbruck Early Music Festival. The Accademia Bizantina and Ottavio Dantone will shape the Innsbruck Early Music Festival for the next five years.

As one of the oldest and most important festivals for early music and historical performance practice, the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music is delighted to be celebrating the 40th anniversary of this renowned orchestra. As the new Orchestra in Residence, the Accademia Bizantina, together with its musical director Ottavio Dantone, will influence the Innsbruck Festival with its musical authenticity and sound culture until 2028. In the varied programme between 21 July and 30 August, the opera "**Cesare in Egitto**" by Geminiano Giacomelli, the opening concert "**Famos!**" and the new concert format "**Ottavio plus**" are highlights of the first festival summer as Orchestra in Residence. In two years' time, the Innsbruck Festival will celebrate its 50th anniversary with Ottavio Dantone as Musical Director and the Accademia Bizantina as Orchestra in Residence.

Artistic Director Eva-Maria Sens congratulates the Accademia Bizantina and is delighted about the partnership: "It is a great pleasure not only to be able to work with Ottavio Dantone as Musical Director, but also to be able to enjoy the special quality of the Accademia Bizantina for the next five festival summers in Innsbruck. This ensemble has been captivating audiences for decades with its special sound culture, liveliness and individual richness of colour. They will enrich the Festival."

With the opera "**Cesare in Egitto**" by Geminiano Giacomelli, Ottavio Dantone as musical director and the Accademia Bizantina as Orchestra in Residence make their opera debut. Awardees of the Innsbruck competition for baroque opera singing "Pietro Antonio Cesti" will perform the leading roles: Arianna Vendittelli, Emöke Barath and Margherita Maria Sala. Performance dates: 7, 9 and 11 August. At the concerto inaugurale "**Famos!**" one day before the premiere, on 6 August, Ottavio Dantone will perform Francesco Bartolomeo Conti's "Il trionfo della Fama" with the Accademia Bizantina, the choirs La Stagione Armonica and NovoCanto as well as exquisite soloists. Another highlight is the new concert format "**Ottavio plus**": Ottavio Dantone will perform as a chamber musician together with selected guest musicians. For 2024, he has invited Alessandro Tampieri, concertmaster of the Accademia Bizantina.

Both "Famos!" and "Cesare in Egitto" reflect Ottavio Dantone's endeavour to enrich the Festival's musical repertoire with composers and works that are closely linked to Austrian music history through their creation and genesis. The visionary leadership of the management duo will also further expand the platform for the future: With a new record of registrations for the "Pietro Antonio Cesti" competition for baroque opera singing, the growing importance of the competition for the festival is evident. The discovery, promotion and collaboration with aspiring artists will not only be continued but also intensified under the new artistic direction.

But the dual leadership is not only united in this view towards the future. Sens and Dantone are united above all by their desire to make authentic music tangible, far removed from gimmickry: "Ottavio's and my objectives coincide when it comes to the honesty of the music. This honesty can be found in the pure, emotional experience of the musical moment as well as in the in-depth exploration of the complex architecture of the music," explains the Artistic Director Sens. With the Accademia Bizantina, Ottavio Dantone brings precisely this authentic sound to Innsbruck and enriches the Festival Weeks with his unique interpretation and dedication to music.