

LCSD to organise fringe activities for concerts by Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – Roma

The celebrated Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – Roma will make its Hong Kong debut with two acclaimed young pianists, under the baton of Sir Antonio Pappano, in November.

The first concert, with an all-Russian programme, will be held on November 22 (Thursday) at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, while the second concert, which will be staged on November 23 (Friday) at the same auditorium, comprises a "feast" of Beethoven.

To supplement these not-to-be-missed concerts, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) will organise two fringe activities for audiences. On October 24 (Wednesday), a film entitled "The Italian Character" will be screened at 7.30pm at the Lecture Hall of the Hong Kong Space Museum, to be followed by a post-screening talk. The event is co-presented by the LCSD and the Italian Cultural Institute. "The Italian Character" won the Platinum Remi Production Award at the WorldFest Houston and second place in the Globo d'Oro's Best Documentary Film awards. Featuring details about the planning process for an orchestral concert and interviews with players and the conductor, the audience will gain insights into a fascinating world that is usually concealed.

Savio Lau, the editor of a local Hi-fi magazine, will share his views on the documentary and the orchestra after the screening. The film is in English, Italian and Russian with English subtitles (in parts) while the talk will be conducted in Cantonese and supplemented in English. Admission is free with limited seats available on a first come, first served basis. Online registration can be made at www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_600.html from now onwards.

One week later, Lau will select and play recordings of the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia – Roma over the years. As well as listening to the music, which will be played on high-end hi-fi equipment to provide superb sound quality, the audience will be entertained by Lau and music critics Edison Hung and Chui Yuen as they elaborate on the history and style of the orchestra. This event will be held at 7.30pm on October 31 ((Wednesday) at the Lecture Hall of the Hong Kong Space Museum. Tickets priced at \$100 are now available at URBIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_608.html.