

19 October 2011

PRESS RELEASE

OPENING OF THE CULTURAL DAYS OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK – ITALY 2011

The Cultural Days of the European Central Bank – Italy 2011, which are organised in cooperation with the Banca d'Italia under the joint patronage of Jean-Claude Trichet, President of the European Central Bank (ECB), and Mario Draghi, Governor of the Banca d'Italia, will open tonight at 8 p.m. with a **Grand opening concert** at the Alte Oper in Frankfurt am Main. The **Orchestra Mozart** from Bologna, conducted by **Claudio Abbado**, will perform the overture from Gioachino Rossini's "Barbiere di Siviglia", the "Haffner Symphony" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the "Italian Symphony" by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy.

Other highlights of the programme of events, which are being held at well-known cultural locations in Frankfurt am Main until 17 November 2011, include the following.

Literary events

Claudio Magris will speak about the "Boundaries of identity" at the Literaturhaus Frankfurt on 20 October at 7.30 p.m.; **Dacia Maraini** will read from her book "Donne del Risorgimento" (Women in the Italian unification movement) at the ECB on 14 November at 8 p.m.; and **Gianrico Carofiglio** will present his novel "Le perfezioni provvisorie" (Temporary perfections) at the Deutsches Architekturmuseum on 16 November at 7 p.m.

Films on the theme "Questioni di Famiglia" (family affairs)

Six recent Italian productions will be shown (in original version with English subtitles) at the CineStar Metropolis cinema as part of the Cultural Days: "**Genitori e figli**" (2010) by and in the presence of director **Giovanni Veronesi** on 24 October at 6 p.m.; "**Happy family**" (2010) by Gabriele Salvatores on 24 October at 9 p.m.; "**Anche libero va bene**" (2008) by Kim Rossi Stuart on 27 October at 6.30 p.m.; "**La bellezza del somaro**" (2010) by Sergio Castellitto on 27 October at 9 p.m.; "**La nostra vita**" (2010) by Daniele Luchetti on 31 October at 6.30 p.m.; and "**I baci mai dati**" (2010) by Roberta Torre on 31 October at 9 p.m.

Charity concert in cooperation with the city of Frankfurt

Italy's master violinist **Uto Ughi** and the chamber orchestra **I Filarmonici di Roma** will perform works by Tomaso Antonio Vitali, Franz Joseph Haydn, Gioachino Rossini, and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy at the Frankfurter Paulskirche on 11 November at 8 p.m. Entry to the concert will be free of charge. Attendees will be invited to make a donation to the "SoFa-Tandem" project run by the Frankfurt-based organisation *MUKIVA Kinder- und Familienzentrum e.V.* This project aims to bring together people from different cultures and backgrounds and allow them to share knowledge and skills as a form of reciprocal and mutual assistance.

Jazz concert

The experimental jazz artist **Stefano Bollani** will give an improvisational piano performance at the Alte Oper on 15 November at 8 p.m.

Grand closing concert

The **Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi**, conducted by **Xian Zhang**, will perform the overture from Gioachino Rossini's "William Tell", "Rendering" by Luciano Berio/Franz Schubert, and "Symphony No 7" by Ludwig van Beethoven at the Schauspielhaus Frankfurt on 17 November at 8 p.m.

The full programme of events, which also features concerts with young talents, art events, dance performances and fairy-tale sessions for children, is available on the ECB's website at www.ecb.europa.eu/culturaldays. More information about the events can be obtained by sending an e-mail to cultural-days@ecb.europa.eu or calling the Cultural Days hotline on +49 69 1344 5555 (Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

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