



Gillian Zammit releases CD of Tosti's love songs

Soprano Gillian Zammit has just released a CD entitled *The Love Songs of Paolo Tosti* on which she is accompanied by pianist Lucia Micallef. The CD features a collection of some of the most beautiful works by this Italian composer who wrote over 350 songs in Italian, French and English and the Neapolitan dialect.

Tosti's songs have a distinctive quality, featuring beautiful melodic phrases together with a deceptively simple elegance. They revolve around a single, universal and unifying theme, that of love.

The CD was sponsored by HSBC Bank Malta plc and will be available from 15 December at Exotique in Sliema and Baystreet, D'Amato in Valletta and on www.ooi.com.mt

Mattia Preti's Bottega and Caravaggi's under the hammer at Obelisk Auctions Gallery

For its last antiques and fine arts auction for 2011, Obelisk Auctions are promising an exciting event with plenty of prestigious items going under the hammer. The auction, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, 17 and 18 December, includes an outstanding collection of private entries as well as the private collection of the late artist and restorer Samuel Bugeja.

The range of high-quality items includes a collection of 17th and 18th-century Old Masters through to paintings from the *Bottega* of Mattia Preti and two by Caravaggi's. The list goes on to include 19th-century topographical views of Malta by major artists, as well as an important collection of 20th-century Maltese modern art.

A range of assorted antiques and fine arts is also up for sale, including a rare 18th-century prie-dieu and a variety of furniture and silver from Malta, England and



elsewhere in Europe. Star attractions of another genre include a number of cars and a Harley Davidson.

Viewing for this auction is from Saturday, 10 December to Friday,

16 December from 10am to 8pm. The auction sessions will be on Saturday, 17 December from 2.30pm for Lots 1 to 225 and Sunday, 18 December from 4pm for Lots 226 to 355.

In the meantime, the Obelisk Auctions Jewellery Department is currently accepting entries for the first specialised vintage and fine jewellery auction to be held in 2012. This will include rare and top quality antique and modern jewellery and enthusiasts can also look forward to a series of talks that are in the pipeline and that will be specifically dedicated to jewellery, touching upon history, styles, techniques, design and designers. These talks will be

announced in the media in due course, but those interested should contact the Obelisk Jewellery Department in order to be included on the mailing list.

For further information and for viewing appointments contact the Obelisk Auctions Gallery on 9949 8836. For enquiries about the jewellery auctions and talks call 7966 3266.

Images and the illustrated catalogue can be viewed on www.obeliskauctions.com

Another good result at this year's International Agrofilm Festival

Renowned local film producer Antoine Zammit has done it again! With this year's entry entitled *Fenkata – Breeding of Rabbits* at the 28th Agrofilm Festival in Nitra, Slovakia, Mr Zammit won first prize in the *Animal Health and Hygiene of Meat Products* category.

Mr Zammit's penchant for hard work, his meticulous eye for detail and an against-all-the-odds attitude is expressed in his unique documentaries and obviously caught the eye of the international jury and impressed them yet again this year. He had to compete with 98 other entries many of which were by professional film producers and houses.

Mr Zammit is firmly established on the local scene as a leading producer of documentary films with environmental and agricultural themes. Previous prize winning documentaries at the same festival were *The Rehabilitation of Wied il-*

Qlejgha, The Maltese Cheeselet, A Pinch of Sal', A Glimpse of Wool, A Taste of Carob and The Cultivation of Cacti in Malta. All these documentaries highlight Malta's beauty and history and are a showcase for our unique cultural traditions.

The script for the documentary was written by expert rabbit breeder Joseph Gauci Maistre, edited by agricultural expert Carmelo Briffa and ably narrated by Godwin Scerri. Antoine Zammit single-handedly took care of the filming, direction, editing and mixing and the main sponsors were APS Bank.

After a brief historical and biological introduction to the wild rabbit, the documentary explains in detail the modern advances in commercial rabbit breeding – advances that have brought this highly nutritious and tasty meat product to the table of every Maltese family.

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