

# OPERA ON ICE

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COMUNICATO STAMPA

## PRESS RELEASE

### *Applauses, encores and a standing ovation for Opera on Ice* Lots of celebrities and authorities at the show

Verona, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Opera on Ice worked its magic again this year, and on Saturday night the Verona Arena was a full house. The 12,000 spectators enjoyed the skating show of the great champions that enthralled the public with as many as 3 encores.

The many people who had been queuing up at the entrances since early in the afternoon, something that had not happened since the good old times of the opera at the Arena, show that Opera on Ice has fully achieved its goal of bringing young people closer to opera through skating.

The night's show, which will be aired on Canale 5 at Christmas with Alfonso Signorini and Costanza Calabrese as Masters of Ceremonies, showcased the world's best skaters along with new opera talents accompanied by the over 200 singers and musicians of the Verona Arena's Choir and Orchestra, with **Fabio Mastrangelo** as conductor.

The 2012 show included the most famous arias, some of which are part of the Arena's 2013 programme, such as **Aida**, **Nabucco**, **La Traviata**, **Il Trovatore**, **Rigoletto** and **Roméo et Juliette**.

There were lots of celebrities and authorities at the show, such as: **Alessandro Benetton** and **Deborah Compagnoni** with their 3 children, **Alexandra of Hannover**, who's been a fan of Kostner since she met her with her mother Caroline, Princess of Monaco, at Nice world championship, **Marina Berlusconi** with her husband and children, **Sandra Galan**, wife of former Governor of the Region Veneto, Giancarlo Galan, with her little daughter, the President of ISU and member of IOC **Ottavio Cincinatti**, the Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Italy **Ding Wei**, who would like to bring the Opera on Ice show to Beijing and Shanghai as well, and **Cesare Baldrihi**, President of Consorzio Grana Padano. A warm welcome was given to the famous champion **Alex Zanardi**, who was sitting in the front row, who with received a warm applause from all spectators for the enthusiasm and talent he showed by the latest London Paralympic Games, where he won 3 medals.

A very impressive pairing was that between the world champion, the prince of spins Stéphane Lambiel, and Carolina Kostner, the patroness of the show. The 2 champions danced on the notes of "Je veux vivre", an aria from "Roméo et Juliette" by Gounod, creating a sublime atmosphere. Their costumes, inspired by Zeffirelli's 1968 film "Romeo and Juliet", were made for the occasion by "Il Costume-Roma-Verona".

Evgeni Plushenko enchanted everyone with an extraordinary performance on the notes of "Habanera" (Carmen), followed by an encore, and "La donna è mobile" (Rigoletto). Unplanned spins and jumps for Carolina Kostner too, who wore a precious costume from Fondazione Arena di Verona as she danced on the "Gypsy Choir" (Il Trovatore), and for the German couple Aliona Savchenko and Robin Szolkowy, who were busy dancing on "Interlude Act II" (Roméo et Juliette).

The programme included Anna Cappellini & Luca Lanotte, a dancing couple who are the flagship of the Italian national team, with a show on the notes of "Amami Alfredo" (La Traviata) and "Cavatina di Figaro" (Il Barbiere di Siviglia), and Shizuka Arakawa, winner of Turin Olympic Games, who danced "Un bel dì vedremo" (Madama

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Butterfly) and "Nessun dorma" (Turandot). A very exciting performance was also that of the Hot Shivers, the Italian synchronised skating team, with their perfect choreographies on the notes of Nabucco.

A grand finale with a standing ovation for the Triumph of Aida with the whole cast dancing on the stage, with the gold and turquoise shades of their costumes inspired by the iconography of Egyptian pharaohs, all embraced by the arena lit up by 10,000 candles.

*"I would have never imagined the magic and atmosphere of the first year could ever happen again – comments champion **Carolina Kostner** – and instead the show was even more exciting and gripping, with lots of thrilled children around us, dream-like costumes and a fantastic public that in the finale embraced us all by lighting up the candles. I will always carry this image and this feeling in my heart".*

Great satisfaction for ice tsar **Evgeni Plushenko** too: *"It's been one of the most positive and extraordinary feelings I have ever felt! Such a rush of adrenaline, that I shared with an exceptional cast. This show proved that artistic skating is not just a sport, it is real art. Dancing and acrobatics, plus an impressive choir and an orchestra in the greatest open-air opera theatre in the world".*

On stage with the champions, the great new talents of the opera world: sopranos **Mirella Bunoaica** and **France Dariz**, baritone **Krum Gabalov**, tenors **Marco Frusoni** and **Alessandro Scotto Di Luzio** and mezzo soprano **Valeria Sepe**. The latter 3 artists are supported by Fondazione Luciano Pavarotti.

For more information, visit [www.operaonice.eu](http://www.operaonice.eu).

## The numbers

**200** are the singers and musicians of the Verona Arena's Choir and Orchestra. The skating rink was made by Icefantasy, truly impressive at **800** square metres. **35,000** are the litres of water used, which is approximately the same as **1,600,000** ice cubes. **1,088** pipes were laid under the skating rink, for a total length of **43,520** metres, **400** kw of overall power used for the event, **650** kw of refrigerating power, which are enough to cool down **150** two-room flats. Ice takes **42** hours to form, **700** altogether to make the skating rink, **900** Kw of calorific value, for the diesel heater to thaw the skating rink after the event.

## The cast

**Carolina Kostner**, world champion in 2012, winner of another three medals at the World Championship, four times winner of the European Championship, winner of another three medals at the European Championship, winner of the Finale at the figure skating Grand Prix in 2011, and six times winner of the Italian Championship;  
**Evgeni Plushenko**, the Russian champion, the star and icon of the skating world, winner of Turin 2006 Olympic Games and winner of a silver medal at Vancouver and Salt Lake City, three times world champion and seven times European champion;

**Stéphane Lambiel**, Swiss, winner of a silver medal at Turin 2006 Olympic Games and twice world champion, the prince of spins;

**Aliona Savchenko** and **Robin Szolkowy**, a widely celebrated German couple of artistic skaters, winners of a bronze medal at the latest Olympic Games, winners of four world championships and winners of four European championships;

**Shizuka Arakawa**, winner of Turin 2006 Olympic Games and world champion in 2004;

**Anna Cappellini** and **Luca Lanotte**, a dancing couple, the flagship of the Italian national team;

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**Hot Shivers senior**, an Italian synchronised skating team.

**The singers:**

Tenor - Marco Frusoni

Tenor - Alessandro Scotto Di Luzio

Soprano - France Dariz

Soprano - Mirella Bunoaica

Mezzo soprano - Valeria Sepe

Baritone - Krum Gabalov

**The young athletes from the skating schools:**

Hot Shivers, the B team of Precision Skating Milano - Sesto San Giovanni

Daniel Grassl from Ice Club Merano (BZ)

Desiree Bertone from Rome's Axel

Alice Marchelli and Nikolay Memola from Milan's Agorà Skating Team

Lavinia Casteller, Ice Club Lessinia di Bosco Chiesa Nuova (VR)

Opera on Ice and Carolina Kostner support the fund-raising campaign for **Associazione Un Cuore Un Mondo** ([www.uncuoreunmondopadova.org](http://www.uncuoreunmondopadova.org)).

**Opera on Ice Press Office**

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