Maltese Composers
The British Military bands stationed in Malta were his earliest experience of classical music. During frequent visits to his father’s workplace at the Commerce movie theatre in Valletta, Pace was captivated by the live music played by the resident quartet during silent films.

At the age of 15 joined the orchestra of the Italian Opera Company at the Royal Opera House.

He was involved in the WWII (he narrowly escaped death: a bomb directly hit his office soon after he left.)

Pace was a musical powerhouse, having penned around 550 works

Pace was the first national composer to collect Maltese folk rhythms. With the intent to preserve the island’s national identity, Pace composed Maltesina (1931), the first composition based on folk rhythms.
Pace was one of the leading composers of his era. By the 1950s Pace was a well-established composer, musician and educator. His life was dedicated to composing and educating students in harmony, counterpoint and history of music.

For more information visit: https://www.um.edu.mt/think/the-unheard-maestro/
Nicolas Isouard

1773 - 1818

- Isouard was a very successful composer. He wrote at least 42 comic operas, including Il Barbiere di Siviglia (composed in 1796), which nowadays is better known in the 1816 version by Gioacchino Rossini.

- His Cendrillon, premiered in Paris on February 11, 1810, was a success throughout Europe but it was later overshadowed by a different version under the title of Cenerentola, also by Rossini, written in 1817.

- Isouard studied with Pin, Michel-Ange Vella, Azzopardi and Amendola and he received some very practical advice from Guglielmi as well.

- His first opera premiered in 1794, "L'avviso ai maritati," which was highly lauded.

- Operas that should be noted in reference to Isouard's competence and productivity include "Artaserse," "L'impromptu de campagne," "Le tonnelier," "Aladin," "Joconde," "Jeannot et Colin," and "Cendrillon."
Apart from operas Isouard also composed Masses, motets, cantatas, romances, and duos.

When he moved to Paris he took the name of Nicolò (de Malte). Isouard is reputed to be among the few composers who had notable premieres in Paris.

For more information visit:

Philip Vella is one of the most successful composers in Malta. He has won the main national festivals of Malta several times such as the Song for Europe festival, International Festival of Maltese song, Indipendenza Festival, as well as Ghanja tal-poplu festival.

- He has successfully competed in International festivals around the world.
- He is well known for his compositions for television and radio jingles, signature tunes and computer games music. He is responsible for the soundtrack of many popular teleseries and documentaries shown on the main tv channels in Malta.
Philip Vella

1958 - present

Many of his compositions have been used in various special occasions in Malta such as the anthem used in the official celebrations to mark Malta’s entry in the European Union, ‘Worker of the Year’ manifestations, the anthem of the ‘Small Nations Games’ held in Malta in 2003, the song to celebrate ‘Year of languages’ in 2002 and also composed the music for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth heads of Government meeting, held in Malta under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of England.

For more information visit: http://www.philipvella.com/
Joseph Vella

1942 – present

- Maltese composer and conductor
- Joseph Vella is generally considered to be *Malta’s leading contemporary composer*. Internationally, he is by far the most widely played.
- In his works he has touched on a considerable diversity of styles, all ingrained in a personal idiom stemming mainly from the 20th Century neo-classical movement
- the song cycle *Seher op 39 for Soprano and orchestra is the first ever written using the Maltese language as a medium*
- Vella had the honour of being appointed the first resident conductor of the National Orchestra in Malta.
Joseph Vella

1942 – present

- Joseph Vella is the Artistic Director of the Victoria International Arts Festival, an annual event now in its 15th Edition.
- Since 1970 Joseph Vella has been the musical director of the Astra Opera Theatre in Gozo, Malta.
- Joseph Vella has contributed articles to several local and foreign publications, and he has participated and read papers at music conferences in Malta, Italy, France, England, Turkey and Greece.

Reuben Pace

1974 – present

- Pace started his musical career at the age of eight at the St. Nicholas' Band club in his native village of Siggiewi, Malta.
- So far Pace had mainly concentrated on guitar performance but on the insistence of veteran Maltese composer Charles Camilleri (1931-2009) he started experimenting with composition, his first performed piece being Romance (1997) originally for piano and violin but first performed as a band arrangement.
- Pace's works are interpreted by internationally famous orchestras and ensembles.
- 2013 was an important year for Pace as in this year he took up full time freelance composing (which he does till the present day). In 2014 he single composed, produced and conducted the first ever Maltese multi-media opera Il-Kantilena which is based on the oldest poem in Maltese which goes by the same name.
His latest completed work is Concertino for Guitar and Harpsichord (2016) which shall be premiered at the Valletta International Baroque Festival on the 26th of January 2017. It will be the first time ever a Maltese composer has been included in this festival.

Others...

Charles Camilleri (1931 – 2009)

Girolamo Abos (1715 – 1760)

Paul Abela (1954 – present)

Paolino Vassallo (1856 – 1923)

Karl Fiorini (1979 – present)

Ruben Zahra (1972 – present)

Paul Giordimaina (1960 – present)

Dominic Galea (1965 – present)
Thank you

ICT in MUSIC EDUCATION