



CANTIERE-MEDITERRANEO

Millennial Contemporary

Opening Ceremony · Duni Theater, Matera · March 20, 2026 · 5:00 p.m.
Matera Mediterranean Capital of Culture and Dialogue 2026

The Duni Theater construction site is transformed into a space suspended between structural work and imagination—a stage telling the story of a Mediterranean in constant flux. Scaffolding becomes a set design; the temporary structure evolves into an architecture of sound and light. A narrative composed of images, music, words, and gestures.

17:00 | Opening - Video Mediterraneo

Screening accompanied by "Mediterraneo" by Pino Mango. Directed by Alessandro Rak; produced by Riva Dei Ginepri Production and Mad Entertainment Spa for MaTiFF – Matera International Film Festival.

17:04

Introduction to the Ceremony

Valentina Bisti, RAI journalist and anchor, introduces the theme of the evening: the construction site as a living image of the Mediterranean.

17:06

National Anthem

Matera Symphony Orchestra and the "Pierluigi da Palestrina" Matera Polyphonic Choir · Conducted by Saverio Vizziello.

17:08

Ode to Joy

Matera Symphony Orchestra and the "Pierluigi da Palestrina" Matera Polyphonic Choir · Conducted by Saverio Vizziello.

17:10

Lectio brevis — Pietro Laureano

"Matera and the Mediterranean: The Thousand Faces of Stone, Water, and Light." Architect and UNESCO consultant Pietro Laureano explores Matera as a model of harmonious coexistence between humanity and the environment, capable of transforming limitations into resources.

17:22

Performance — Anemos: The Breath of the Sea

A pas de deux featuring Antonella Albano (Principal Dancer, Teatro alla Scala, Milan) and Mick Zeni (former Principal Dancer, Teatro alla Scala, Milan). Original music composed for the event by Mattia Vlad Morleo.



17:29

Institutional Remarks — First Part

Antonio Nicoletti, Mayor of Matera

Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata Region

Musical Interlude: Matera Symphony Orchestra — *Il Postino* by Luis Bacalov

Elisabetta Casellati, Minister for Institutional Reforms

Daniela Santanchè, Minister of Tourism (tbc)

Alessandro Giuli, Minister of Culture

Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers

18:07

Tribute to the City of Tétouan

Recitation of the poem "Ma patrie est un visage" by Tahar Ben Jelloun, performed by actress Eva Danino. A symbolic gesture of friendship and connection between the two shores of the Mediterranean.

18:09

Institutional Remarks — European Delegations

Dubravka Suica, European Commissioner for the Mediterranean

Raffaele Fitto, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission

18:19

Musical Interlude — Mattia Vlad Morleo

Mattia Vlad Morleo and Luigi Morleo with the Matera Symphony Orchestra. A sonic journey through contemporary classical music, minimalism, and electronica.

18:27

Institutional Remarks — Second Part

Rita Orlando, Matera-Basilicata 2019 Foundation

Josep Ferrè, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation

Petra Kezman, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

18:43

Musical Finale — Eugenio Bennato

Among the foremost interpreters of traditional music from Southern Italy and the Mediterranean, Eugenio Bennato closes the ceremony alongside the Matera Symphony Orchestra, positioned upon the theater's scaffolding. The site resonates with sound: a theater on the verge of rebirth.



Evening Program — City Landmarks

18:30 – 19:15

Cantiere-evento · Prefecture Palace

Sirena Bicaudata — art installation by Vincenzo D’Alba

Opera site-specific sui ponteggi del Palazzo della Prefettura, metafora del gemellaggio tra Matera e Tétouan.

Vertical band concert on scaffolding

Grande Orchestra di Fiati Città di Grottole — 48 musicians arranged across four levels of scaffolding.

19:00 – 20:30

Street Event · Piazza Vittorio Veneto, via del Corso, via Ridola

A widespread showcase of music, dance, and performance throughout the historic center. Artists, ensembles, and performers animate the urban landscape.

20:45

Laser and Drone Show

Architectural lighting and drones will craft symbols of dialogue in the sky above the Sassi, bridging ancient languages and contemporary technologies.

The Duni Theater construction site will be open to the public (limited capacity) on March 21 and 22, 2026 (09:30–13:30 and 15:30–19:30), featuring guided tours organized by FAI Basilicata.