

EUYO & Sustainability

Climate change, economic sustainability and European policies: EUYO meets the new Agenda



No poverty, zero hunger, quality education, gender equality, good health and well-being; these are some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations as a target for 2030. In June in Rome the EUYO took part in a festival raising awareness of such noble aspirations, in the "**Concert for a Sustainable Europe**", in cooperation with the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (ASviS), and RAI, the Italian state broadcasting company.

The concert heralded the inauguration of the third Italian Sustainable Development Festival, held in Rome on May 21st. The String Ensemble of the European Union Youth Orchestra, led by director and violin soloist **Antti Tikkanen**, performed music especially curated to evoke and evince the 2030 Agenda, in a programme of four parts: *Listening to the world*, *Lessons of War*, *Interpreting Nature* and *The Human Spirit*. Each section of the programme was separated by reflections from guest speakers about the question of sustainability. Guest speakers included Enrico Giovannini, founder of ASviS, and Michelangelo Pistoletto, who presented his "Terzo Paradiso".

The evening opened with two iconic pieces of music depicting the beginning of the world and the terrible effects of war: *Chaos* from *The Elements* by the French composer Jean-Féry Rebel, and Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber's *Battalia à 10*, the latter a group of entertaining movements that depict the perils of war, the suffering it causes, and the lessons to be learnt from conflict. Human reflection on nature followed with a highly unusual pairing of two pieces: *Spring* from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* and its extraordinary rewriting in twenty-first century style by the Anglo-German contemporary composer Max Richter.

At this moment, a world premiere '17 strokes of *The Bell for Sustainability*' was performed, in which a bell stroke preceded the reciting of the 17 sustainable development goals, each agenda item read by EUYO players in their own language. This powerful moment was followed by the second part of the programme, a celebratory series of pieces reflecting on the strength, tragedy, joy and energy of the human spirit, with a recognition of the challenges of, but also hopes for, our future: Bartok's *Romanian Dances*, two Greek dances Nikos Skalkottas, and a pair of well-known pieces of film music: Piovani's *La vita è bella*, and Morricone's *Gabriel's Oboe* from *the Mission*. The programme ended with the European hymn taken from Beethoven's ninth symphony.



To find out more about the project: <http://www.euyo.eu/projects/recent-projects/2019-projects-archive/concert-for-a-sustainable-europe/>

To find out more about UN Sustainability goals: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

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#EUYONewsletter



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