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Press Handout

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KINDER GARDEN - Collection of Piano Pieces for young performers by Maltese Composers launched

'Kinder Garden' is a music book comprising a collection of Piano Pieces written especially for young performers. This book features eight compositions by eight contemporary Maltese Composers of various ages - each having their own individual style.

The book, Kinder Garden, was compiled by Prof. Charles Camilleri and was sponsored by Bank of Valletta. It was launched at the Sala Isouard of the Teatru Manoel by the Minister for Education, Youth and Employment, Louis Galea. During the launch, young pianist Christine Zerafa played two pieces of the original compositions featured in the new music book.

Speaking during the launch, BOV Chairman, Roderick Chalmers, said that Bank of Valletta was delighted to be the sponsor of this initiative which is showcasing the talent of various Maltese composers and promoting the artistic development of Maltese music students. "We encourage such initiatives that serve to promote educational development amongst our children and, concurrently, provide a platform for Maltese composers to contribute their original compositions," said Mr. Chalmers. The Chairman of Bank of Valletta said that when the Bank was approached by Prof. Camilleri and agreed to finance this publication of a music book with original compositions by Maltese composers, it had specifically requested that the bulk of the copies that were printed be given to the Education Department to be made available at Maltese schools. "We consider 'Kinder Garden' as an initiative worthy of support under the Education pillar of our Community Programme," said Mr. Chalmers.

Minister for Education, Louis Galea said that the early years are essential in the development of young minds. He said that it was well-known that children learn most of what they need in life in the first three years and that a solid education in the early years and at Kindergarten

level help students later on in their education and throughout their life. Having relevant, well-prepared and enjoyable learning tools targeted directly at this age group will surely help children enjoy their learning and enhance their creativity. Dr. Galea praised Prof. Camilleri and all those involved in the creation of this publication.

Prof. Charles Camilleri explained that the history of music making (composition) in Malta stretches back to the 16th century and can boast a number of composers, some of whom have produced outstanding work. "One needs only mention Benigno Zerafa (1726-1804), Francesco Azzopardi (1748-1807), Nicolo Isouard (1775-1818) and Carmelo Pace (1906-1993) to name a few who have contributed so much to our musical heritage," he said.

Charles Camilleri said that composing music for young performers is not such an easy task. "One notes that some of the best music in this genre has been written by such great composers as Bach, Schumann, Bartok and others of similar stature". He added that all the composers whose works feature in the collection, in their own way, shed a light on the mysteries and meaning of life and at the same time also enrich our National Heritage.

Following the press conference, Mr Chalmers symbolically presented a copy of the publication to the Hon. Louis Galea and announced that Bank of Valletta is donating 1,000 copies of the publication to the Education Division for distribution in schools in Malta and Gozo. Furthermore, an electronic version of the publication will be found on the BOV website on www.bov.com.

The title composition named 'Kinder Garden' is composed by Charles Camilleri himself. The other composers and their respective compositions are John Galea - *Diversions*, Albert Garzia - *Building Ships*, Christopher Muscat – *Larmes Tristes*, Alexander Vella Gregory – *il-Hares*, Jane Pace - *Duane*, Albert Pace – *Walking Invention* and Manoel Pirota – *Il-Kapparu*.