

BIBIENA ACADEMIC THEATRE

📍 Via Accademia 47, Mantova 📞 +39 0376 327653

🕒 Opening times

From March 21st - November 2nd

Tuesday to Friday from **10:00 am - 1:00 pm** and
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays from **10:00 am - 6:00 pm**

From November 3rd - March 20th

Tuesday to Sunday from **10:00 am - 1:00 pm** and
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

🚫 Closing days

Monday, 25th December, 1st January

🎫 Tickets

Full price € 3,00 Reduced price € 1,50

TOURIST INFORMATION

📍 TOURIST INFOPOINT INLOMBARDIA

📍 Piazza Mantegna 6, Mantova

📞 +39 0376 432432

✉ info@turismo.mantova.it

Infopoint Casa del Rigoletto

📍 Piazza Sordello 23, Mantova

📞 +39 0376 288208

✉ info@infopointmantova.it



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND CITY PROMOTION

📍 Via Frattini 60, 46100 Mantova

📞 +39 0376 338207 - 627

✉ turismo@comune.mantova.gov.it

USEFUL INFORMATION

🌐 comune.mantova.gov.it

🌐 cittadimantova.it

🌐 mantovasabbioneta-unesco.it

🌐 museicivici.mn.it

🌐 turismo.mantova.it

📍 Mantova città d'arte e di cultura

📷 cittadimantova

📺 Città di Mantova

🐦 Città di Mantova

📌 Città di Mantova

#mantova



TEATRO SCIENTIFICO BIBIENA



MANTOVA CITTÀ D'ARTE E DI CULTURA

Built between 1767 and 1769, the theatre was designed by Antonio Galli Bibiena from Parma and commissioned by the dean of the Accademia dei Timidi, Count Carlo Ottavio di Colloredo, with the main purpose of hosting scientific assemblies, but also open to plays and concerts. The theatre is part of the much larger Palazzo Accademico complex and has a bell-shaped floor plan. Its layout includes several rows of wooden box seats, according to the type of structure invented in the seventeenth century and which prevailed at that time.

The theatre was created by Bibiena, who directed the building work and, using his skills of a painter as well as those of architect, he personally frescoed the interiors of numerous box seats, with monochromatic depictions, which are also precious evidence of the illustrious master's artistic activity. The permanent set is formed by a balcony with two rows of Serlians (structures consisting of an arch supported by pairs of columns) and a ceiling decorated with fake fretwork and framed by a fake balustrade. In the niches there are life-sized statues of four famous intellectuals from Mantua: the poet, Virgil, the philosopher Pietro Pomponazzo, Baldassarre Castiglioni, author of *The Book of the Courtier*, and Gabriele Bertazzolo, engineer, architect and cartographer.

The classical façade was, instead, designed and built by Giuseppe Piermarini, from whom the adjacent hall on the first floor of the building got its name. As well as the Theatre, the building is currently the site of the Accademia Nazionale Virgiliana di Scienze, Lettere e Arti (Virgil National Academy of Science, Literature and Arts), the oldest and most prestigious cultural institution in the town.



On 3 December 1769, the “Teatro Scientifico” was officially inaugurated: it was an exquisite gem, thanks to the balance between movement and elegance and it was one of the most significant architectural creations in the late eighteenth century in Europe.

Just over a month after its inauguration, on 16 January 1770, the fourteen-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart arrived in Mantua on his first Italian tour and, with his father, Leopold, gave a memorable concert. In a letter to his wife, dated 26 January 1770, Leopold Mozart described the theatre and his son's concert as follows:

“... I wish you could have seen the place in which the performance was held: it is known as the Theatrino della Accademia Philharmonica. In all my life, I have never seen a more beautiful one, of this kind; and as I hope you will carefully preserve all my letters, I will describe it to you in

due time. It is not a theatre, but a hall with boxes, built like an opera house; in the area where the stage should be, there is a raised floor for the music, behind which there is another balcony for the audience, built with boxes. I do not have sufficient words to describe the multitude of people, the cheers, the clamour and the cries of Bravo - in short, the enthusiasm and general admiration shown by the audience.”
The theatre is still used to host musical events, concerts and high-level conventions.

“...the latest masterpiece of Bibiena, The Academic Theatre, the most beautiful place in the world for holding conferences.”

Philippe Daverio

*Our thanks for the concession of the images:
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