



CORO DELLA DIOCESI DI ROMA

VI Edition of the “Concert with the Poor”

In the Presence of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

with the participation of:

Michael Bublé

Mons. Marco Frisina

Nova Opera Orchestra

and the Choir of the Diocese of Rome

Presented by

Serena Autieri

Saturday, December 6, 2025 – 5:30 PM - Paul VI Hall – Vatican City

Presskit:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m2xWQbhoDDBVI9pDUz3T9PWpGk1fwEMS?usp=share_link

On Saturday, December 6, 2025, in the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall, and in the presence of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, the sixth edition of the Concert with the Poor will take place, an event open to all, bringing together artistic beauty and solidarity in a spirit of encounter and shared humanity.

For the first time since the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Leo XIV will attend a public concert in Paul VI Hall, and - also for the first time - a Pope will be present at an edition of the Concert with the Poor, giving the initiative an extraordinary symbolic and pastoral significance.

The star of this year’s edition will be **Michael Bublé**, performing with members of his band alongside **M^o Mons. Marco Frisina**, the **Nova Opera Orchestra**, and the **Choir of the Diocese of Rome**. The evening will be hosted by **Serena Autieri**, an actress, presenter, and singer, one of Italy’s most beloved voices.

The musical program will unfold as a true Christmas narrative, weaving together liturgical tradition and the great contemporary repertoire. Upon the Holy Father’s arrival, the Choir of the Diocese of Rome and the Nova Opera Orchestra will welcome him with “Tu sei Pietro”, setting a solemn tone for the opening of the evening. Mons. Frisina will then lead a sequence of pieces that invite contemplation of the Mystery of the

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Incarnation: “Puer natus est nobis”, one of the most ancient Christmas antiphons, followed by “Quando nascette Ninno”, the famous pastoral by St. Alphonsus Maria de’ Liguori performed by Serena Autieri, and a vibrant rendition of “Joy to the World”. The program continues with “Gloria in cielo”, drawn from the *Laudario di Cortona* and inspired by the angels’ announcement, and with “The First Nowell”, offered in an expressive, luminous setting that leads into the second part of the evening.

Michael Bublé’s entrance will introduce a shift in atmosphere, still deeply aligned with the spiritual and Christmas character of the event. Accompanied by the Nova Opera Orchestra conducted by **M^o Nicholas Jacobson-Larson**, Bublé will present a musical journey crafted specifically for the Concert with the Poor, blending signature songs from his repertoire with timeless Christmas classics. The opening, “Feeling Good”, will deliver a moment of commanding expression, enhanced by a symphonic arrangement that highlights the dialogue between the artist and the orchestra. He will then move into the timeless charm of “L.O.V.E.”, a true homage to American big bands, followed by the festive spirit of “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas”, now universally recognized as one of the defining songs of the modern Christmas season. In “Silent Night”, Bublé will explore a more intimate and contemplative tone, while “Don’t Get Around Much Anymore” pays tribute to Duke Ellington with a sophisticated, swing-infused interpretation. A moment of particular depth will come with his performance of the “Ave Maria”, sung in Latin with a choral and orchestral arrangement tailored for Paul VI Hall. The concert will continue with a warm, engaging rendition of “Bring It On Home to Me”, blending the song’s soul roots with a contemporary sensibility, and will end with “Always On My Mind”, presented in a delicate orchestration that highlights the melody’s emotional resonance through an elegant, enveloping string texture.

Bublé has expressed his deep gratitude to the **Nova Opera Foundation** for the invitation, stating that he is honored to perform before the Holy Father in Paul VI Hall together with the orchestra and the choir of the Diocese of Rome, and eager to share this special moment with such a unique audience, an occasion that unites the spiritual power of music with concrete commitment to the poorest, transforming beauty into a language of fraternity and shared hope. He also said he feels “honored and deeply moved to share such a special moment in the heart of Christianity, singing for and together with the poor.”

Once again, the Concert will welcome over 8,000 people entirely free of charge, including around **3,000 brothers and sisters in need of every language and religion, invited as guests of honor through the Dicastery for the Service of Charity – Apostolic Almonry**, thanks to the collaboration of numerous charitable organizations and volunteer associations. Among them: Caritas Roma, the Community of Sant’Egidio, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Circolo San Pietro, Centro Astalli for Refugees, ACLI Roma, and the



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Comunità Giovanni XXIII. **At the end of the concert, a hot takeaway dinner will be offered to more than 3,000 people**, a gesture expressing the truest meaning of the initiative: sharing beauty as a form of closeness.

In a time marked by environmental, social, and cultural crises, the Concert with the Poor renews its commitment to a vision rooted in responsibility, care, and hope. In harmony with the Jubilee theme *“Pilgrims of Hope,”* attention to vulnerability and protection of creation are integral to Nova Opera’s mission, which continues its collaboration with AzzeroCO₂ to make the event increasingly sustainable. The initiative includes measuring the carbon footprint, analyzing major emission sources, and offsetting them through certified carbon credits from a hydroelectric project in northern India. In parallel, the path toward ISO 20121 certification has begun, establishing goals and actions for continuous improvement in environmental management. The event will also support the association “I Patriarchi della Natura”, dedicated to safeguarding Italy’s monumental trees: a donation will help collect, study, and propagate seeds and cuttings from ancient or endangered specimens. As a symbolic gesture, the Vatican will welcome a San Francesco cypress, a direct descendant of a centuries-old tree from Verucchio, destined to stand as a living sign of care, continuity, and shared hope. The Concert with the Poor will additionally contribute to the planting of 1,000 new trees through Treedom’s environmental and social sustainability projects: 950 trees will be planted in Guatemala with local communities (including 150 cacao trees and 250 coffee trees), along with 100 mangroves in the high-biodiversity area of Barra de Motagua; 50 olive trees will be planted in Campania on land confiscated from organized crime, supporting paths of social and environmental renewal.

Founded in 2015 with the blessing of Pope Francis, under the artistic direction of Mons. Marco Frisina, with the Choir of the Diocese of Rome and the organization of Nova Opera, the Concert with the Poor has grown into a unique appointment: a musical journey uniting the spiritual power of art with concrete care for those who endure fragility, transforming music into a universal language of fraternity and hope.

Across its five editions, the Concert has hosted world-renowned artists such as Hans Zimmer, Ennio Morricone, Nicola Piovani, Daniel Oren, and Speranza Scappucci, and collaborated with prestigious ensembles including the Orchestra and Choir of the Rome Opera House, the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the Orchestra Italiana del Cinema, Roma Sinfonietta, and the Orchestra of the Teatro Verdi in Salerno.

The 2025 edition, part of the Jubilee Year of Hope, renews the profound meaning of this initiative: **to make music a place of encounter, where each note becomes a shared prayer and every voice a sign of humanity, closeness, and hope for the least among us.**



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The event will be broadcast live worldwide on Vatican channels, especially the Vatican News YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@VaticanNews, as well as on international Catholic television networks—allowing millions around the globe to share in this moment of fraternity and beauty.

Info: www.concertoconipoveri.org

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