

## **Umberto Fanni**

Currently Director General and Artistic Director of the Royal Opera House Muscat has a long, distinguished career in the performing arts, not only in theatre management, but also as an award-winning concert pianist.

Umberto Fanni graduated with high honours from the Conservatory of Music in Brescia and completed his studies at the Conservatory of Music in Geneva. Among his early achievements was the founding in 1985 of the Young Italian Chamber Orchestra, composed entirely of talented young musicians who have now established soloists or playing in renowned orchestras such as La Scala in Milan and Wiener Philharmoniker.

At the urging of the famous conductor, Maestro Claudio Scimone, Umberto Fanni's career in performing arts management began with his collaboration as Assistant Artistic Director of Italy's finest chamber ensemble, "I Solisti Veneti". Umberto Fanni's multifaceted contributions to music over the past three decades include founding a theatre and music festival management company. He has always valued innovation and advocated a well-calibrated connection between artistic skills and managerial competencies.

As a Catholic University of Milan professor, he taught Management of Performing Arts for 18 years.

Fanni has held appointments as General Manager and Artistic Director for Fondazione Teatro Lirico 'G Verdi' of Trieste, Fondazione Teatro Lirico of Cagliari, Teatro Grande in Brescia and Fondazione Arena di Verona.

Mr Fanni was first appointed to the Royal Opera House Muscat as Artistic Director in September 2014 and then as Director General in November 2015. Working with the Board of Directors over the past twelve years, he has broken new ground in key domains and made a remarkable contribution to the continuing advancement of the Royal Opera House Muscat as a world-class institution. Of prime importance is the initiative he has taken in developing several co-produced operas with leading opera houses and producing original works in-house. The Royal Opera House Muscat is now well on its way to becoming a producing and hosting institution.

From 2020, serves as a Council Member of the Beijing Forum for Performing Arts.

From 2023, serves as a Board Member of the World Association of Performing Arts.

In January 2024, he received the Conferral of the Order of Oman from HM the Sultan, Haitham bin Tariq.

