

## Programme Notes Ciconia Consort season 2024-2025

### III. February/March 2025

#### *The Hanging Gardens of Babylon*

*soloist: Maria Milstein, violin*

In “The Hanging Gardens of Babylon” the internationally acclaimed violinist Maria Milstein will shine in Aratiunian's grand violin concerto. The musically poetic journey in the footsteps of Alexander the Great and Marco Polo follows the structure of a promenade, always followed by a caravanserai. During the promenade, with traditional Armenian music, we imagine ourselves in the desert on the back of a camel. The journey starts with the gallant and virtuosic *Concerto for strings* by the film composer Nino Rota and crosses the sea to Constantinople with the *Gondol Şarkısı* written by Sultan Abdülaziz in Eurasian style. Fikret Amirov, who grew up with 'Persian-Arab' folk music, developed a new genre, the symphonic mugam. His *Symphony for string orchestra* is dedicated to the great 12th-century Persian poet Nizami. The Silk Road ends in Beijing with *Song of the Ch'in*, pure Chinese sounds by the living Chinese-American composer Zhou Long.

