



Press release

In cammino

Canterbury, Saint Augustine

First stop of the journey through European Abbeys

on Friday, July 28

Clagett Auditorium - Canterbury Cathedral Lodge

Actress Simonetta Solder and historian Andrea Antonio Verardi explore the concept of "Pilgrimage"

The first stage of *In cammino*, the special event conceived and promoted by **Livia Pomodoro**, will commence on July 28, 2023, in Canterbury, Great Britain. Over the course of three years, from 2023 to 2025, the event will travel across Europe, touching seven countries (Great Britain, France, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy) and 14 of the most significant and prestigious Abbeys of our continent. These timeless and evocative places are where history, art, and spirituality converge, and from which the humanistic civilization that has characterized the rebirth of European culture from the darkest times of the Middle Ages to the present day has spread.

In cammino is not just a modern interpretation of pilgrimage but also a moment of encounter and knowledge. Starting from the ruins of **Saint Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury**, the starting point of the Via Francigena, it will culminate in Rome in 2025 during the Holy Year. In each Abbey, theatrical and musical performances, recitals, and readings by top-tier artists will be organized within architecturally stunning venues, many of which are UNESCO heritage sites. These performances will be inspired by words and themes dedicated to the idea of travel and pilgrimage. In addition to roundtable discussions and meetings with



renowned experts and scholars, the events will showcase the best practices in the field of organic living.

Throughout the three years, *In cammino* will revisit the three main aspects of the journey: the **departure (2023)**, the **journey (2024)**, and the **arrival (2025)**. In collaboration with the Treccani Institute, a specific word will be chosen for each stage to serve as an active guiding thread for the performances, concerts, and meetings held in the selected Abbeys.

In Canterbury, on July 28, after the official greetings from institutional and local representatives, the symbolic start of *In cammino* will take place at the ruins of Saint Augustine's Abbey. Following that, at 6 p.m. at the Clagett Auditorium in the Canterbury Cathedral Lodge, actress **Simonetta Solder** will present a series of texts extracted from literary works by various authors (including Chaucer and Mary Shelley) centred around the theme of "Pilgrimage". He will be accompanied by **Andrea Antonio Verardi**, a historian and professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University, who has conducted research related to this topic and its many declinations through-out centuries. The event will be attended by English and Italian civil and ecclesiastical authorities in the presence of Tricia Marshall, vice-president of European Association Vie Francigene.

"The choice of Canterbury as the first stage of our journey," - explains **Livia Pomodoro**, President of the No'hma Theatre Space in Milan, and creator of the event, "is both historical, as Sigeric departed from here in 990 to reach Rome, thus tracing the Via Francigena, and symbolic, as we will metaphorically unite Europe from the English Channel to the Mediterranean during our journey. Our itinerary is one of faith and reason, encompassing peace and culture, brotherhood and hope for a better future for humanity - all aspects that have always found their meeting point and starting point in the Abbeys, both in the past and today".

"This initiative," - stated His Excellency **Monsignor Rino Fisichella**, "has been warmly welcomed by the Dicastery for Evangelization, which is responsible for organizing the Jubilee 2025. Firstly, because the title *In cammino* directly relates to the pilgrimage of the Jubilee, and secondly, because it traverses many sections of the Via Francigena, which, as is known, is one of those traditional routes that pilgrims have been traveling since the early Middle Ages"



“Moved by faith or the spirit of adventure,” - emphasizes Professor Verardi, “women and men, from late antiquity to the Middle Ages, reshaped roads, transformed landscapes, and built networks of cultural transmission through their pilgrimage. Languages, objects, and traditions travelled along the paths they charted”.

Throughout the three years, an orchestra will be formed, involving musicians and students from the conservatories in the regions of the Abbeys visited. The *In cammino* orchestra will initially be composed of the **Archimia** string quartet and will culminate in Rome in 2025 with a full ensemble performing an original composition written for the occasion by **Maestro Fabio Vacchi**, one of the most acclaimed and internationally awarded composers.

Press Office:

Antonio Bettanini + 39 3356652553

Clizia Gurrado +39 3713722330



VIA
FRANCIGENA
road to Rome

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



TRECCANI



media partner



info@in-cammino.eu - www.in-cammino.eu
www.iubilaum2025.va/it.html