



## 16° ANNIVERSARIO



Good evening to all.

It is always thrilling to meet here at La Scala, a symbol of Milanese excellence, and to see, year after year, many friends, many faces and gazes that instill us with serenity and help us cope with painful memories.

I would like to thank the Municipal Administration, the

La Scala Opera House, SEA, SAS and all the institutions that have supported and sustained us over the years.

I also want to thank the civilian, military, religious and political authorities who are here tonight with us for this commemoration.

I want to give special thanks to Deputy Mayor Anna Scavuzzo, who joins me this evening to welcome you.

Time passes and perhaps for some the memory is lost in a fog, a word that for us inevitably invokes the memory of that specific morning... But this full theater and these continuous expressions of affection show us that most have not forgotten. Our dear Pasquale Padovano, who is here with us, is a living symbol.

The pain felt by family members is still profound, even in the sweet, normal everyday lives that we are building, step by step, for us, our children, and for those who love us and know how to respect our silent gazes that are sometimes suspended in the memory of the thought of..."how things might have been...."

Life is such a precious a gift and we are all obliged to safeguard it in every way. Just a few days after that terrible morning, we made a promise to prevent

similar tragedies from happening. It was a commitment to future generations to ensure that the mistakes and omissions causing such a tragedy would never occur again, because the only true mistake is the one from which nothing is learned.

During an extraordinary session of the City Council a few years ago, Milan was declared the European Capital of Aviation Safety. We of the Committee and Foundation continue our work with decisiveness and determination to preserve that title.

Today, we can proudly say that our Foundation and its collaborators are highly esteemed and appreciated in Italy and abroad. Our suggestions, principles and visions regarding safety are studied and processed by the world's most important aeronautical organizations.

We are grateful to all the institutions that speak with us on a daily basis so that the fundamental issue of air transportation and, especially, passenger safety remains at the center of attention.

After the extraordinary success of the international conference held at the University of Milan last October, the Foundation has continued its important dialogue with the university for the purpose of creating advanced training courses in transportation safety.

There are continuous discussions and exchanges with Italian and foreign universities and with institutions of higher education for the organization of meetings designed to increase awareness and provide information to young people.

Providing assistance to air crash victims and their families continues to be an issue in which the Foundation is very active. I'd like to mention the publication of a prestigious study funded by the United States Government in which we actively participated, and an ambitious project that makes it possible to implement these principles in the operational activities of our Italian airports.

This year we also participated in a major conference at Bologna Airport, in collaboration with Fondazione Seragnoli, which deals with terminally ill patients. Through the testimony of several family members, our Committee shared its experience in overcoming sorrow and pain. The experiment was extremely successful and very moving.

The Paolo Pettinaroli Award, dedicated to our unforgettable founding president, has reached its second edition this year.

With Paolo, we started a revolution in the field of aviation safety. Continuing our work is not easy, but we will not stop: we will always take another step and

if that is not enough, we will take another and yet another, because all these commitments are the most beautiful gift that we can dedicate to our loved ones.

In conclusion, I hope you enjoy listening to *Der Freischutz*, an opera that will captivate us with its beautiful music and the direction of a great conductor who we are delighted to meet again for this important evening.

The always marvelous setting of this beloved theater and the awareness of sharing such a special moment will make the evening even more wonderful.

Thank you all.