

# PONCHIELLI THEATER



The current building of the Amilcare Ponchielli Theater is the result of a series of construction, reconstruction, modification, maintenance and restoration that has lasted for two hundred and fifty years. However, there are essentially two forms that the Cremona theater has had in its long history, the first dating back to the 18th century and the current one, dating back to 1808.

The story begins in 1747, when a group of nobles decided to equip the city with a real theater, replacing the various temporary rooms, which had preceded it. The design assignment was entrusted to Giovanni Battista Zaist, a Cremonese architect who was part of the circle of the famous "Bibiena". Nazari Theater, from the name of the owner, changed its name in 1785 in "Teatro della Società" or "Nobile Associazione".

That first construction was destroyed in 1806 by a fire, as was often the case with wooden theaters of the 18th century; the condominiums however decided their immediate reconstruction, entrusting the project to the most famous theatrical architect of the moment, Luigi Canonica, who was inspired by his master, Piermarini, but with several original contributions.

Thus one of the best theaters of the time was built, with a horseshoe-shaped hall, four tiers of boxes and a gallery, which took the name of "Teatro della Concordia", to which was added, at the beginning of our century, that of the greatest Cremonese opera, Amilcare Ponchielli. Moreover, improvements were immediately made, including the lengthening of the stage, which is one of the largest in Italy. In 1824 a new fire partially destroyed the structure, immediately restored by Faustino Rodi and Luigi Voghera.

Acquired for municipal ownership in 1986, since 1989 Ponchielli Theater has undergone radical restoration and technological upgrading.

(from [www.teatroponchielli.it/fondazione/la-storia/](http://www.teatroponchielli.it/fondazione/la-storia/))