

Francesco Nicolosi

He is one of the most distinguished pianists of the Italian tradition. He studied under Vincenzo Vitale and in the 1980 he was third prize at the *International Santander Piano Competition*.

The same year he came second at the *Concours International d'Exécution Musicale* in Geneva and began as one of the world's foremost pianists of his generation. He has played both recitals and as a soloist with prestigious orchestras, in some of the most famous concert halls in the world (*Queen Elizabeth Hall* and *Wigmore Hall* in London, *Victoria Hall* of Genève, *Radio Nacional* in Madrid, *Salle Gaveau* in Paris, *Teatro alla Scala* and *Sala Verdi* in Milano, *Teatro dell'Opera and Accademia di Santa Cecilia* in Roma, *Teatro di San Carlo* in Napoli, *Herkulessaal* in München, *Brahmssaal* in Wien, *Kennedy Center* in Washington among others).

He toured in Iceland, United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Russia, Japan, Singapore and China and he is a regular guest at Festivals such as: *Festival dei Due Mondi* in Spoleto, *Rossini Opera Festival*, *Ravenna Festival*, *Festival di Ravello*, *Festival Pianistico Internazionale di Brescia e Bergamo*, *Taormina Teatro Musica*, *Settimane Musicali* in Stresa, *Estate Musicale Sorrentina*, *Settembre Musica* in Torino, *Marathon Internacional* in Sevilla, *Festival de Musique* in Menton, *Rencontres Musicales en Artois*, *Weimar Kunstfest*, *Budapest Liszt Festival* and many others;

He has recorded for three famous record labels: *Nuova Era*, *Naxos* and *Marco Polo*; His recordings were reviewed always in enthusiastic way by the most famous European, Asian and American musical magazines and are frequently broadcast worldwide on the radio.

The authoritative critic and musicologist Paolo Isotta has written of him on the occasion of the recording of two rare concerts of Paisiello: (...) ***listening to him playing is enough to remind us that no one today can match his luminosity of sound, his ability to draw out the song-like legato qualities of a keyboard instrument (...) he has acquired a reputation as one of our greatest living pianists (...) The great Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli performed eighteenth-century works, his inspiration came principally from the same source as Nicolosi's, but perhaps lacked some of the latter's lucidity and coherence. Nicolosi is now perfecting the process begun by Michelangeli.***

His recordings of Thalberg and Liszt Bellini paraphrases received the *1994 Bellini Golden Prize*, as president of the *Sigismund Thalberg International Study Centre* he has developed for years an intense work of search and revaluation of the music of the legendary Austrian pianist, of which today he is, thanks also to the numerous recordings, the only recognized interpreter in the world.

In the 1998 he has founded the *Franz Liszt Piano Duo* with the pianist Vittorio Bresciani with the aim of promoting Liszt's Symphonies works in two piano version.

On October 2002 he has been invited to Copenhagen by the Queen of Denmark and the Prince Consort to perform in the Real Chapel of the Castle of Fredensborg.

He is moreover Artistic Director of the *Sigismund Thalberg International Piano Prize*, Artistic Director of the *"I concerti d'Estate di Villa Guariglia"* in Vietri sul mare, Artistic Director of the Festival *"Jeux d'art a la Villa d'Este"* in Tivoli, Artistic Director of the Festival *"Roccaraso in Musica"* and of the *Corsi Internazionali di Alto Perfezionamento e Formazione Musicale* in Naples and Rome. From January 2015 he is the Artistic Director of the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania.