

Biography | February 2024

Rinaldo Alessandrini | artistic director

Rinaldo Alessandrini's Concerto Italiano was born in 1984. Its history overlaps with that of the revival of early music in Italy. Monteverdi, Bach and Vivaldi were the main pins over which the group has been able to renew the language of ancient music, revealing completely new aesthetic and rhetorical aspects. After 33 years the recordings of Concerto Italiano are still considered as value of reference by critics and public.

Concerto Italiano has appeared in Utrecht (Oude Muziek Festival), Rotterdam (De Doelen, De Singel), Antwerp and Leuven (Flandern Festival), London (Lufthansa Festival, Queen Elisabeth Hall), Edinburgh (Edinburgh Festival), Aldeburgh, Glasgow, Vienna (Konzerthaus), Graz (Styriarte), Innsbruck, Amsterdam (Concertgebouw), Brussels (Festival de Wallonie, Flandern Festival, Societè Philharmonique), Madrid (Liceo de Camara), Barcelona (Festival de Musica Antigua, Palau de la Musica), Valencia, Bilbao, Sevilla, S. Sebastian, Salamanca, Santander, Oslo (Chamber Music Festival), Bergen, Vantaa, Turku, Paris (Citè de la Musique, Theatre de la Ville, Theatre des Champs Elysèes), Beaune, Lyon, Montpellier (Festival de Radio France), Metz (Arsenal), Ambronay, Saintes, Chase-Dieux, Berlin (Philharmonie, Pierre Boulez Saal), Cologne (WDR), Stuttgart, Darmstadt, Rome (Accademia di S. Cecilia, Accademia Filarmonica Romana), Milan (Musica e Poesia a S. Maurizio), Ravenna, Ferrara, Turin, Spoleto (Festival dei Due Mondi), Palermo (Festival Scarlatti), Perugia, Bologna (Bologna Festival), Naples (Teatro S. Carlo and Associazione Scarlatti), Istanbul, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Warsaw, Krakow, Buenos Aires (Teatro Colon), Rio de Janeiro (Teatro S. Paolo), New York (Metropolitan Museum, Lincoln Center), Washington (Library of Congress), Tokyo etc.

2017 was marked by the jubilee of Monteverdi: Concerto Italiano toured the world with his vespers, "Orfeo" and "L'incoronazione di Poppea", among others. In recent seasons, the ensemble has also performed Pergolesi's "Missa Romana" and Scarlatti's "Christmas Mass" as part of the opening concerts at the "Resonanzen" in the Vienna Konzerthaus. It also went on tour with the RIAS Kammerchor with a monumental program of sacred Roman music as well as A. Scarlatti's oratorio "Caino". With a cycle of the three Monteverdi operas under the direction of Bob Wilson, the ensemble could be experienced at La Scala in Milan and the Opera Garnier in Paris.

Concerto Italiano records regularly for the naïve label. Among their previous CDs, which have won numerous awards from the international press, are Monteverdi's "Orfeo," a collection of Scarlatti's sacred music, Monteverdi's 8th book of madrigals, Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, Monteverdi's Vespers, and the "Selva Morale e Spirituale." Most recently, after "Un viaggio a Roma" with Sandrine Piau and Sara Mingardo with works by Handel, Muffat, Corelli and Scarlatti, a recording of all orchestral overtures by J.S. Bach as well as several Monteverdi recordings, including the third madrigal book, and Vivaldi's l'Estro Armonico have been released. Numerous other CD recordings are planned for naïve, including all of Monteverdi's madrigal books, as well as works by Legrenzi, Bononcini, and Louis Couperin.