

Concerto Italiano

Rinaldo Alessandrini | conductor

Biography | September 2024

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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 Elysées), 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.

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Rinaldo Alessandrini | artistic director

Conductor, harpsichordist and organist Rinaldo Alessandrini is considered one of the leading experts in the field of historically informed performance practice, the main focus of his repertoire being on works by Monteverdi, Gluck, Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Rossini. He is founder and director of Concerto Italiano with which he has published numerous award-winning recordings.

Rinaldo Alessandrini has conducted all renowned international orchestras and has performed at the most prestigious opera houses and festivals. Highlights were for instance his tours to China and Japan, as well as his concertante performance of Monteverdi's Coronation of Poppea at New York Carnegie Hall. Further engagements brought him amongst others to the Chamber Orchestra Basel, the Freiburg Barock Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and to various other European and American orchestras.

Noteworthy are also The Coronation of Poppea at La Scala di Milano, Don Giovanni in Liège, Haendel's Orlando at Semperoper Dresden, The Marriage of Figaro and Orfeo ed Euridice in Oslo as well as Mozart's Zaide and La finta semplice with the Munich Rundfunkorchester.

Rinaldo Alessandrini is artistic director of the Italian Purtimiro-Festival. In 2003 he was appointed "Chevalier dans l'ordre des Artes et des Lettres" by the French Minister of Culture. He is Academic of the Accademia Filarmonica Romana.