

Biography

Il Canto di Orfeo

The vocal and instrumental ensemble Il Canto d'Orfeo, founded in 2005 by its conductor Gianluca Capuano, attempts to develop and refine the musical experiences matured during the group's intense concert activity of recent years. One of the most important strengths of the ensemble is the performance and recording of music by Giacomo Carissimi (of whom Maestro Capuano is among the leading scholars), his students (above all Charpentier, Kerll e Bernhard) as well as other composers who were active in Rome during the same period such as Luigi Rossi. The ensemble's repertoire includes many of the most important works composed between 1600 and 1750 as well as music spanning from the late renaissance to the present day. Il Canto d'Orfeo is comprised of some of the finest singers and instrumentalists specializing in early music performance practices. Thanks to the important collaboration of some of the most prestigious musicologists dedicated to the study of Renaissance and Baroque music, the ensemble considers one of its most important missions to be that of the rediscovery of repertoire written by composers who are unknown to the public at large as well as the more seldom performed works of the more famous masters. Il Canto d'Orfeo, together with the mezzosoprano Catherine King, has recorded a CD dedicated to the music of Baldassarre Galuppi for the English label, Avie Records, containing arias from the composer's operas. The recording was named "CD of the Month" and "Editor's Choice" by the prestigious British magazine Gramophone. Between 2006 and 2009 the group organized "Pietre Sonore", an international early music festival which took place at the Basilica of San Sempliciano in Milan.

Reference point for interpretation of the Italian Baroque vocal music, since its foundation ICO took part to important festival dedicated to baroque music (first of all, the glorious "Musica e Poesia a San Maurizio" in Milan) in Italy, France, Austria, Switzerland and Germany. In 2012 the group had opened the Festival de Royaumont with a program dedicated to the music of Giacomo Carissimi. In 2014 it had opened the Festival Monteverdi in Cremona with Monteverdi's *Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda* in collaboration with Marionette Company of the family Colla. Most recently, the group had had a concert for the prestigious Losanna's Bach Festival.

In September of 2007 the male chorus of Il Canto d'Orfeo performed in the world premier of the opera *Teneke* by Fabio Vacchi at Teatro della Scala di Milano conducted by Roberto Abbado and with the stage direction of Ermanno Olmi. Since 2006 Il Canto d'Orfeo has participated in the Compagnia per la Musica Sacra di Milano, performing all of the masses composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. During the summer of 2011 the group performed *Lagrime di San Pietro* di Orlando di Lasso at the "Festival of Brežice", at the "Festival Milano Arte Musica" and at the festival "Musica Negli Horti" in Tuscany. In 2012 Antiqua/Classic Voice released the ensemble's recording of madrigals in honor of Laura Peperara, the sixteenth century singer and harpist. Capuano and ICO continued the collaboration with the Teatro della Scala performing in Alexander Raskatov's *Dog's Heart* in 2013, revived the next year at the Opera of Lyon, and in the colossal Zimmermann's *Die Soldaten* in 2015. In 2015 and 2016 Il canto di Orfeo had performed in Festival Monteverdi and MilanoArteMusica with Monteverdi's "Vespro della Beata Vergine".

Upcoming engagements include returns to Cremona and Milan with monteverdian programs and the debut at Nantes Opéra with *Incoronazione di Poppea*.

Il Canto d'Orfeo is currently in the process of recording all of Carissimi's oratorios.