

Vito Palumbo

COMPOSER

Vito Palumbo has composed since early youth. Following his conservatoire studies, he undertook advanced training with Azio Corghi at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, graduating with honours. Luciano Berio personally awarded him a special scholarship as the outstanding graduate. In 2005 he received the Goffredo Petrassi Prize for composition, established by the President of the Italian Republic and presented at the Quirinale.

SELECTED CHRONOLOGY

2005	Goffredo Petrassi Prize for composition, Quirinale
2013	Recorder Concerto, commissioned by Gävle Symfoniorkester and Dan Laurin
2016	Violin Concerto recorded with the London Symphony Orchestra at Abbey Road
2018	Choir, first prize in Camerata Bern's S.M.S. competition
2023	Woven Lights on BIS Records and Seeds of Light with Ensemble intercontemporain
2024	International Classical Music Awards nomination

01

Education and distinctions

After his conservatoire training, Palumbo pursued advanced studies with Azio Corghi at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. The special scholarship awarded by Luciano Berio and the 2005 Goffredo Petrassi Prize were decisive acknowledgements of his compositional voice.

A prizewinner in numerous national and international composition competitions, he has developed a catalogue spanning large orchestra, solo concertos, ensemble and chamber music, music theatre, voice and electronics.

02

Commissions, premieres and institutions

His works have been commissioned or performed internationally by the London Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble intercontemporain, CEPROMUSIC Ensemble, Camerata Bern, the Athenaeum Quartet of the Berliner Philharmoniker, Helsingborgs Symfoniorkester, Gävle Symfoniorkester, Orquesta Sinfónica del Estado de Puebla, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, Oradea State Philharmonic, Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini and Istituzione Sinfonica Abruzzese.

Institutions and festivals presenting his music include the Académie de France à Rome, Auditorium Parco della Musica, Nuova Consonanza, Festival Pontino di Musica, Beijing's Parade Contemporary Music Festival, Accademia Musicale Chigiana, Fundación Botín in Santander, Enescu Foundation, Future 99 in Crest, Festival Radio France Occitanie Montpellier, Barockmuseum Salzburg, Minnesota Marimba Festival and Conference, Fondazione Teatro Petruzzelli, Teatro Grande di Brescia, and the Italian Cultural Institutes in Oslo and Belgrade.

03

Performers, conductors and ensembles

He has collaborated with performers including Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Dan Laurin, Francesco D'Orazio, Anna Paradiso Laurin, Bahar Dördüncü, Luca Quintavalle, Mario Marzi, Niki Lada, Susanne Kessel, Duccio Ceccanti, Mats Olofsson, Ivan Donchev, Nicola Mazzanti, Nicola Fiorino, Giampaolo Nuti, Michele Marelli, Ivan Mancinelli, Christina Schorn, Michele Lomuto, Francesco Pepicelli, Tony Capula, Luis Aracama, Giulia Peri, Mario Caroli and Sante Tursi.

Conductors include Lee Reynolds, Jaime Martín, Stefano Trasimeni, Magnus Fryklund, Marco Angius and Marcello Fera. Ensembles include Ensemble intercontemporain, Camerata Bern, El Cimarrón Ensemble, Norrbotten NEO, Duo Alterno, AuditivVokal Dresden, Ensemble Conductus, Algoritmo Ensemble, New Made Ensemble, ContempoArt Ensemble, Freon Ensemble, NYKY Trio, Laborintus Trio, Ensemble Suono Giallo, Ianus Piano Duo, Dédalo Ensemble, Stenhammar Quartet, Fiari Ensemble, Camerata Musicale Mistà and Collegium Musicum.

04

Music theatre, radio and television

His work in music theatre was consolidated through a ten-year professional collaboration with actress and singer Sonia Bergamasco. In this field, the voice is explored as a threshold between speech, song, phoneme, gesture and dramatic action.

His music has been broadcast by RAI Radio3, Rai Tre, Rai Music, ARTE France, Sky Classica, Radio France and Radio Wien.

05

Discography and monographic projects

His discography includes releases on BIS Records, Rai Trade, Stradivarius, Digressione Music, Brilliant Classics, Ars Spoletium and Kessel Music Projects. For BIS Records, Palumbo has been the featured composer in monographic projects devoted to his concertante and orchestral music.

The Recorder Concerto was commissioned by Gävle Symfoniorkester and Dan Laurin for the Three Concertos recording project. On 17 September 2016, the Violin Concerto was recorded in Studio One at Abbey Road Studios by Francesco D'Orazio, the London Symphony Orchestra and Lee Reynolds. Released by BIS Records, Woven Lights received more than twenty five-star reviews in the international specialist press and was nominated for the International Classical Music Awards.

06

Publishers and editions

His scores have been published by Ries & Erler Musikverlag, Berlin; Suvini Zerboni, Milan; and Edizioni Musicali Rai Com, Rome. The catalogue also includes works currently available directly from the composer.

Poetics and musical research

Following the postmodern explorations of his early period, Palumbo turned to music theatre and the possibilities of the voice, investigating modes of production, phonemes and the relationship between sound and gesture in works including *Butterfly*, *Cinque di Cuori*, *Il Catalogo*, *Sinforosa*, *La machine de sons*, *Comuni-Canti* and *Les Animaux*.

His recent output focuses on large-scale form and on new possibilities of orchestral colour and texture. Violin Concerto, Clarinet Concerto, Piano Concerto, Recorder Concerto, Double Concerto for Guitar and Marimba, *Drops*, *Fragile* and *Dark Clouds* conceive form as an organic network of interconnected and interdependent moments and gestures.

Timbre understood as colour leads to the idea of sound-light, developed through the convergence of electronics and instruments in *Chaconne* and through extended techniques integrated into orchestral writing. An interest in astronomy directs this research towards an abstract sonic core articulated in large, single-movement spans: a continuous cosmic energy of which the listener perceives one circumscribed point.

PROFESSIONAL CONTACT

vitopalumbo72@gmail.com