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Concerto Italiano

Director: Rinaldo Alessandrini



"Leave it to the Italians to teach us about beauty. Concerto Italiano's performance of Monteverdi's Vespers for the Blessed Virgin was all about effortlessly flowing beautiful singing." **The West Australian**

Concerto Italiano was conceived in 1984. Its history overlaps with that of the rebirth of renaissance music in Italy. Monteverdi, Bach and Vivaldi were the main pivots through which the group was able to renew the language of this era, revealing completely new aesthetics and rhetoric.. Other contributions concerning lesser-known repertoire including that of Alessandro Scarlatti, Alessandro Melani, Antonio Bononcini, has been documented in several "themed" recordings. Three decades later, the recordings of Concerto Italiano are still considered by critics and the public alike to be important points of reference.

The ensemble has appeared in Utrecht (Oude Muziek Festival), Rotterdam (De Doelen), Antwerp (De Singel, Flandern Festival), London (Lufthansa Festival, Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall), Edinburgh (Edinburgh International Festival) Aldeburgh, Glasgow, Vienna (Konzerthaus), Graz (Styriarte), Innsbruck, Amsterdam (Concertgebouw), Bruxelles (Festival de Wallonie, Flandern Festival, Societè Philharmonique), Madrid (Liceo de Camara), Barcelona (Festival de Musica Antigua, Palau de la Musica), Valencia, Bilbao, Sevilla, San Sebastian, Salamanca, Santander, Oslo (Chamber Music Festival), Bergen, Vantaa, Turku, Paris (Citè de la Musique, Théâtre de la Ville, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées), Beaune, Lyon, Montpellier (Festival de Radio France), Metz (Arsenal), Ambronay, Saintes, Chase-Dieux, Köln (Conservatoire and WDR), Stuttgart, Darmstadt, Roma (Accademia di San Cecilia, Accademia Filarmonica Romana), Milano (Musica e Poesia a San Maurizio), Ravenna, Ferrara, Torino, Spoleto (Festival dei Due Mondi), Palermo (Festival Scarlatti), Perugia, Bologna (Bologna Festival), Napoli (Teatro San Carlo and Associazione Scarlatti), Istanbul, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Warsaw, Krakow, Buenos Aires (Teatro Colon), Rio de Janeiro (Teatro S. Paolo), New York (Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Museum, Lincoln Center), Washington (Library

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of Congress), Tokyo, Hong Kong (Hong Kong Arts Festival), Beijing, Shanghai, Melbourne (Recital Centre), Adelaide, Perth, and Wellington.

Concerto Italiano presented the Monteverdi opera trilogy at the Scala in Milan and at the Opera Garnier (directed by Bob Wilson) between 2009 and 2016, and celebrated the composer's 450th anniversary with a triumphant world tour during which it performed the *Vespers of 1610*, *Orfeo* and *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with a highly acclaimed debut at Carnegie Hall, New York. Their cycle projects continue with the complete Monteverdi Madrigals at Teatro Liceu, Barcelona.

The ensemble records for Naïve and recent releases include two discs of Monteverdi: 'Orfeo' and 'Night. Stories of Lovers and Warriors', a collaboration with Sandrine Piau and Sara Mingardo for 'Un viaggio a Roma', a collection of sacred music by A. Scarlatti, Monteverdi's madrigals Book Eight, 1610 Vespers and Selva Morale e Spirituale, and Bach's Brandenburg Concertos. The latter was selected by BBC Music Magazine as "the best version ever recorded". After the release of "Daylight" as a sequel to "Night", and Vivaldi's "Estro Armonico", further recordings are planned with Monteverdi's Madrigal Book 7 and two collections of sacred mottettos by Giovanni Legrenzi and Alessandro Stradella.

An impressive array of critical awards attests to the outstanding quality of their performances. These include 5 Gramophone Awards (the only Italian ensemble to have been honoured to such a level), 10 Diapasons d'Or and 2 Diapason d'Or de l'année, 2 Deutscher Schallplattenpreis, 12 10 de Répertoire awards, 9 Choc de la Musique – including the Choc de l'année, the Cannes Classical Award – Disque de l'Année, Le Monde's Disques de l'Année 1995 and 1997, Premio Vivaldi (Fondazione Cini), the Grand Prix de la Nouvelle Academie de Disque and Grand Prix de l'Academie Charles Cros, Prix Caecilia and Amadeus' Disco dell'anno 1998. The group has been also awarded in Italy with the Premio Abbiati in 2003.

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