

P UCCINI

INTERNATIONAL OPERA COMPOSITION COURSE
2026
X edition



Giacomo Puccini

PUCCINI International Opera Composition Course
Summer Seminar 2026
July 23rd - August 8th
Lucca/Ostra, Italy

Guest Artists

Antonio Agostini
Alejandra Meza
Domenico Raso

Principal Teachers

Girolamo Deraco
Alessandro J. Bianchi

Adjunct Teachers

Eduardo Caballero
Lupino Caballero
Ángel de la Hera
Fabio De Sanctis De Benedictis
Eusebio Sánchez
Maria Elena Romanazzi
Salvatore Insana
Gabriele Micheli
Giuseppe Nicolò

Artistic Director
Girolamo Deraco

Come and study how to write opera in Lucca
the city of Giacomo Puccini

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PROJECT

The **PUCCINI International Opera Composition Course** is addressed to composers (both with or without an academic degree) willing to investigate thoroughly all compositional techniques in use in opera writing today, focusing both on the Italian tradition and on the genre's contemporary international developments.

The course's aim is to hand down the great opera tradition, having as a target the creation of new operas, bridging the past and the future in a new and enthralling vision.

COURSE GOALS

Participants will get to a deeper understanding of the various aspects of composing for lyric opera.

- At the end of the course, each participant must submit a complete pre-project for a new chamber opera, writing a section or a full score for voices, actor and ensemble (at least 25 minutes)
- The best projects will be selected to be performed as mise-en-scene at the 'PUCCINI Chamber Opera Festival 2027', Lucca - Italy
- Scores may be published at the Lumi Edizioni Musicali's choice and recorded video/audio

APPLICANTS SELECTION

Applicants must submit the following materials for selection:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Project scheme of a chamber opera for any combination of 1-2 singers (soprano, baritone), 1 actor, and piano
- Full score and audio file of an orchestral or chamber composition
- Full score or voice/piano score and audio file of a vocal composition
- All materials must be e-mailed to info@puccini-iocal.it
- Submission deadline May, 31st 2026
- Eligible composers will be contacted by June, 10th 2026

Committee selection:

- Girolamo Deraco
- Alessandro J. Bianchi
- Eduardo Caballero

Knowledge of Italian, Spanish or English language is required.

A minimum of 4 eligible composers is required for the course to start.

CLASSES

- 16 days of classes
- Group and individual classes
- Lectures and workshops by Teachers and Guest Artists

Main subjects

- Opera project, composition, writing for voice: Girolamo Deraco

Lectures

- Live electronics: Eduardo Caballero
- Sonic labyrinths: Lupino Caballero
- Analysis of opera: Antonio Agostini
- Algorithmic composition: Fabio De Sanctis De Benedictis
- Writing: Ángel de la Hera
- Percussions: Eusebio Sánchez
- Accordion: Domenico Raso
- Contemporary singing: Maria Elena Romanazzi
- The voice: Alejandra Meza
- Libretto: Gabriele Micheli
- Listening: Giuseppe Nicolò

Workshops

- Shot your video: Salvatore Insana
- The physical actions: Alessandro J. Bianchi

CONTENTS

Opera composition: Girolamo Deraco

Individual classes: dramaturgy, elements of vocal composition, elements of orchestration, elements of playwriting for opera

Lectures and Workshop by Teachers and Guest Artists

- 'How to finalize an opera project': Girolamo Deraco (Composer, Composition Teacher at the Conservatory 'L. Boccherini' of Lucca, Stage Director)
- 'Dramaturgy of the Scene and Action in Voice' (workshop): Alessandro J. Bianchi (Actor, Stage Director, Trainer)
- Analysis of opera: 'Madmen are open books, wide-open souls'. The journey from the conception to the creation of 'Nanof, l'altro' ('Nanof, the Other') a work inspired by the figure of Oreste Fernando Nannetti and his 'stone diary': Antonio Agostini (Composer, Guitarist)
- 'Live Electronics Opera': Eduardo Caballero (Composer, Sound designer, Composition Teacher at the Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey - Nuevo León, Mexico)

- 'How to develop sonic labyrinths': Lupino Caballero (Composer, Composition Teacher at the Conservatorio de Música de Chihuahua - Chihuahua, Mexico)
- 'What is algorithmic composition?': Fabio De Sanctis De Benedictis (Composer, Composition Teacher at the Conservatory 'P. Mascagni' of Livorno)
- 'The thought behind musical writing': Ángel de la Hera (Composer, Sound Artist)
- 'How to shoot a video-theatrical works' (workshop): Salvatore Insana (Researcher, Audiovisual Artist, Photographer)
- 'Contemporary singing': Maria Elena Romanazzi (Soprano, Performer)
- 'The Voice' Alejandra Meza (Soprano, Teacher of Universidad Nacional de Asunción - Paraguay, Licenciatura en Música FADA / UNA)
- 'Percussions': Eusebio Sánchez (Percussionist, Artistic Director Q-SIÓN ensemble - Nuevo León, Mexico)
- 'Writing for accordion' Domenico Raso (Accordionist)
- 'The librettist, the unknown': Gabriele Micheli (Librettist, Pianist, Conductor)
- 'Voices form the past': Giuseppe Nicolò (Gramophones Collector, TV Presenter, Writer and Librettist)

VENUES

The course, July 23rd - August 8th, will take place:

- July 23rd, Lucca - Complesso di San Michele (Head quarter Fondazione Cassa Risparmio Lucca)
- July 23rd to 31th, Ostra - Foresteria Comunale/Teatro La Vittoria
- August 1st to 8th, Lucca - Complesso di San Michele

COSTS

- Participants, can choose between two options:

1. option, € 2.400,00 - including (maximun five rooms at disposal):

- Participation fee
- Accommodation in Ostra and travel Lucca/Ostra/Lucca
- Accommodation in Lucca (private room, located in the city center, with shared kitchen and bathroom)

2. option, € 2.000,00 - including:

- Participation fee
- Accommodation in Ostra and travel Lucca/Ostra/Lucca (shared room, kitchen and bathroom)

Travel and food are not included in costs (except for the travel Lucca/Ostra).

- Auditors, € 250,00

SCHOLARSHIPS

Request a scholarship (please specify a motivation) together with your submission email. Three scholarships of € 500,00 each, dedicated to three great masters of Lucca: Giacomo Puccini, Alfredo Catalani and Luigi Boccherini, will be assigned by the committee of the course after a selection.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONS

Lucca is an important music cultural and tourist destination. Very important composers were born in the city, such as: Giacomo Puccini, Luigi Boccherini, Alfredo Catalani and many others.

Lucca is easily accessible by train from international airports in Rome and Milan, or can be reached from regional airports in Pisa, Florence, with trains and buses connections.

Lucca is also close to many touristic places such as: Pisa (30 minutes), Livorno (45 minutes), Florence (1.5 hours), Cinque Terre (2 hours), Siena (2.5 hours), Rome (3 hours), and Viareggio (30 minutes - the 'beach' of Lucca).

The course will include a free entrance at the Puccini Museum - Casa Natale, Lucca (the house where Giacomo Puccini was born),

Ostra (1194) is a small town nestled on one of the characteristic hills of the Marche region, overlooking the Misa valley. Since 2003, Ostra has been awarded the orange flag of the Italian Touring Club, a mark of tourist and environmental quality for small inland towns.

Not far away is the town of Jesi (18 km), where the composer Giovanbattista Pergolesi was born, while the regional capital (Ancona) is about 40 km away.

INFO

For further information (travel & lodging, food discounts...)

E-mail: info@puccini-ioocal.it

GUEST ARTISTS



Antonio Agostini, Composer, Guitarist.

Antonio Agostini, born in Viareggio on July 7, 1969. Guitarist, he began his musical studies with Lilia Bemini in Viareggio; he studied composition at the "G. Puccini" State Conservatory in La Spezia and privately with Riccardo Dapelo. He specialized (1996-2002) in composition with Giacomo Manzoni at the Fiesole School of Music, where he received a scholarship for the 2001-2002 course. From 1992 to 2002, he attended courses and masterclasses with Karlheinz Stockhausen, Luciano Berio, Pierre Boulez, Salvatore Sciarrino, Adriano Guarnieri, Helmut Lachenmann, Luca Francesconi, Sylvano Bussotti, and Nicola Sani. In 1999, he won the "Premio Veretti". He curated the musical portion (for two consecutive years), in Viareggio and Massa Carrara) of the exhibition "La vita agra - L'arte della resistenza." For two consecutive years (2002 and 2003), he was among the composers selected for "Compositori a Confronto," a national exhibition of young composers established by the "Achille Peri" Conservatory of Reggio Emilia. In 2005, he won first prize at the "Dimitri Shostakovich" international composition competition in Moscow. In 2008, he won first prize at the "Musici Mojanesi" international composition competition. In 2010, invited by the music department of the EAFIT University in Medellin (Colombia), he held two analysis and composition seminars, followed by a concert of his music. Also in 2010, he was invited by the Galerie Mario Mazzoli in Berlin for a monographic concert. In 2012, he received a commission from violist Cornelia Petroiu and saxophonist and composer Daniel Kientzy for a work for viola solo and trio (released on CD in 2013), and was a guest composer at the Nova Musica studios in Paris. In 2013, he was among the composers invited by the New Made Ensemble to the Bellagio Music Festival. In 2014, he was among the composers invited by the Center for Contemporary Music in Milan to perform at the Italian Composers Forum 2014. In 2016, he won first prize in the international "Call for Scores" at the Sirga Festival in Catalonia, Spain, and was a guest composer at the Bellagio Music Festival 2016. In 2017, he was a guest composer for the "Five Days of Milan Festival" and was invited to Vienna by the Ensemble Reconsil for the Wien Modern Festival. Since 2017, he has been a guest teacher at the 'Puccini international opera course' in Lucca, offering analysis courses. In 2018, he was a guest composer at the Edison Denisov Festival in Tomsk, Siberia, for a series of composition masterclasses and a concert dedicated to him, and was a finalist in the "Nuova Consonanza - Franco Evangelisti" International Competition. In New York, he met and studied with Chou Wen-Chung, pupil of Edgard Varèse. In 2019, he was a guest composer at Hope University in Liverpool and the "Pixels Ensemble" for the "Angel Field" Festival. He won the Call for Scores at the 2019 Risuonanze Festival, and was a guest composer with the Noodus Ensemble in Mexico for the "Cultura Mazatlan" Festival and at the "Dissonanzen Festival" in Naples. In 2020, he was a finalist at the "Taukay-Città di Udine" international competition and a guest composer at the "Frescobaldi International Festival" in Rome. From 2021 to 2024, he was a guest composer at the festivals "SpazioMusica" (Cagliari), "Taverna Maderna" (Padua), "Parade Electronique" in Milan, and "MotoContrario" (Trento). In 2025, he received a commission from the Teatro Lirico Sperimentale in Spoleto, as part of the 79th Opera Season, for the opera "Nanof, l'altro," dedicated to the story of Oreste Fernando Nannetti and his graffiti at the Volterra mental asylum. His music, from solo instruments to vocal and symphonic works, has been performed in Italy and abroad by renowned musicians, singers, and conductors, including Irvine Arditti, Rohan De Saram, Vinko Globokar, Flavio Emilio Scogna, Yalda Zamani, Alexei Vinogradov, Paolo Carlini, Francesco Gesualdi, Michele Bianchini, Giacomo Piermatti, Rocco Rescigno, Daniel Kientzy, Felicita Brusoni, Silvia Cignoli, Ilaria Baldaccini, MotoContrario Ensemble, Moscow Contemporary Music Ensemble, Ensemble KontraPunkte, Monesis Ensemble, Talea Ensemble, Ensemble Multilaterale, Ensemble Reconsil, Edison Denisov College Orchestra, and many others. He has participated as a guitarist in various radical music improvisation festivals. His works are published by the music publishing house Ars Publica and on compact disc by Aliamusica, Nova Musica, Ars Poletium, Da Vinci, and others. He teaches electric guitar and composition in Viareggio and Torre del Lago.



Alejandra Meza, Soprano.

Theater of Universidad Nacional de Asunción - Paraguay, Licenciatura en Música FADA / UNA), she made her solo debut in Germany at the Bach Festival Leipzig 2022 with the Bach Collegium of Asunción and subsequently performed in a solo concert at the Otto-Braun Saal in Berlin with the Bach Society of Paraguay under the baton of Maestro Diego Sanchez Haase.

In 2021, she sang in the premiere of three chamber operas at the Puccini Chamber Opera Festival in Lucca: Anna o Bertha by Chelotti, Cibernstein by Martínez, and Walter Ego by Viñales. In 2019, she starred in the world premiere of G. Deraco's opera diptych Universo - Oceano with the Symphony Orchestra of the Congress of Paraguay. In 2018, she was given the leading role of Pancha in the world premiere of D. Sanchez. Haase's opera Pancha y Elisa, alongside the Paraguayan National Symphony Orchestra. She was the soloist in Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and in the same year made her debut as a soloist in Mexico with Fauré's Requiem under the baton of Maestro X. Ribes. A few months later, she sang as a soloist in Mozart's Requiem at the Ignacio A. Pane Theater in Paraguay. In 2017, she made her debut at the SODRE Theater in Uruguay as Clarita in Sorozábal's zarzuela La del Manojó de Rosas under the baton of Maestro I. Pilone. She also sang in Massenet's educational opera Cendrillon conducted by Maestro J. Casasbellas (Ar). She made her debut in the role of Pamina in Mozart's opera Die Zauberflöte with the National Symphony Orchestra of Asunción (OSN). She was a soloist in Vivaldi's Gloria in D major and sang the role of Carolina in Cimarosa's Il Matrimonio Segreto with the National Symphony Orchestra of Asunción (OSN). She graduated with a Master's degree in Opera Singing from the B. Maderna Conservatory in Cesena, Italy, with top marks of 110/110 under the guidance of soprano A. Caiello in 2021. Previously, she obtained a Master's degree in Music with a specialization in Singing from the National University of Asunción under the guidance of American soprano J. Cohen in 2019. She has performed in countries such as Germany, Norway, Italy, Malta, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay, and Chile.



Domenico Raso, Accordionist.

From a very young age, Domenico Raso has experienced music as a central part of his personal development and his Calabrian roots. Growing up immersed in the melodies of his homeland, he absorbed its rhythms and sonic colors, transforming them into expressive material for his accordion. Throughout his career, he has performed in prestigious theatres and concert halls in Italy and abroad, including the Museo del Violino and the Sferisterio di Macerata. In 2025, he reached an important milestone in Paris at the Salle des fêtes de la Mairie du XIIème arrondissement, where he premiered a work for accordion and saxophone together with the Spanish saxophonist S. Martín. With her, he forms the duo DuoVento, with which he has performed numerous concerts across Spain, Italy, and Europe, bringing their music to an international audience. In 2022, he was mentioned in the book *Il mio analista è un basso elettrico* by F. Delogu, former director of Cosmopolitan Italia, with the phrase: "Domenico speaks with notes and plays words." Alongside his concert activity, he has had the opportunity to study with some of the most distinguished masters on the international scene, participating in seminars and masterclasses at prestigious institutions such as the Royal Academy of Music in London with O. Murray, as well as with J. Macerollo (Canada), S. Hussong (Germany), V. Vasović (Serbia), and many others. He has participated in numerous national and international competitions, receiving several first prizes, including First Absolute Prize at the International Competition "Città di Palmanova" (Italy), at the International Competition "Città di Pula" (Croatia), and at the Alcobaça International Accordion Competition (Portugal). Deeply committed to expanding the contemporary repertoire for accordion, he collaborates with international composers such as María E. Luc, G. Deraco, J. M. Prieto, E. Caballero, R. Bellafronte, D. Sánchez Haase, and N. A. Yávar, contributing to the creation and performance of new works that broaden the instrument's language. He is currently completing his degree at Musikene under the guidance of I. Alberdi, M. Sevarlic, and M. Iñarga, focusing on the development of contemporary accordion repertoire.

PRINCIPAL TEACHERS



Girolamo Deraco, Composer, Professor, Contemporary Opera Stage Director. He is Professor of Composition at the Conservatory Luigi Boccherini of Lucca and Principal Teacher and President of the PUCCHINI International Opera Composition Academy Lucca. His lyric operas have been played in Carnegie Hall (New York, USA), Gran Teatro J. Asunción Flores (Asunción, Paraguay), Centro de las artes (Monterrey, Mexico), Bartokplusz Miskolci Operafesztivál (Miskolc, Hungary), Tiroler Festspiele Erl (Erl, Austria), and in Italy at the Festival Pucciniano, Auditorium Parco della Musica, Festival Play.it, and many others. He has been a finalist and the winner of almost forty-five international composition contests, including the Bartokplusz Miskolci Operafesztivál (Joint prize) in Hungary (where he set two Guinness world records registered in Hungary, the shortest the shortest opera ever written - 8 seconds - and the most played opera during a single evening - 17 times), Anima Mundi, and many others. He received the 'Award of Merit' from the President of Italian Republic at the Premio Abbado Award 2015. He has received commissions by Farnesina - Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Italy), MiBAC Lucca Massa Carrara - Italian Ministry of Culture (Italy), Embajada de Italia en Paraguay (Paraguay), Italian synchronized swimming team (Italy), Tiroler Festspiele Erl (Austria), Bartók Plusz Operafesztivál (Hungary), Festival della Robotica di Pisa in collaboration with Festival Pucciniano (Italy), and many others. He has collaborated with renowned international orchestras, ensembles and artists, and his music has been performed in important festivals and broadcasted on radio all around the world. Several CDs have been released of his works, including recording by Orchestra Haydn, I Pomeriggi Musicali, Etymos Ensemble, among others. He has been president and jury member in international composition competitions, and a teacher for international masterclasses. In 2008 he received a Master's in Music Composition with the highest grade (10/10), cum laude, special mention, and a scholarship from the Conservatory "L. Boccherini" Lucca with Maestro Rigacci (first composer since 1842, when the institute was founded, to have achieved this accolade). In 2020 he received a Master in Artistic Direction and Music Management with the highest grade, from the Conservatory "L. Boccherini" Lucca. With Maestro Corghi he studies in Composition at the Chigiana Academy of Siena, Italy, 2008-2010 (2008-2009 with Scholarships, and 2010 with Scholarship and 'Certificate of Merit'). He studied Opera Stage Directing at the Fondazione Zeffirelli of Florence and Paolo Grassi School of Milan. His music is published by Edizioni Sconfinarte and EMA Vinci, Scomegna Edizioni. Current positions: Professor of Composition and Orchestration at the Conservatory "L. Boccherini" (Lucca), Founder, President and Teacher of the 'PUCCHINI International Opera Composition Academy Lucca', which includes: the 'PUCCHINI International Opera Composition Course', and the 'PUCCHINI Chamber Opera Festival' and 'PUCCHINI International Opera Composition Competition'.



Alessandro J. Bianchi, Actor, Stage Director, Trainer. He graduated as an actor and director at the SAT, at GITIS, with Jurij Alschiz. He specializes in theatrical pedagogy and theatrical biomechanics with Nikolaj Karpov; He studies in Commedia dell'Arte at the "Scuola Sperimentale dell'Attore" in Pordenone and at the "Kalambur Theater" in Venice. He specializes with Anatolij Vassiliev in Dramatic Art. Workshop creator of Commedia dell'Arte "Officina Commedia dell'Arte", of MITOS Italian meeting of social theater. Actor / Director of "Cantiere Obraz_Laboratorio Permanente", Company previously directed by Nikolaj Karpov. He specializes in Opera direction at the Zeffirelli Foundation. He specializes in the areas of Social Theater: Theater of the Oppressed, Playback Theater, Invisible Theater, Psychodrama, Sociodrama. Theater director at the C.R. of San Gimignano, Lucca and Massa. Co-founder of Dublab Sr.l. Film Production House. Founder, Executive Director and Teacher of the 'PUCCHINI International Opera Composition Academy Lucca' which includes: the 'PUCCHINI International Opera Composition Course', and the 'PUCCHINI Chamber Opera Festival' and 'PUCCHINI International Opera Composition Competition'.

ADJUNCT TEACHERS



Eduardo Caballero, Mexican composer and sound artist, His musical studies have been in Mexico, the United States and Spain, his main teachers have been Ramiro L. Guerra, Victor Rasgado, Ignacio Baca Lobera, John Mallia and Josep Manuel Berenger. He has taken master classes with composers Beat Furrer, Mauricio Sotelo, Yan Marez, José Luis Castillo, Carola Bauckhold, and Joao Pedro Oliveira. He has been a member since 2019 of the National System of Creators of FONCA, has received, among others, the following recognitions: UANL Award for Arts 2021 - Auditory Arts, Nuevo León 2021 System for Artistic Impulse and Creation CONARTE, Cluster Prize 2018 Associazione di Compositori Lucca Italia, Finalist in the ALEA III International Composition Competition 2015.

Artist in residence at Millay Colony of the Arts (New York), Djerassi Resident Artists Program (California), LIPM Musical Research and Production Laboratory (Buenos Aires) and at the Mexican Center for Music and Sound Arts CMMAS.

He studied a Master in Sound Art at the University of Barcelona (2021-2023), a Composition Licentiate of the London College of Music University of West London 2022, postgraduate degree in composition at the Vermont College of Fine Arts (2013-2015), a Bachelor of Guitar and Composition Workshop at the Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey (1994-2003) and a two-time fellow at the Centro de Compositores de Nuevo León (2001,2005) Puccini International Opera Composition Course - Lucca Italy. Teacher: Girolamo Deraco (2017) He has taken classes at IMPULS-Ensamble Academie Composition Class in Graz Austria (2005) with Beat Furrer and Bernhard Lang.



Lupino Caballero completed a bachelor's degree in composition at the "Conservatorio de Música de Chihuahua". In addition to various courses and diplomas, of which it is worth highlighting classes in Julio Estrada's clinics, four diplomas in Composition at the "Centro Nacional de las Artes" and two postgraduate degrees in: Sound Design and Sound Creation at the "Universitat de Barcelona".

He is currently a teacher at the "Conservatorio de Música de Chihuahua", member of the "Nuevo Frente Sonoro" collective, organizer of the Sonidos Nacientes concert series and member of the organizing committee of the "Foro de Música Nueva Armando Luna".

His work has been recorded in 15 record productions, performed in 13 different countries and he belonged to the "Sistema Nacional de Creadores de Arte" (2019-2022).

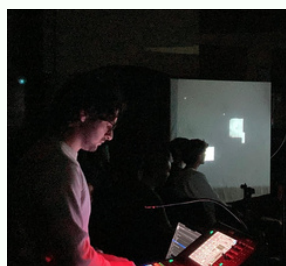
Among the awards received, we can highlight the "Premio Chihuahua" in the Music category (2010), the highest award for scientific and artistic achievements awarded in the state of Chihuahua.

In September 2017, a bronze plaque was installed in the Town Hall of the Municipal Presidency of Chihuahua that includes his name, for having composed the music for the anthems of the Heroic Fire Department and the Municipal Police.



Fabio De Sanctis De Benedictis is professor of Music Analysis and of Composition in "Pietro Mascagni" Conservatory. He graduated in Violin, Choir Music and Conducting, Composition, and specialized with Giacomo Manzoni. Winner in various Composition competitions, he is published and/or recorded on CD by fonè, SAM, Ars Publica, Setola di maiale, Musica Nova and Cero Records. He is performed in Europe, USA, South America. His papers have been published on specialized journals in Italy and abroad. A paper of him is present in "OM Composer's Book 3" edited by Ircam/Delatour. He took part as lecturer to international conferences. He has been professor in Pisa University and in Cosenza University, and he has

held algorithmic composition Masterclasses in Genoa and Sassari Conservatories. Author of an algorithmic composition library for OpenMusic, collaborates to the developing of Opusmodus algorithmic composition software. Member of GATM (Italian Society for Analysis and Theory of Music) Scientific Committee for the 2018-2021 and 2021-2024 triennium.



Ángel de la Hera is a composer and sound artist. His artistic interests focus on new forms of opera and music theatre, musical intertextuality and interdisciplinary creation. He studies Composition and Sonology at Real Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid with José María Sánchez-Verdú, Julián Ávila, Alberto Bernal and Alicia Díaz de la Fuente. He has received masterclasses from Chaya Czernowin, Rebecca Saunders, Carola Bauckholt, Gabriele Manca, Elena Mendoza, Mauricio Sotelo, Isabel Mundry, Fabián Panisello and George Lewis, amongst others.

He has received commissions from festivals such as the XXI and XXII Festival de Música Española de Cádiz, Festival Mixtur, the 33rd Music Biennale Zagreb, Festival RESIS and Piano City Madrid. His works have been performed at venues including Teatro de la Zarzuela, Real Teatro del Retiro, Auditorio Nacional de España, Gran Teatro Falla and Auditorio de Galicia, amongst others. He has been selected for several prestigious programs, including the Festival Mixtur Sound Experimentation Workshop (2023, 2024 and 2025), the Manuel de Falla Chair of Composition (2024), the 33rd Masterclass for Composers of the Music Biennale Zagreb, the Orchestral Composition Workshop organized by the Real Filharmonía de Galicia and the PUCCHINI International Opera Composition Course Accademy Lucca 2025. He has received various distinctions, including First Prize at the II Teatro de la Zarzuela Composition Competition and Fundación SGAE Creation Grants (2022 and 2024). Recent premieres include *Sónar*, an opera-installation programmed by Teatro Real for its 2024/25 season; *Trampantojo*, an orchestral work commissioned and performed by the Real Filharmonía de Galicia; and *Sostener el Sol*, an installation presented in Santander in collaboration with sculptor and poet José Luis Vicario and the Children's Choir of the Community of Madrid. As a music editor specializing in contemporary music, he has worked for publishing houses such as Breitkopf & Härtel (Germany), Edition Peters (United Kingdom) and Universal Edition (Austria), as well as on self-published projects.



Eusebio Sánchez a distinguished percussionist and music producer born in Monterrey, Mexico, stands as a dynamic force in the realm of music, seamlessly merging traditional and contemporary elements on a global scale. Graduating with honors from Escuela Superior de Música y Danza de Monterrey, he honed his craft under the mentorship of prominent percussionists from Mexico and worldwide. Sánchez holds a degree in Engineering in Musical Production from Tecnológico de Monterrey, where he became the principal percussionist in the Orquesta Sinfónica del Tecnológico de Monterrey. His academic journey extended to a master's program at Universidad Alfonso X el Sabio in Madrid, Spain, under the guidance of renowned Spanish percussionist Juanjo Guillem.

In 2015, Eusebio received international acclaim by winning the first prize in a national competition at Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. This achievement led to a scholarship-supported "Professionalization Residency for Classical Music Performers" in London, where he crafted and performed the album "Xilitla." This notable work explores the contemporary cultural ties between Mexico and the United Kingdom, showcasing the marimba's versatility.

As the founder of Q-SIÓN, an innovative percussion ensemble, Sánchez explores performance art using unconventional instruments while interpreting contemporary repertoire. His collaborations extend to a multitude of composers globally, fostering a diverse musical landscape. Eusebio has been recognized with grants since 2019, supporting projects like "Paralelo 30" and "FRI-QUI." His solo performances grace esteemed stages worldwide, marking him as a trailblazer in the fusion of traditional and avant-garde musical expressions.



Maria Elena Romanazzi, Soprano, Performer.

She started studying ballet and artistic gymnastics at a very young age, and went on to develop a strong passion for music and singing. Her initial specialization in the classical repertoire was naturally followed by a keen interest for contemporary music. She has collaborated with well-known composers such as Luis De Pablo, Luca Francesconi, Michele dall'Ongaro, J.B. Barriere, taking part in Italian as well as international premieres (including works by Kaajja Saariaho, Giya Kancheli, W.Bolcom).

She has performed in prestigious Theatres and Festivals, such as the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, RomaEuropaFestival, Urticanti, Cini Foundation (for which she performed songs by L. Nono, directed by André Richard, with equipment provided by the Experimental Studio of Freiburg), Teatro dal Verme in Milan, Teatro Verdi in Florence, Opera House in Amsterdam, Festival "Les Flâneries Musicales" in Reims, Bartok Opera Festival in Miskolc etc. Her performances have been broadcast by Radio 3 and Radio CEMAT. Since 2011, she has frequently collaborated with the director Giancarlo Cauteruccio, taking part in many of his projects of experimental theatre. After graduating in Operatic Singing and Music Didactics, she took specialization courses with Manuela Custer, Gabriella Bartolomei and Alda Caiello. With the latter, she brilliantly achieved a High Specialization Diploma in Contemporary Operatic Singing at the Opera Academy in Verona. During her research on contemporary vocalism at the Nederlandse Opera in Amsterdam, she worked with experts coming from all parts of Europe. She is presently engaged on a European tour with a new production of "La voix humaine" by Poulanc and "Facebooking" by Girolamo Deraco, which is being widely praised by both the audience and the critics. She has completed a Master in performing Arts and Planning of Cultural Events at the Università Cattolica in Milan. She also is a singing teacher at the Liceo Musicale Dante in Florence.



Salvatore Insana pursues his research between moving images, photography and other forms of revision and erosion of the imaginary.

In 2011 he creates with Elisa Turco Liveri, the Dehors/Audela collective, giving life to video- theatrical works, dance performances, audiovisual research projects, experimental documentaries, video dance works and experimental workshops.

Their work has been presented at numerous festivals and exhibition venues, including: Triennale di Milano, La Briqueterie (Paris), Bozar, Dansecentrumjette (Bruxelles), Eye Museum (Amsterdam), Pool Festival (Berlin), Fabbrica Europa, Cango (Firenze), Lavanderia a Vapore (Torino), Maxxi, Macro, Teatri di Vetro (Roma), Accademia di Belle Arti (Bologna), CrossAward (Verbania), Dance & Foco Festival (Rio de Janeiro), Dello Scompiglio (Lucca), Anghiari Dance Hub, Kilowatt Festival, Sofia Underground Performance Art Festival, Image Contre Nature (Marseille).

In parallel, Salvatore Insana carries out an intense activity of research, production and recombination of codes and linguistic structures, within the audiovisual arts, between video art, experimental cinema, visual anthropology, photography and multimedia installation. From 2020 he began, in collaboration with the Aamod Archive in Rome, a multi-stage research on the exploration, revisitation and creative reuse of film and photographic archives.

Several musicians and sound artists have collaborated in the creation of his audiovisual works, including Edison Studio, Jacob Kirkegaard, Simone Pappalardo, Giulia Vismara, Fabio Cifariello Ciardi, Ghedalia Tazartes, Silvia Cignoli, Caterina Palazzi, Paolo Spaccamonti, Maria Sole De Pascali, Francesca Sortino, Girolamo Deraco, Nicola Sergio.

His works have been presented within numerous festivals and multidisciplinary exhibition events in Italy and more than thirty other countries.



Gabriele Micheli, Librettist, Conductor, Pianist.

Graduated in Piano (Lucca 1980) and Choral Conducting (Bologna 1984) he studied the interpretation on historical keyboard instruments with D. Chorzempa, and masterclasses led by T. Koopman, K. Gilbert, K. Kite. He trained his voice in many masterclasses. He worked with I. Partridge, E. Kirkby, E. Tubb. He worked as a répétiteur at Conservatorio of Genoa (1985 - 1989).

He worked as a répétiteur at Conservatorio of Genoa (1985 - 1989) and Parma (1990 - 1995) and in 1996 he won the place of conductor of the Choir at the Musical Institute "P. Mascagni" in Livorno. He has been working since 1984 as harpsichordist, substitute and choir conductor with H. Handt, Orchestra Regionale Toscana, Solisti Aquilani, Pro Musica, L'Homme Armée, I Solisti del Madrigale, Pro Cantione Antiqua, The Consort of Musicke. He recorded for Bongiovanni, Sonitus, Nuova Era, Musica Oscura, RAI, Dynamic. In June 2019 his text "Il pappatacio" for the music of Silvia Marchetti won the prize "Valerio Valoriani" held by Teatro del Giglio in Lucca for the best "libretto" in the season "Puccini Chamber Opera Festival 2019".



Giuseppe Nicolò, Gramophones Collector, TV Presenter, Writer and Librettist.

Collector of antique vinyls and gramophones, his collection consists of almost 150 gramophones and 10,000 vinyls.

A room of the palace of culture "Pasquino Crupi" Reggio Calabria (Italy) is dedicated to the gramophones of his collection.

In June 2017 Giuseppe Nicolò and his gramophones collection participated at the Festival Bela Bartok in Hungary with the project 'Phonè - for orchestra of 100 gramophones and 100 singers' written by the composer Girolamo Deraco.

He has held masterclasses on traditional opera at the 'Dante Alighieri' University for Foreigners in Reggio Calabria, the 'Francesco Cilea' Music Conservatory, the 'Musicalia Foundation' and many others. He has been co-host on Reggio Tv television for series entitled 'L'opera non è vietata ai minori'. In 2009 he was awarded by Minister Luca Zaia at the 'Paolo Sylos Labini' poetry section competition with the poem 'E' notte sull'Aspromonte'. He is the author of the librettos of the operas 'Oceano' and 'Universo' commissioned by the Farnesina - Ministry of Foreign Affairs with music of the composer Girolamo Deraco. His book "CIC l'ultima missione" is edited by Laruffa Editore.

"L'ispirazione è un risveglio,
una fuga da tutte le facoltà umane,
e si manifesta in tutte le grandi conquiste artistiche"

"Inspiration is an awakening,
a quickening of all man's faculties,
and it is manifested in all high artistic achievements"

Giacomo Puccini