

Program

An Academy for the Grand Dukes of Tuscany

From Florentine palaces to the court of Naples

Elena Cecchi Fedi, Soprano
Maurizio Lo Piccolo, Baritone
Carlo Ipata, Flute and Conductor



Grand Duchy of Tuscany

Or che d'orrido verno, Cantata for soprano, transverse flute, violins, violetta and bass.

Luigi Cherubini (Florence 1760 - Paris 1842)
Perchè mai, perché son nata, Cavatina for soprano, violins, violetta and bass

Niccolò Jommelli (Aversa 1714 - Naples 1774)
Concerto for traverso, 2 violins and basse

Tommaso Traetta (Bitonto 1727 - Venezia 1779)
Oimè vene lo Conte!
Recitativo and aria buffa in Neapolitan dialect for Baritone

Francesco Gasparini (Camaione 1661 - Rome 1727)
 Selection of arias and duets from the comic Intermede **Mirena e Floro**

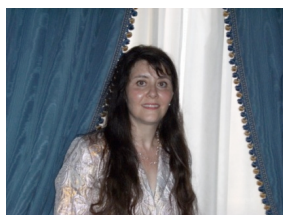
Niccolò Porpora (Naples 1686 - 1768)

Cast : 2 singers, 7 instrumentalists. 2 vl, vla, vlc, harpsichord, theorbo/guitar

This program centers around the precious repertoire stemming from Tuscany in the late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. It pays homage to both instrumental music, thanks to the performance of works for flute with various other combinations of instruments, and to the vocal repertoire, magnificently rendered by the voices of soprano, Elena Cecchi Fedi, and baritone, Maurizio Lo Piccolo, protagonists in a selection of airs and cavatinas, accompanied by the musicians of AuserMusici in an elegant and refined interpretation.

The program includes, as well, an incursion into the genre of the Tuscan comic intermezzos of Francesco Gasparini, « Mirena et Floro » with its brilliant and audacious writing. And to conclude, a glance at the Neapolitan repertoire and the secular cantata through one of its principal representatives, Antonio Porpora, and a work often performed during the academies of the grand dukes of Tuscany and at the court of Naples.

Elena Cecchi Fedi



Maurizio Lo Piccolo, baritono/basso



Elena Cecchi Fedi, soprano, received her diploma with highest honours in voice and vocal music from the “Luigi Cherubini” conservatory in Florence and subsequently received a diploma in organ and organ composition from the “G.B. Martini” conservatory in Bologna. She has performed in Italy and abroad as a soloist in venues of prestige, such as Turin, Palermo, the Barga Opera Festival, Cremona, Mantua, Lisbon, Innsbruck, Paris, Versailles, at the Festival de Ambronay, the Festival de Beaune, at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, the San Maurizio Concerts in Milan, at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, and the Konzerthaus in Berlin.

Elena Cecchi Fedi has performed also in the Netherlands with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Rotterdam conducted by Franz Brüggen (*Mass in B minor* by J.S. Bach). She has performed many recitals with Alan Curtis in United States, with R. Alessandrini, with C. Rousset and “Les Talens Lyriques” in France, at the Miami Bach festival, at the Curt-Sachs-Saal of Berlin, with “Les Muffatti” in Portugal, with A. Fedi (Amsterdam, Switzerland and Italy), with G. Garrido (Ensemble Elyma), with F. M. Sardelli and Modo Antiquo, F. Colusso and the Ensemble Seicentonovecento.

In 1994 she was awarded the “Boris Christoff” prize.

She collaborates regularly with the Auser Musici ensemble, with whom she has made many recordings and performed in concerts in Italy and abroad.

She has recorded under Virgin Classics, Opus 111, *Astrée* (with Christophe Coin and the “Ensemble Baroque de Limoges”), Arts, Glossa, K617, Tactus and Symphonia, Agorà, Stradivarius and Marc Aurel.

Maurizio Lo Piccolo

Born in Palermo he began his singing studies in 1995. After making his operatic debut in 1996 in the role of Don Chilone in Vinci’s *Erighetta e Don Chilone* for the Laboratorio Lirico of Palermo, he made his debut in 1997 at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo in R. Strauss’ *Der Rosenkavalier* (Hausknecht). This was followed by several appearances at the Teatro Massimo. Maurizio Lo Piccolo is a frequent interpreter of major buffo-roles from 18th century operas: Scarlatti’s *La Dirindina* (Don Carissimo), Galuppi’s *Il filosofo di campagna* (Don Tritemio), Pergolesi’s *La Serva padrona* (Uberto) and *Livietta e Tracollo* (Tracollo) in Bologna, Mozart’s *Bastien und Bastienne*, Paisiello’s *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in Taranto. He has performed extensively in the operas of the Mozart-Da Ponte trilogy: he has sung both Figaro and Conte d’Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*; Leporello and Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*, and has sung Don Alfonso and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*.

He has performed as well at the Festival d’Art Lyrique d’Aix-en-Provence, at the Opéra National de Lyon and in Vienna.

In 2009 he took on one of the main roles (Conte) in the world premiere in modern times of Salieri’s *Il mondo alla rovescia* at the Teatro Filarmonico in Verona, under the baton of Federico Maria Sardelli. A live recording of the opera has recently been released by Dynamic.

Maurizio Lo Piccolo has also performed works of Mozart, Haydn, Berlioz, Rossini, Stravinsky under the baton of conductors such as Riccardo Muti and Zubin Mehta.