

# FRANCESCA LEONARDI, piano

Performing in public from a young age, pianist Francesca Leonardi regularly appears in prestigious venues and festivals around the world. In 2015 she was a part of the Remembrance Day performance in the Santa Cecilia Hall of the Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome, broadcast worldwide by RAI. Other distinguished performances include Sala Verdi and Teatro dal Verme in Milan, Royal Albert Hall in London, “Les Flâneries Musicales” Festival in Reims, “Accademia Chigiana” in Siena and Politeama Theatre in Palermo for the Opening of the “Amici della Musica” season. Highlights of the coming season include a Trio tour and performances of Beethoven’s Triple Concerto alongside the Budapest MAV Orchestra. Solo and chamber music recitals will take Francesca to Italy, UK, Turkey, Germany, China, Japan and United States.

From her earliest years Francesca has earned distinction in many national and international competitions, winning 14 first prizes and, in 2011 she was awarded the Phoebe Benham Junior Fellow in Piano Accompaniment at the RCM. She gave her soloist début at 16 performing Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 13 in C major with the Rosetum Orchestra and has since been invited to join many Italian and international orchestras as a soloist. She has toured Japan, China, the US, where she is completing the set with all Beethoven piano concertos, and South America, where she performed at the Colon Theatre in Buenos Aires, for the “Semana musical Llao Llao” in Bariloche and Teatro Municipal in Rio de Janeiro for the opening ceremony of the Football World Cup in 2014, on a number of occasions. Francesca is actively involved in the field of chamber music performance and regularly performs with instrumentalists, singers and chamber ensembles. Since 2011, she frequently collaborates with acclaimed English pianist Nigel Clayton in piano duo performances.

Francesca has performed in many live broadcasts on RAI Radio and TV, Tv2000, Radio Classica, the Italian Swiss Radio, the Vatican Radio and selections from her CDs have been included in the soundtrack of the 2008 film “The beautiful Truth” by prize-winning director Steven Kroschel. Her first solo recording – Debussy’s Second Book of Preludes and Chopin’s Andante Spianato e Grande Polonaise, was published by “Classica Viva” Musical Editions in May 2007. She is also the first Italian female pianist to record for the prestigious label “Deutsche Grammophon”, recently completing a recording of the Beethoven Violin Sonatas with regular violin collaborator of thirteen years, Francesca Dego.

Born in Milan in 1984, Francesca began studying the piano at the age of three under the guidance of Graziella Bianchi and Paolo Bordoni. She graduated from the Milan Conservatoire in 2004 with top marks, cum laude, and special mention. She continued her studies at the Musical Academy in Pescara, at the Chigiana Academy in Siena and at the Royal College of Music in London where she was awarded both a Masters in Performance and Artist Diploma in Piano Accompaniment with Distinction in 2012, under Nigel Clayton and Roger Vignoles, generously supported by The Gordon Calway Stone Memorial Award.

From a very early age Francesca has shown enthusiasm and passion for teaching and following this passion has become a chamber music tutor at the “Ghedini” Conservatoire in Italy.

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