

ANTONIO BAZZINI (1818 – 1897)

Complete recording of Opera Transcriptions and Paraphrases

Duo Anca Vasile (violin) and Alessandro Trebeschi (piano)



Antonio Bazzini was born in Brescia two centuries ago. Aged 18, he met Paganini and got influenced by that master's art and style. Paganini encouraged Bazzini to begin his concert career that year and he quickly became one of the most highly regarded artists of his time. From 1841 to 1845 he lived in Germany, where he was much admired by Schumann both as a violinist and a composer. After toured Europe as a soloist for many years, he ended his concert career with a tour of the Netherlands in 1864. Part of his success was due to virtuoso transcriptions of Italian operas by Bellini and Donizetti, hugely requested by his contemporaries. His style and way of

transcribing remind what Liszt and other famous composers did for piano repertoire, adding transcriptions and paraphrases to the classic repertoire of pieces specifically composed for piano (or violin in this special case) only.

Returning to Brescia, Bazzini devoted himself to composition, gradually abandoning the virtuoso opera fantasias and character-pieces, which had formed a large part of his earlier work. He composed an opera, and produced a number of dramatic cantatas, sacred works, concert overtures, and symphonic poems over the next two decades. However, his greatest success as a composer was with his chamber music compositions. In 1868 he became president of the Società dei Concerti in Brescia, and was active in promoting and composing for quartet societies in Italy. In 1873 he became composition professor at the Milan Conservatory, where he taught Catalani, Mascagni and Puccini. Bazzini died in Milan on 10 February 1897.

Compositions for solo violin, violin and piano, violin and orchestra and many other ensembles including his favorite instrument has been highly regarded by violinist of different eras, who acknowledged the particularities of Bazzini's compositions, a mixture of Italian taste for melodies and technical asperity, which sometimes reminds of Paganini's most famous compositions. However, due to the huge quantity of works produced by the master, recording projects remained far to be completed, also for the difficulty in finding scores and manuscripts.

For this reason, we here propose the Complete Recording of Opera Transcriptions and Paraphrases by Antonio Bazzini, part of a more ambitious project of Complete Recording of Violin and Piano works.

The following fantasies and pieces have a forecast duration of 300 minutes, a program which covers 5 CDs. Some of them have been already performed live many times (op.50 for example is quite often played), while other pieces have been barely performed at the time of their composition, even if the high quality of music is hard to be denied.

Adagio, Variaz. e Finale sopra un tema di Bellini (I Capuleti e Montecchi)

Op.3 - Variations brillantes et Finale sur un theme de la Sonnambula

Op.8 - Fantaisie, sur plusieurs themes de l'opera Esmerelda, de Mazzucato

Op.10 - Fantaisie dramatique sur l'air final de Lucia di Lammermoor

Op.11 - Souvenir de Beatrice di Tenda

Op.17 - 6 Transcriptions et paraphrases

1. Casta Diva (Norma)
2. Variations brillantes sur plusieurs motifs (La Figlia del Reggimento)
3. Scène et romance (Lucrezia Borgia)
4. Fantaisie sur la romance et un choeur (La Favorita)
5. Finale Act II (Obéron)
6. Air (I Puritani)

Op.19 - Souvenir de La Sonnambula No. 1

Op.24 - Fantaisie sur des motifs d'Anna Bolena

Op.26 - Fantaisie sur La Sonnanbula No. 2

Op.27 - Il Pirata (Fantaisie de Concert)

Op.40 - La straniera (Fantasie)

Op.50 - Fantasia su motivi della 'Traviata'

Souvenir d'Attila. Fantasia brillante

I Masnadieri. Fantasia per violino e pianoforte concertanti

Tre fantasie per violino e pianoforte concertanti sopra motivi dell'opera Saffo di Pacini



Anca Vasile, born in 1979 in Romania, began her violin studies at the age of 4 in Tulcea, her birthplace. Later on, she attended Music High School "George Enescu" and National University of Music in Bucarest until 2005. After moving to Italy in 2006, she began studying at National Academy "S.Cecilia" in Rome, enrolling to a Master Degree in Violino, under the guide of Domenico Nordio, graduating successfully in 2009. She won nine national prizes in Romania and three international prizes, in particular the last one in 2010 as a soloist at "Rovere d'Oro" International Competition.

She participated at several great international competition such as "Queen Elizabeth" in Brussels, "Violin Masters" in Montecarlo and played as a soloist for Bucarest Wind Orchestra, Lyceum Strings, Orchestra of National University of Music, the orchestras of Ramnicu Valcea, Galati and others.

After participating to many masterclasses of important violinist such as Yuri Torcinsky (Konzertmaister of Manchester Orchestra), Mark Lubovsky (winner of Paganini, Sibelius and Tchaikowsky Competitions), Nabueko Aseada (Konzertmaister of Berliner Philharmoniker), Giulio Franzetti (Konzertmaister of La Scala Milano Theatre), Kim Nam Num, Yvry Giltis, Stefan Gheorghiu (great romanian violin teacher), she teaches violin at Brescia and Darfo Conservatory since 2012.

She recorded two CDs with music of the Italian contemporary composer Alberto Bonera. Part of several chamber ensembles, she played concerts in Romania, Moldavia, Austria, Italy, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Monaco, Belgium, United Kingdom, Netherlands and others.



Alessandro Trebeschi, born in 1980, graduated in Mantua Conservatory in 2000. Meanwhile he continues his studies in the Universities, graduating at the age of 23 in Political Economics (Univ.of Brescia) and at the age of 25 in International Integrated Economics (Univ. of Pavia, spec. in South-American Politics and microcredit studies).

He has been pupil of Rinaldo Rossi, Cristiano Burato and Piernarciso Masi, and he followed specialization courses with Michel Beroff, Aldo Ciccolini, Paolo Bordoni. He has been also invited by Kawai to take part to a special masterclass held by Klaus Hellwig in Dusseldorf.

As a soloist in 2009 he earned a honour medal at "M.Canals" competition and a 4th prize at the "2nd Concours Europeen de Piano" held in Le Havre (France) where he played with Warsaw Symphonic Orchestra. He has been semifinalist at the "Iturbi Competition" in Valencia (2010). He won prizes in the competitions of Magliano Sabina, "C.Togni" in Gussago, "Città di Pesaro", "L.Perosi" in Tortona, "Città di Massa", "Rovere d'oro" in S.Bartolomeo and others in Italy and abroad.

He played in several countries: Italy (Verdi Hall, Milan), Poland (European Representative Palace in Cracovia), Spain (Teatro Liceu in Barcelona) Moldavia (Organ Hall in Kishinev), Macedonia (Bitola Festival and Skopje Conservatory), Germany (Kawai Hall in Krefeld, Dusseldorf, Wesel, Essen), Austria (Eisenstadt, Haydn museum), France (Ouistreham, Paris), Japan (Hamamatsu). As piano repetiteur he collaborated with the "Maggio Musicale Fiorentino" theater in Florence, "Comunale" theatre in Bologna, Teatro Grande in Brescia, Teatro Sociale in Como for the preparation of operas, playing under the baton of Zubin Mehta, Enrico Maria Sardelli, Michele Mariotti, Giampaolo Bisanti and many others.