

Press Release

**XXIV Rina Sala Gallo International Piano Competition**

**Monza, September 25th - October 2nd 2016**

*Requirements, rules and programmes are now online at [www.concorsosalagallo.it](http://www.concorsosalagallo.it)*

*Final round and winners' concert with Orchestra laVerdi*

*Total amount of prizes: 31'500 euro, plus concerts in Italy's best halls*

*Vovka Askenazy Artistic Director, Enzo Restagno new Jury Chairman*

Monza, December 2015 - The Rina Sala Gallo Association is glad to announce the **XXIV International Piano Competition, which will take place from September 25th 2016 to October 2nd 2016** at Teatro Manzoni in Monza, Italy. Applications for this biennial competition are online now at [www.concorsosalagallo.it](http://www.concorsosalagallo.it) and are due from Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 to Apr. 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. Applicants must have been born on or Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1985 and Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> 2001.

**Vovka Ashkenazy is recon firmed artistic director, while musicologist and artistic director Enzo Restagno** will serve as Jury Chairman, and **laVerdi Orchestra** will perform with the finalists, on both the final round and at the winners' concert, on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

"The Competition's renewed mission, states Artistic Director Vovka Ashkenazy, is to identify the youngest and most promising pianists from all around the world, in the very first phase of their professional careers, to appreciate their qualities and enhance their chances of success by supporting their creative efforts, alongside the economic commitment of their families, during this delicate 'rite of passage'. With this aim in mind, the 24th RSG will rely on the expertise of such pre-eminent international musicians as **Bruno Canino, Jin Ju, Alexey Lebedev, Derek Han, Sunghoon Hwang, and Enrica Ciccarelli (with Lorenzo Di Bella as a possible stand-in) on the Jury**. Enzo Restagno, the famous musicologist and artistic director will be our President. In accordance with the policies adopted by several major WFIMC competitions, **our voting system will be based on a Yes/No-Pass/Stop procedure** up until the final round. This will facilitate both the work flow of all the participants, and the overall communication process. The Prize winners, as usual, will be chosen through an in-depth deliberation among jurors".

**Prizes** include checks and grants for a total amount of 31'500 euros and a series of concerts, to be held by the winner in Italy's most important classical music seasons and concert halls, through all 2016 and 2017. The first prize Città di Monza winner will receive a check of € 15.000, the second prize Credito Artigiano will receive € 7.500 and the third prize Rotary Monza est e Rotary Monza ovest, € 5.000. Grants include the Rina Sala Gallo Associazione € 2.000 prize and Prof. Emma Sirtori Bonetti Bach prize, for the best interpretation of Bach on the third round.

**Video screening.** A screening jury will select the competitors through online applications and video submissions, which will include one *Prélude and Fuge* from J.S. Bach's *Well Tempered Klavier*, one Chopin étude, one étude by either Liszt, Schumann, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, Ligeti or Godowsky, and a short work written on or after 1900. The jury will also select max 5 candidates among WFIMC competitions' first and second prizes winners, who will be exempt from participating to such screening. These applicants must apply from January 15<sup>th</sup> till April 10<sup>th</sup> 2016.

First round will include a Mozart or Haydn Sonata, and a work by Chopin (chosen among *Ballades*, *Barcarole*, *Polonaise* and *Scherzi*); second round includes a Beethoven Sonata and a work by either Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Schumann or Schubert. Third round will be a free, six pieces recital.

**Final.** The final round will be based on the interpretation of a piano and orchestra Concerto by either Mozart, Beethoven, Grieg, Schumann, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Rachmaninov, Mendelssohn, Scriabin, Tchaikovsky or Ravel. Competitors will be accompanied by Milano's **Orchestra Sinfonica Giuseppe Verdi conducted by Ruben Jais.**

**All competitors (max. 33) will be announced to the public on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2016.**

Competitors who wish so might be housed in Monza's volunteers and supporters apartments and will be equipped with a piano, while any accompanying person must provide for themselves.

Complete rules, requirements and all rounds' detailed programmes can be found at [www.concorsosalagallo.it](http://www.concorsosalagallo.it)

### **The Rina Sala Gallo International Piano Competition**

Rina Sala Gallo (1898-1980) was a pupil of Giovanni Anfossi, under whose tutelage she graduated, at a very young age, and with a special commendation, from the Conservatorio "G. Verdi" in Milan. She began her career as a concertist at around ten, immediately arousing the audiences and critics approval, and went on touring Italy and in Europe, and continuing to enjoy the same wave of success. Sala Gallo dedicated her life to the art of pianism, and founded a renowned piano school in Monza. In 1947, together with Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli and other exponents of the Italian music world, such as Tagliapietra, Gorini, Sanzogno, Vidusso, Alberto Mozzati and Margola, she founded the first Piano Competition ever organized in Monza. This first

season was followed by another two, in 1949 and 1967. From 1970, the Competition became biennial and took her name. Since 2009, it is a member of the World Federation of International Music Competitions.

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### **BIOGRAPHIES**

**The Artistic Director** - After completing his musical studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, **Vovka Ashkenazy**, who is of Russian and Icelandic parentage, made his debut in London at the Barbican Centre in 1983 with the London Symphony Orchestra under Richard Hickox, with whom he performed Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto. Since then, Vovka Ashkenazy's career has taken him all across Europe, and to Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the Americas. He has participated in the Marlboro Festival in Vermont, as well as the Edinburgh and Spoleto festivals. Orchestras he has appeared with include nearly all the major British orchestras as well as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Australian Chamber, and the Berlin Symphony Orchestras. Conductors he has worked with include Semyon Bychkov, Martin Fischer-Dieskau and Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, at venues such as the Hollywood Bowl, the Sydney Opera House, the Berlin Philharmonic and the Royal Festival Hall, London.

Vovka Ashkenazy is very active as a chamber musician and has recorded a CD of Italian music with his brother, the clarinetist Dimitri Ashkenazy, together with whom he toured Japan in 1997, 2000 and 2002. The year 2001 saw the start of a new piano-duo partnership with Greek virtuoso pianist, Vassilis Tsabropoulos. This duo has already performed at the Piano en Valois festival and twice at the Athens Megaron. Vovka Ashkenazy has also worked together with the Reykjavík Wind Quintet and has released a CD with them on the Chandos label. A second CD is due out this year.

Alongside his concert activities, Vovka Ashkenazy also devotes his time to teaching. He has given master classes in Australia, Denmark, England, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the U.S. and he has recently become a member of the chamber music coaching staff at Pro Corda in the UK. He was Professor of Piano at the Conservatoire Gabriel Fauré in Angoulême, France, from 1998 – 2007.

Vovka Ashkenazy lives in Switzerland and gives regular masterclasses in Italy.

**Head of Jury - Enzo Restagno** has studied Philosophy in Turin and Venice. He has taught Music History at Turin's Conservatorio "Giuseppe Verdi" for 37 years. He is a regular contributor to "Stampa sera", "La Repubblica", "Le Monde de la Musique", "Die Zeit", "L'Espresso", Radio RAI, Radio France, Westdeutsche Rundfunk, and BBC. He holds lessons and masterclasses in Europe, USA and Asia.

As a scholar, his interests include modern and contemporary music, in which fields he is regarded as a one of the world's preeminent specialists. He has published books on Luigi Nono, Luciano Berio, Hans Werner Henze, Elliott Carter, Ligeti, Xenakis, Petrassi, Donatoni, Sofia Gubaidulina, Alfred Schnittke, Steve Reich, Louis Andriessen, Peter Maxwell Davies, Arvo Paert, that were translated to many languages. He is Edizioni Ricordi's counselor for contemporary music.

He also is a passionate music organizer, who believes in the incredible power of such activities to the aim of cultural promotion. He has been artistic director and counselor for Emilia Romagna's Orchestra Sinfonica "Arturo Toscanini", Bergamo and Brescia's "Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli" international piano festival, Orchestra della RAI in Turin and, from 1986 "Torino Settembre Musica" which he transformed, in 20 years of activity, in one of the most important festival worldwide, which lead to the foundation of MITO SettembreMusica in 2007.

### **The Jurors**

**Alexey Lebedev** is one of the most interesting musical interpreters of his generation, having won numerous awards and top prizes at World Federation international piano competitions, including the legendary Feruccio Busoni Competition in Bolzano, the Maria Canals International Competition in Barcelona, the G.B. Viotti Competition in Vercelli, and the Jose Iturbi Competition in Valencia.

Lebedev's important artistic conceptualizations have been hailed by such world-famous pianists and teachers as Alfred Brendel, Dmitri Bashkirov, Leon Fleisher, Xu Zhong, William Grand Nabore, Joaquin Soriano, John O'Connor, and tamas Ungar. Alexey Lebedev graduated summa cum laude from the St. Petersburg State Conservatory, studying with professors Tatiana Kravchenko and Tatiana Zagorovskaya. He also studied at the University of Music and Drama in Hanover with professors Mi-Kyung Kim, Matti Raekallio, and Einar Steen-Nökleberg.

The charismatic piano virtuoso Alexey Lebedev has fascinated audiences and the music press with his expressive playing at numerous recitals, orchestra concerts, and as chamber musician ("Duo Arte Mozart") in Europe, Asia, North America, and Russia.

Lebedev was born in 1980 in St. Petersburg, Russia, to a musical family - his father was a conductor. At the age of only 14, Lebedev made his orchestral debut playing Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto Op. 18. Since 1998, he has won 15 first prizes in competitions in Spain, Italy, France, Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands, and Bulgaria.

Alexey Lebedev has been invited to perform at many international music festivals, including the Busoni Festival in Bolzano, the Dinard Music Festival, the Peralada Festival in Girona, the Liszt & Friends Music Festival in Rome, the MASiMAS Festival in Barcelona, the Loumarin Music Festival, "Virtuosi of the Twentieth Century" in St. Petersburg, the International Piano Festival in Merignac (Bordeaux), the "Klassik in der Altstadt" Festival in Hanover and the Wennigsen Music Festival. In 2006 he was awarded the Richard Wagner's Scholarship in Bayreuth, in 2007 - Lutz E. Adolf Scholarship in Bielefeld, in 2010 - Alfred Toepfer Scholarship in Hamburg.

**Jin Ju** is a rising star in the piano music world, celebrated in China as one of the greatest virtuosos of her country, and regarded by the international critics and audience for the technical perfection, the warm sensibility for the singing lines and the astonishing clearness of the narrative subtleties.

Born in Shanghai in a musician's family, she obtained the Degree and the Master in Piano Performance at Beijing Conservatory, then the Master of International Piano Academy of Imola, the Degree and Gold Medal in "Professional Performance" of Royal North Music College in Manchester and the prestigious "Gold Medal of Honour" of Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena.

Awarded in prestigious international contests, among them the Tchaikovsky and the Queen Elizabeth competitions in Moscow and Bruxelles, she conquered first prizes at China National Piano Competition, Beethoven Society Competition in London, UNISA International Piano Competition, Theodor Leschetizky International Piano Competition in Taiwan, Romanian International Music Competition in Bucarest.

**Jin Ju** regularly plays in all the major music halls of China and has been one of the first pianists to be invited to perform in the Forbidden City in Beijing. She has played and plays in important concert halls of Europe, among them the Berlin and Vienna Konzerthaus, the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, the Great Hall of Moscow Conservatory, the Palais de Beaux Arts in Bruxelles. In Italy she regularly plays in celebrated venues like Sala Verdi in Milano, Teatro della Pergola in Florence, Sala Maffeiana in Verona, etc, and is regular guest of the most important concert series.

**Jin Ju** is establishing herself also as one of the most interesting new names of the piano performance on historical instruments. In October 2009 she played a worldwide telecasted "special concert" in Sala Nervi in Vatican City, in front of a 5000-people audience and the Pope Benedict XVI, performing in the same evening musics from Scarlatti to Rachmaninov on seven different period instruments (fortepianos and pianos from the late XVIII to the early XX centuries).

**Jin Ju** has collaborated and collaborates with various important orchestras in all five continents. They include China National Symphony and Macao Symphony orchestras, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Belgian National Orchestra, Orchestra Philharmonique de Liège and Wallonia Royal Chamber Orchestra, Russian State Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica “Giuseppe Verdi”, Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, South Africa New Philharmonic and Johannesburg Philharmonic orchestras, and many other.

Her recording of the Yellow River Piano Concerto with the Macao Symphony Orchestra has reached a so wide circulation in China to be added among the “first 10 world successes of classical music”. Her first issue in Western countries, by the independent label Frame with the complete Debussy’s Etudes, received enthusiastic reviews by the specialized press.

In summer 2010 **Jin Ju** has signed an exclusive recording contract with the German label MDG. Two first CDs have been released in 2011: the first in January, dedicated to Schumann, has received important feedbacks from the international critique; the second, released in December 2011 and dedicated to two major sonatas like Beethoven’s “Appassionata” and Schubert’s C minor D958 plus the unusual Czerny’s “La Ricordanza” Variations, has been already defined by SA-CD.net “some of the best piano playing issued this year”.

Her performances have been broadcasted by radio and television around the world (NPR “Performance Today” in USA, “Sky Classica” in Italy, “Canvas” in Belgium, BBC in UK). The Chinese National tv and radio regularly broadcast her concerts and recordings, and she has received special awards by the Chinese Culture Ministry. In 2008 the Chinese State Television CCTV realized a long documentary about her life and artistry, broadcasted more time on the principal National channel; in 2010 another documentary has been realized by the same channel about **Jin Ju**’s Italian tour with I Virtuosi Italiani, broadcasted in all China in November 2010.

**Jin Ju** has been a faculty member of the Central Conservatory in Beijing and she has taught at Royal Northern Music College in Manchester. At present she is professor of International Piano Academy of Imola and teaches in numerous Master Classes in China, Europe and the United States.

The concert pianist **Sunghoon Simon Hwang** is one of the most prominent pianists of his generation. In Europe as well as in Asia he already performed with numerous orchestras worldwide, such as the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre de Montbéliard, the Janáček Philharmonic, the San Remo Symphony Orchestra, the Duisburg Symphony, the Orquestra Granada, the Orquestra Nacional do Porto, the Filarmonica Marchigiana, the Filarmonica Banatul, the Orchestra Sinfonica Sicilliana, the Vina del Mar Orchestra, the Bacau Symphony, the Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra, the Orquestra Sinfonica Perfecto Garcia Chornet, the Seoul Academy Symphony Orchestra and the Busan Metropolitan Orchestra.



He won more than 40 international prizes at prestigious piano competitions like Epinal, Jaen, Porto, Senigallia, Maria Canals, Luis Sigall, Glenn Gould, Serge Prokofiev, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Anton Rubinstein, Johannes Brahms and Euterpe. Furthermore, he received 9 special interpretation prizes. He got many invitations from European music festivals like the Ferruccio Busoni festival, the Alfredo Speranza Festival, the Grosseto international piano festival, the "Klassik in der Altstadt" festival, the Chateau de Lourmarin festival, Niestetal international piano festival, Busan Maru International Music Festival (BMIMF) and the Wennigsen music festival.

Sunghoon Simon Hwang studied at the Korean National University of Arts in Seoul with Prof. J.P. Lim, at the Santa Cecilia Academia in Roma with world-famous Prof. Sergio Perticaroli, at the École Normal de Musique in Paris with Prof. Youngshin An, at the Hannover Musikhoschule in the classes of Prof. Einar Steen-Nökleberg and Prof. Mi-Kyung Kim. In 2006 he founded the piano duet ensemble "Duo Arte Mozart" with the Russian pianist Alexey Lebedev.

In the year of his foundation with the "[Duo Arte Mozart](#)", Sunghoon Simon Hwang got an invitation from the North German Broadcasting Station for the program "Culture NDR" in Hannover. Since 2006 the "Duo Arte Mozart" appeared every year with great success at the festival "Klassik in der Altstadt" in Hannover, specially in 2008 with the first nominated Audience Prize. The various repertoire of the ensemble, which includes the works of Bach, Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, Debussy, Ravel, Grieg, Rachmaninoff and Poulenc, has a special main focus - the whole works for 4 hands of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Sunghoon Simon Hwang gives master classes for piano, in 2006 at the Otto-von-Guericke University in Magdeburg. In the year 2009 he gave a [master class at the Kloster Michaelstein](#) in Blankenburg with an invitation of the "Landesmusikakademie Sachsen-Anhalt" in Germany. In 2010, he was invited as a Professor by the "Tenerife international concert academy festival" in Spain. In 2011, he was invited as a member of Jury by the "Claude Bonneton international piano competition". From 2009 to 2013 he taught piano at the Hildesheim University.

**Derek Han** is without a doubt among the leading American pianists of his generation. His elegant, polished and compelling playing has dazzled audiences across six continents. Though he was originally identified with the concertos of Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven -- not least because he recorded them all to highly favorable critical response -- he possesses a vast repertory that includes the concertos of Mendelssohn, Chopin, and MacDowell, as well as individual concertos by Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky, and Shostakovich, in addition to a large body of solo and chamber works. Han's style is original though straightforward in its lucid tones, spirited character, and technical fluidity and accuracy.

Han was born in the United States to Chinese parents. He was a precocious child, becoming proficient on the piano at an early age, and then graduated from Juilliard at 18. His most important teacher there was Ilona Kabos, but he studied under a string of even more prominent ones after graduating: Gina Bachauer, Lili Kraus, and Guido Agosti.

Han's breakthrough came in 1977 when he captured First Prize at the Athens International Piano Competition. He thus experienced a meteoric rise in the late '70s and early '80s, appearing as soloist with leading European and American orchestras and as a recitalist and chamber player at an array of important concert locales. He began to appear regularly at the Marlboro Music Festival (at the behest of Rudolf Serkin) and at many major concert venues in the United States and Europe: New York, St. Louis, Buenos Aires, Amsterdam, Milan, Berlin, London, Warsaw, Moscow, and elsewhere.

By the 1990s Han had become not only an important figure on the concert scene but a popular recording artist, as well, with most of his work, including the Mozart, Haydn, and Beethoven complete concerto cycles, appearing on the American ProArte label. In 1996 Han was invited to go on what would become a critically triumphant tour with the Sinfonia Varsovia to South Africa to celebrate the 80th birthday of Lord Yehudi Menuhin, who led the orchestra for the series of concerts. In 1998 Han was also Artistic Director of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra in Croatia, and in 1990 became the Artistic Advisor to the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra.

In the new century Han continued to grow in stature and expand his repertory. His extensive touring included major tours of Europe and the US with the Moscow Philharmonic, Berlin Symphony, London Philharmonic, Buenos Aires Philharmonic, Warsaw Philharmonic, Philharmonia Orchestra, Hague Residentie Orchestra, Bolshoi Symphony, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Czech National Symphony, Camerata Salzburg and Philharmonia of the Nations.

Among his later recordings was a pair of releases from 2008 the first containing the complete Brahms piano quartets on Brilliant Classics and the second the Rachmaninov Concertos No. 1 and No. 2, with Carlos Miguel Prieto and the Royal Philharmonic.

Born in Naples in 1935, **Bruno Canino** began studying piano with Vincenzo Vitale. He graduated then in Milan in piano e composition. He carries on an intense activity as soloist, in chamber music groups, and collaborates with artists like Salvatore Accardo, Severino Gazzelloni, Lynn Harrel, Itzhak Perlman, Uto Ughi, Victoria Mullova, Pierre Amoyal; besides he plays in piano duo with Antonio Ballista. He played, among others, with English Chamber Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra National de France, Orchestra di Santa Cecilia, Berliner Philharmoniker, Filarmonica della Scala, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, under the baton of Abbado, Muti, Sawallisch, Boulez, Chailly, Accardo.



His recent recordings are Bach Goldberg Variations (Ermitage CD 412), Hindemith Die vier Temperamente (Novalis CD 150) and Casella Complete Piano Works (Stradivarius CD 33350). Since February 1999 to 2002 he has been director of the Music Section of the Venice Biennale.

He holds masterclasses for Piano and Chamber Music in several Countries (Italy, Germany, Spain, Japan, Switzerland), and at present he is teaching regularly at Scuola di musica di Fiesole.

He took part as juror at several Competitions, between them Busoni Bolzano, Haskil Vevey, Geza Anda Zurich, Flesch London, Menuhin, Santander, Munich ARD, Casagrande Terni, Schubert und die Moderne Graz, Sendai Inter. Music Competition Japan.

His book “Vademecum per il pianista da camera” was published by Passigli Editor in Florence.

**Enrica Ciccarelli** graduated from the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatoire in Milan, where she also studied organ. She subsequently completed her education by attending masterclasses held by Jean-Bernard Pommier, classes of musical phenomenology held by Sergiu Celibidache and Hans Graf's summer classes at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Advice gained on many occasions during her meetings with Nikita Magaloff and Tatjana Nikolajewa was very important for her musical growth and development.

She has played as soloist with the Prague Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre National de France, I Solisti Veneti, the Mexican State Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerorchester, the Auvergne Chamber Orchestra, Berliner Symphoniker, Moscow Symphony Orchestra, Pomeriggi Musicali, Stuttgarter Philharmoniker, Zagreb Philharmoniker, Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, Maggio Musicale Orchestra of Florence, Santa Cecilia Orchestra, SWD Philharmoniker, Wuppertaler Sinfonieorchester, Buffalo Philharmonic and Virginia Symphony. In 1999 she made her debut at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam with Grieg's Piano Concerto: her performance was a great success and a live CD was recorded.

Enrica Ciccarelli also enjoys playing chamber music and has worked with the Solisti della Scala, Francesco Manara, Alexander Kniazev, Edoardo Zosi, Mariella Devia, Denia Mazzola Gavazzeni and Amarilli Nizza with whom she recorded the world première of Chopin's Mazurkas, transcribed for voice and piano by Pauline Viardot.

She has recorded for RAI – Radio Televisione Italiana, Slovene Television, Austrian Radio, Radio France, KBS in Korea, CCTV in China. Enrica has recorded several CDs for Agorà, Verdi records and SFEM Classic, including works by Prokofiev, Rachmaninov, Weber, Schubert, Mozart and the Pianoconcerti by Robert and Clara Schumann with Orchestre National de Montpellier. This CD has received several awards and important international reviews. Her two last CDs released on 2013 are dedicated to Chopin solo repertoire and Schumann and Mussorgskij.

Enrica Ciccarelli co-founded the International Festival Città di Cernobbio and the Beijing International Piano Festival. She is also Artistic Director of Fondazione La Società dei Concerti in Milan.

She is also a recognized teacher and she regularly holds master classes. She has worked with Chinese students for many years, teaching masterclasses at the Beijing Central Conservatory and China National Conservatory. She is a member of important international juries and some of her young students have been awarded in several piano competitions.

**Lorenzo Di Bella** is a remarkable talented pianist, a brilliant virtuous, an exciting and refined musician. I was his teacher for three years and always admired his great technical skills and also his strong artistic personality, above all, his desire to "speak" to the public" ...these were the words of Lazar Berman some months before he died.

Prize winner of several international piano competitions he received in 2005 the First Prize and Gold Medal in the "V. Horowitz" International Piano Competition in Kiev.

In 2006 former Italian President C.A.Ciampi awarded him with the "Sinopoli Prize" in honour of the famous orchestra director Giuseppe Sinopoli, passed away in 2001.

He has won the most important national piano competitions, such as the "Premio Venezia", after which he was invited to play at the most famous Italian festivals.

Recently he has performed with great success at the Two World's Festival in Spoleto, Teatro "La Fenice" in Venice, Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, "Teatro delle Muse" in Ancona, at the Liszt Festival in Utrecht, ETH of Zurich, Hamburg, Praha, Sarajevo, Montreal, Beijing, Shanghai, Denver (C.I.P.A.) at the "Società dei Concerti" in Milan, and in the Auditorium "Parco della Musica" in Rome where he played with the Santa Cecilia National Symphony Orchestra conducted by M<sup>o</sup> James Conlon.

Lorenzo Di Bella began his piano studies at the age of 5. A promising pupil, he graduated at the Conservatorio Rossini of Pesaro with Bruno Bizzarri with the highest vote and honours. The following five years he attended the courses of Franco Scala and Lazar Berman at the "Piano Academy - Incontri col Maestro" of Imola, graduating in 2002, and completed his studies at the "National Academy of St. Cecilia" in Rome with Sergio Perticaroli, where he graduated on June 2004 with the highest vote.

His intense musical activities led him to collaborate with many orchestras: Florence Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Filarmonica Marchigiana, Pro-Arte Marche Orchestra, Pescara Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra "Pomeriggi Musicali" of Milan, San Remo Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonie of Bacau, O'Porto National Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Nancy Symphony Orchestra, SudWestDeutsche Philharmonie and New World Philharmonic.

Lorenzo Di Bella has a very active teaching schedule as main piano professor at the High Music



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School "Monteverdi" in Cremona and artistic director of the "Accademia Pianistica delle Marche" in Recanati (Italy).

In 2013 he has played the complete Rachmaninov's Etudes-Tableaux in Milan and Turin for the prestigious MiTo Festival-September Music.

He is founder and artistic director of the "[CIVITANOVA CLASSICA Piano Festival](#)".