

Antonio Florio

Antonio Florio was born in Bari, where he received a classical education and graduated in Cello, Piano and Composition at the Conservatory, under the guidance of Maestro Nino Rota. He later pursued his studies of ancient instruments and baroque performance practice. In 1987, he founded the Ensemble Turchini, and from then on he devoted himself with great commitment to both concerts and intensive musicological research. In particular, he explored the repertoire of Neapolitan music of the 17th and 18th Centuries, uncovering masterpieces that had never been published before; he has taken care of their representations by the most prestigious theatres in Italy and Europe. The many titles unearthed by Florio include "La colomba ferita" ("The wounded dove", 1670), "Il schiavo di sua moglie" ("His wife's slave", 1671) and "La Stellidaura vendicante" ("Stellidaura vindicated", 1674) by Francesco Provenzale; "Il disperato innocente" ("The desperate innocent" of Francesco Boerio, 1673), "La finta cameriera" ("The Pretend Maid" by Gaetano Latilla, 1673), "Li Zite'n Galera" ("The Lovers on the Galley" by Leonardo Vinci, 1722); "Il Pulcinella vendicato" ("Pulcinella vindicated" by Giovanni Paisiello, 1767), "Statira" by Francesco Cavalli from a Naples edition of 1666; "Motezuma" by Francesco De Majo (1765). In 1999 and 2000, Florio conducted the Symphony Orchestra of Santiago de Compostela, presenting "La Serva Padrona" ("The Servant Mistress") and "Stabat Mater" by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi. His teaching efforts have not been any less challenging: he has given seminars and master classes on Baroque vocal and chamber music for the 'Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles', the 'Fondation Royaumont' and the Conservatory of Toulouse. He is also Professor of Chamber Music at the Conservatory San Pietro a Majella in Naples, where he delivers a university course on Baroque style and repertoire. His most recent engagements include the recovery and revision of the opera seria of Leonardo Vinci "La Partenope", which was edited in 2004 and will be presented on stage this year at the theatre of Ponferrada and at the Auditorium of León, Spain. The year 2005 was devoted by Antonio Florio to the discovery and review of the opera "La Finta Giardiniera" ("The Pretend Garden-Girl") by Pasquale Anfossi, which he had already presented to the 'Fondation Royaumont', together with the eponymous work by Mozart; both the concert and stage play he delivered were also the subject of an international workshop. In 2006, he directed the Ensemble Turchini in the prestigious festival "Anima Mundi" in Pisa, before taking the show "Festa Napoletana" ("Neapolitan Festival") to four venues in China. In the same year, Antonio Florio received the first edition of the "Award for the diffusion of Mediterranean Music" at Mousiké, the Festival of Ancient Mediterranean Music in Bari. During the concert season of 2007, he was a guest of the Accademia Chigiana in Siena and of the Ravenna Festival, of the Associazione Scarlatti in Naples, the Centre Lyrique d'Auvergne Clermont Ferrand in France and the Ravello Festival. In 2008, he conducted the opera "Alidoro" by Leonardo Leo at the Valli theatre in Reggio Emilia and

at the Mercadante in Naples. The show, available in DVD, won the prestigious “Diapason d’Or” and the “Orphée d’or du disque lyrique”. At the same time, in Oviedo (Spain) he was awarded the prize “Luis Gracia Iberní” (the equivalent of the Abbiati Prize in Italy) for Best Musical Director for the first performance in modern times of the opera “Ottavia restituita al trono” (“Octavia returned to the throne”) by Domenico Scarlatti, presented in San Sebastian in August 2007. In October 2008, together with the Ensemble Turchini, he won the “Premio Napoli” for the section “Hidden Excellence” of the city of Naples. He has taken part at the “MITO” Festival, presenting the concert version of the opera “Acis and Galatea” by Handel at the Teatro dell’Arte in Milan; in June 2009, he then presented the same opera in the stage version, directed by David Livermore, at the Regio Theatre in Turin. Also in 2009, he presented “La Partenope” of Vinci in co-production with the Theatre of León in Spain (at the San Carlo Theatre in Naples, at the La Maestranza in Seville, in La Coruña, Santander and Murcia; he received the Oviedo Prize for best theatrical production) and went on a long tour of Italy with the “Stabat Mater” by Pergolesi. In 2010, he directed “Orpheus and Eurydice” by Fux at the Konzerthaus in Vienna, and on several occasions the Baroque orchestra “Casa da Musica” of Porto and the Orchestra of Galicia-La Coruña.