

# **International Opera Composition Course**

## **“Giacomo Puccini”**

**Summer Seminar 2017**  
*Lucca, July 17<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2017*

**Cluster – Associazione di compositori, Lucca  
and  
International Chamber Opera Festival - WEC**

*With:*  
**Fondazione Giacomo Puccini  
Teatro del Giglio  
Sconfinarte Edizioni  
Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca  
Bartok plusz Miskolci Operafesztivál**

*Present*

**International Opera Composition Course**

**“GIACOMO PUCCINI”**

**Summer Seminar 2017**

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**PROJECT**

*The International Opera Composition Course ‘Giacomo Puccini’ is addressed to composers (both with or without an academic degree) willing to investigate thoroughly all compositional techniques in use in Opera writing today, focusing both on the Italian tradition and on the genre’s contemporary international developments.*

*The course’s aim is to hand down the great opera tradition, having as a target the creation of new operas, bridging the past and the future in a new and enthralling vision.*

**COURSE GOALS**

Participants will get to a deeper understanding of the various aspects of composing for Opera theatre.

- At the end of the course, each participant must submit a complete project for a new chamber opera, writing a section of the full score for voice and piano (at least 20 minutes)
- Two projects will be selected and must be finalized by September, 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 to be produced and performed as mise-en-scene for the ‘Puccini Days Festival 2017’, Lucca, November/December
- Remaining projects will be concluded by composers in due time, to be performed at the ‘International Chamber Opera Festival – WEC in 2018’
- All scores produced will be published by Edizioni Sconfinarte

**APPLICANTS SELECTION**

Applicants must submit the following materials for selection:

- CV and list of works
- Project scheme of a chamber opera for max. 1 singing line and piano (reduction)
- Full score and audio file of an orchestral or chamber composition\*
- Full score or voice/piano score and audio file of a vocal composition\*

*\*midi files can be accepted*

All materials must be e-mailed to [ioccpuccini@gmail.com](mailto:ioccpuccini@gmail.com)

Submission deadline: June, 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

Eligible composers will be contacted by: June, 20<sup>th</sup> 2017

Knowledge of both English and Italian language is required

A minimum of 4 eligible composers is required for the course to start

## CLASSES

- 13 days of classes
- group and individual classes
- lectures by Guest Artists

Main subjects

- Opera composition: Girolamo Deraco

Lectures

- Traditional operatic and contemporary singing: Maria Elena Romanazzi
- Opera conduction: Gergely Kesselyák
- The theatre as a music box: Aldo Tarabella

## CONTENTS

Opera composition: Girolamo Deraco

Individual classes

- Elements of instrumental composition
- Elements of vocal composition
- Elements of orchestration
- Elements of playwriting for the opera

Group classes

- Composition of operatic elements - Musictheater ("opera" applied to instrumental writing, with or without voice)
- Musictheater, Chamber Opera, Opera elements of analysis. Musical perception

Lectures by Guest Artists

- 'Traditional operatic and contemporary singing' Maria Elena Romanazzi (Soprano)
- 'Opera Conduction' Gergely Kesselyák (Principal Conductor of the Opera of Budapest)
- 'The Theatre as a music box' Aldo Tarabella (Opera Director, Composer, Artistic Director of the Teatro del Giglio of Lucca)

## VENUES

The course will take place in Banca Del Monte di Lucca Foundation palace and at Teatro del Giglio (both venues in the historical centre of Lucca).

## DATES

July 2017, from 17<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>

## COSTS

participants € 850

auditors € 200

## INFO

For further information (travel & lodging, classes and program details...):

Cristina Rosamilia: [ioccpuccini@gmail.com](mailto:ioccpuccini@gmail.com) - +39 349 52 34 531

Press office and communications:

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**Girolamo Deraco**, Composer, Visual Media Artist and Producer.

**Current positions:**

Composer in Residence, Composition Assistant of Maestro Kuhn at the 'Angelo di Montegral' music-lab, Montegral Academy, Italy, 2009-present

Composer in Residence for the Sanremo Symphony Orchestra, Sanremo, Italy, 2017-  
Composer in Residence, awarded with 'Musictheater and Opera Composition Residency' for the Moto Perpetuo Ensemble, New York, USA, for the biennium 2016-17

- Artistic Director of 'Cluster – Association of Composers, Lucca', (Vice President from 2013-2014) 2015-present
- Artistic Director (and Founder) of the Etymos Ensemble, 2004-present

Girolamo Deraco was born in Cittanova (RC), Italy, in 1976. In 2008 he received a Master's in Music Composition with the highest grade (10/10), cum laude, special mention, and a scholarship from the Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali "L. Boccherini" Lucca with Maestro Rigacci (the only composer since 1842, when the institute was founded, to have achieved this accolade).

He has attended courses and seminars with international Maestros, including: Andriessen, Bacalov, Bonifacio, Corgi, De Pablo, Fedele, Solbiati, and Gooch (Truman State University, Missouri, USA - International Exchange Student). He has received scholarships in composition with Maestro Corgi, Chigiana Academy of Siena, Italy, in 2008, 2009 and 2010 with Certificate of Merit. He was selected as a participant for international opera courses: Operiamo Oggi (Gallarate, Milan - Italy), TIMUR (Firenze - Italy).

He has been a finalist and the winner of almost twenty-five international composition contests, including the Bartok-plusz Miskolci Operafesztivál (Joint prize) in Hungary (where he set two Guinness world records registered in Hungary, the shortest opera ever written - 8 seconds - and the most played opera during a single evening - 17 times.), Anima Mundi, Windstream and many others. He received the 'Riconoscimento di merito' at the Premio Abbado Award 2015.

He has collaborated with renowned international orchestras and ensembles including: Orchestra Haydn, I Pomeriggi Musicali, Orchestra Regionale Toscana, Orchestra Sinfonica Sanremo, Miskolci Szimfonikus, MÁV Szimfonikus Zenekar Budapest, Orchestra Francesco Cilea, Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina, Riga Professional Symphonic Band, Amarida Ensemble, Quartetto Ascanio, Underground Brass Trio and many others. With renowned international artists, including: Kuhn, Kesselyák, Alessandrini, Kovatchev, Ozoliņš, Festa, Cadario, Fabbri, Carlini, Meloni, Neubauer, Capula, Krams, Brand, Alberti, Cabassi, Sicoli, Whitwell, Ostuni, Caiello, Paul, Romanazzi, Cannatà, Herlitzca and many others.

His music has been performed in important festivals and broadcasted on radio all around the world. Several CDs have been released of his works, including recording by Orchestra Haydn, I Pomeriggi Musicali, Etymos Ensemble, among others. He has been a jury member in international composition competitions, and a teacher for international masterclasses.

In 2017 his opera 'Eight songs for a Drag Queen - Minimumdrama for solo Counter-Tenor-Trombone con ogni sorte di Stromenti' will debut at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, New York. The libretto is by the renowned actor Palladino and will be performed by the singer-trombonist Whitwell, supported by the Eco-Music Big Band. His piece 'Phonè – for 99 grammophones and choir' will be performed at Bartokplusz Miskolci Operafesztivál in Hungary. At the 2017 World Aquatics Championships the Italian Synchronized Swimming Team will perform to his music (composed in collaboration with the Sound Designer Contini).

His music is published by Edizioni Sconfinarte.



**Gergely Kesselyák**, Conductor

He was born in Budapest in 1971. He graduated from Piarist Secondary School of Budapest in 1989, and obtained his degree in conducting at Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music as a student of Ervin Lukács in 1995. During his years as an undergraduate he took part in Yuri Simonov's Master classes twice. He won third prize at the Arturo Toscanini International Conducting Competition in Parma (1994) and at the Hungarian Television International Conductors Competition in Budapest (1995). Since 1993 he has regularly conducted the leading symphony orchestras in Hungary: the National Philharmonic Orchestra, the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra, the Symphony Orchestra of the Hungarian Radio and Television, the

Matáv Symphony Orchestra and the MÁV Symphony Orchestra. Between 1995 and 1997 he was the leader of the Hungarian Youth Radio Orchestra. In 1997 he founded the opera division of the Miskolc National Theatre and was its music director until 2002. In 2001 he was the founder music director of the Bartók+ International Opera Festival, a position he held for three years. From 1994 he was guest conductor, from 2001 conductor-in-residence of the Hungarian State Opera.

In 2004 he was appointed artistic director of the BudaFest Summer Opera and Ballet Festival where he worked for four years. From 2005 to 2012 he was artistic director of the Szeged Open-Air Festival. Between 2005 and 2006 he held the position of music director at the Hungarian State Opera. Since 1993 he has conducted more than one hundred performances in ten different music theatres (Hungarian State Opera House, Budapest Operetta and Musical Theatre, Hungarian Opera of Cluj-Napoca, National Theatre of Szeged, National Theatre of Miskolc, Csokonai National Theatre in Debrecen, Szigliget Theatre in Szolnok, Petöfi Theatre in Veszprém, National Theatre of Győr, National Theatre of Pécs). Since 2011 he has been Director of the Bartók+ Opera Festival. In 2013 he founded the Bartók+ Opera Composition Competition. Since 2016 he has been principal conductor of the Hungarian State Opera. He has worked as a guest conductor in several countries (Ukraine, Romania, Austria, Italy, France, Spain, Egypt, Japan, Chile, Peru, Oman, China). Since 2001 he has been active as a stage director, as well, and has staged Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, Bartók's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, Puccini's *Turandot* and Verdi's *Nabucco*. The production of *Don Giovanni* directed by him ran for 8 years at the Hungarian State Opera House. In 2005 he was awarded the Liszt Prize. In 2012 he became a Meritorious Artist.



**Maria Elena Romanazzi, Soprano**

She started studying ballet and artistic gymnastics at a very young age, and went on to develop a strong passion for music and singing. Her initial specialization in the classical repertoire was naturally followed by a keen interest for contemporary music. She has collaborated with well-known composers such as Luis De Pablo, Luca Francesconi, Michele dall'Ongaro, J.B. Barriere, taking part in Italian as well as international premieres (including works by Kaaija Saariaho, Giya Kancheli, W.Bolcom). She has performed in prestigious Theatres and Festivals, such as the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, RomaEuropaFestival, Urticanti, Cini Foundation (for which she performed songs by L. Nono, directed by André Richard, with equipment provided by the Experimental Studio of Freiburg), Teatro dal Verme in Milan, Teatro Verdi in

Florence (for "Play.it"), Opera House in Amsterdam, Festival "Les Flâneries Musicales" in Reims, Bartok Opera Festival in Miskolc etc. Her performances have been broadcast by Radio 3 and Radio CEMAT. Since 2011, she has frequently collaborated with the director Giancarlo Cauteruccio, taking part in many of his projects of experimental theatre. After graduating in Operatic Singing and Music Didactics, she took specialization courses with Manuela Custer, Gabriella Bartolomei and Alda Caiello. With the latter, she brilliantly achieved a High Specialization Diploma in Contemporary Operatic Singing at the Opera Academy in Verona. During her research on contemporary vocalism at the Nederlandse Opera in Amsterdam, she worked with experts coming from all parts of Europe. She is presently engaged on a European tour with a new production of "La voix humaine" by Poulanc and "Facebooking" by Girolamo Deraco, which is being widely praised by both the audience and the critics. She has completed a Master in performing Arts and Planning of Cultural Events at the Università Cattolica in Milan, focusing on the analysis of the contemporary age in all its artistic forms. She collaborates with a good number of Institutions and Foundations, taking part in many special projects. She also is a singing teacher at the Liceo Musicale Dante in Florence.



**Aldo Tarabella, Opera Director and Composer**

Aldo Tarabella divides his time primarily between directing and composing. He has written for the Royal Academy of London, the Symphony Orchestra of Cannes, the ORT (Orchestra della Toscana), the Festival di Nuova Consonanza of Rome, RAI (Radiotelevisione italiana), the Two Worlds Festival of Spoleto and the Mozarteum of Salzburg. After his collaboration with the Piccolo Teatro of Milan, where he composed, among other pieces, the music for the second part of *Faust-Framenti* directed by Giorgio Strehler, his activity in theatre and film includes working with Russian director Nikita Mickalkov on the music for the film *Oci Ciornie* and the set for *Pianola meccanica* at the Teatro Argentina of Rome, with Marcello Mastroianni. For Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, he composed a suite that was performed in Brussels under the high patronage of the Italian Embassy. He has worked frequently in ballet, including collaborations with choreographer

Micha von Hoekhe for *Guitare and Voyage*.

He has also composed and directed his own lyric operas: *Clown*, directed by Antonio Ballista; *Arlecchino*, commissioned by the ORT; and the works *Il Maestro e i piccoli cantori* and *Il pianeta della verità* for the Accademia di Santa Cecilia of Rome. He debuted with a new work, *Opera bestiale*, at the Parco della Musica of Rome. Commissioned by CIDIM – UNESCO, this work was performed at several theatres, among which Turin's Teatro Regio and Bologna's Teatro Comunale. He has continued his collaboration with the Accademia di Santa Cecilia of Rome with a new work, the exhilarating *Tubeo e Violetta*, a parody of Shakespeare's masterpiece, *Romeo and Juliet*, and a success among critics and the public alike. He composed *Il servo padrone*, an ideal and parodic continuation of the celebrated comic work *La serva padrona*, performed at the Società Concertistica Barattelli of L'Aquila with the Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese, and later also performed at the Mittelfestival of Cividale del Friuli and, in July 2005, at the Ravello Festival. His works are published by Casa Musicale Sonzogno in Milan.



Operas directed: Noye's Fludde by B. Britten, in Pisa, Nino Rota's Lo scoiattolo in gamba for the ORT, Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel for Lucca's opera season and for the ORT; in November 2000 Suor Angelica (directed by Bruno Bartoletti), for the Puccini celebrations in Lucca. In the same year, he directed Mozart's The Magic Flute for the ORT, with Myung-Whung Chung. In December 2002, he directed the first modern production of Malavita by Umberto Giordano at the Teatro Umberto Giordano in Foggia, The Barber of Seville in Toronto for Royal Opera Canada and Menotti's Medium in the town of Jesi. He directed Marcella by Umberto Giordano together with Bruno Bartoletti and La Bohème for the Teatro Coccia in Novara, the Teatro Sociale in Mantua, the Teatro Donizetti in Bergamo, Bolzano and the Teatro Alighieri in Ravenna. He returned with success to the Abbey of San Galgano in Siena with a special production of The Magic Flute, to Asturia, Spain, with Cavalleria Rusticana by Mascagni, to the Laboral Theatre in the Arena of Gijón and to Mantua, at the Teatro Sociale, with a brilliant production of The Barber of Seville that was a great success with the public and with critics. As part of the ORT season, his opera Clown was performed at the Teatro Verdi in Florence and later in Pisa. He served as director for a regional project to promote young actors, singers, set designers, costume designers and technicians and dedicated to Sergio Tofano and Nino Rota with the staging of a musical comedy based on the character of Signor Bonaventura, L'Isola dei pappagalli, at Prato's Teatro Metastasio, Fiesole's Scuola di Musica and the ORT. Revival and national tour. He debuted in Sicily with Verdi's La Traviata in collaboration with the Teatro San Carlo of Naples, with sets by Nicola Robertelli, costumes by Giusy Giustino and directed by Massimiliano Stefanelli. He directed Manon Lescaut for the Fondazioni all'Opera, with sets and costumes by Pierpaolo Bisler, at Ascoli's Teatro Ventidio Basso, Chieti's Teatro Marruccino and the Teatro dell'Aquila in the town of Fermo. For the project "Allopera" in Milan, a new initiative for mobile opera, he directed Rossini's The Barber of Seville. Next September, Tarabella will personally direct the production of his opera, 'Il servo padrone', at the Teatro Comunale di Firenze.

Work as artistic consultant:

Among his most significant projects:

- Founder and Artistic Director of the Festival dell'Opera Buffa for the Region of Lombardy.
- Artistic Director for the Municipality of Arezzo's project "Cittadella Musicale", for 10 years.
- Representative of the Region of Tuscany at the Teatro Comunale of Florence and the Fondazione Guido D'Arezzo, an organisation for which he served as tutor and coordinator for the three-year European project for young choir directors.
- Artistic Director of the Teatro del Giglio of Lucca - Teatro di Tradizione - from 2000 to 2008 and from 2013 to present.
- Founder of the experimental company Opera Bazar, with headquarters in Lucca, where specialist programmes are offered for singers, musicians and dancers on themes revolving around the multidisciplinary nature of the arts.
- Currently a founder for the Region of Tuscany and Artistic Coordinator for the YOUTH OPERA Department and youth opera projects in Europe and a professor of Set Design at the Scuola di Musica of Fiesole.