

## BIOGRAPHY of CARLA MAGNAN

**Carla Magnan** is a composer, teacher and artistic director.

Her language comprises both classical forms going back to baroque and the most daring experimental ways of writing *"...it is something wise and lovable, ratio and eros will converge to the same extent - there is abandonment - to stay in the modern, in the present, which is given by the melodies that stop themselves, get lost and seek ways where the free sound intends to assert its rights"* (M. Gamba, review)

She was born in Genoa (Italy), got her diploma in Composition, Piano and Harpsichord at the conservatory of her city. In 2003 she took a diploma in advanced composition at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, under the guidance of Azio Corghi. She also studied at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena (in 2001, under scholarship) and at the Romanini Foundation in Brescia, doing advanced work with Mauro Bonifacio. She attended instrumental specialization courses and master classes on the antique, classical, contemporary and jazz repertoires with famous teachers (K. Gilbert, G. Gaslini, C. Savina, J. Harbison, C. Biscardi, M. Kagel).

For her work as a harpsichordist, she won a scholarship in February 2000, from the European Community for a course of advanced studies in early music at the Accademia Musicale di Saluzzo (Italy), where she took a diploma the following August.

*"The activity of harpsichordist and the study of ancient music shaped her mindset, open to the cultural stimuli that come from the Baroque and Classicism. These references are not explicit in her way of composing but they run underground in her music, directing the sense of form and sound in a clever secret game of references that are as sought and as lost, just like the melodic lines that Magnan creates. In her compositional path, each piece is a world in itself. -Talent and discipline - could be the title of an essay on her music; Magnan writes following inspiration with a formal and rigorous criterion".*

(From the book *Music and Present: trends and composers of today* by Renzo Cresti, Libreria Musicale Italiana Editions).

She likes to write for new and unusual instrumental ensembles or instrumental and vocal combinations (recently she wrote a work for bassoon quartet made up of two fagottini, bassoon and contrabassoon, first original work written for this ensemble), to extend her search as a composer.

*"It is evident that curiosity and the desire to experiment distinguish each of his compositional choices, because "Behind every gesture and beyond possible provocation, you can see in the background the true ability of the composer: to bend the sign and the musical form to the service of her creativity, by creating a delicate balance capable of mediating between the spirit as a manifestation of time and a material sound, that can do without lasting relationship with space"* (In gesture, in the sound of Erika Dagnino).

*"Margini due by Carla Magnan for viola and percussions, is a title full of evocations and inspired by two works by Bartok. The music leaves free space of the invention that feeds on those works to dissolve them creating a work instrumental unrestrained."*

(Giampaolo Minardi, Gazzetta di Parma, review).

Winner of various national and international competitions in composition, she has often been mentioned for artistic merit for her work. She received commissions and performances by musicians and ensembles such as the Fiari Ensemble of Turin, Orchestra Milano Classica, the Freon Ensemble of Rome, Contempoartensemble of Florence, Gog – Giovine Orchestra Genovese, the Carlo Felice Foundation, the Dedalo Ensemble of Brescia, ORT – Orchestra della Toscana, Festival di Nuova Consonanza (Roma), Festival Osmose (Belgium), Festival Nuovi Spazi Musicali (Ascoli Piceno), Festival L'Arsenale (Treviso), Macerata Opera Festival – Sferisterio, Risuonanze Incontri di Nuove Musiche, Raasrang World Flute Festival (New Delhi), The Portland Chamber Music Festival (USA), Gare Du Nord (Basel, Swiss), Istituzione Universitaria dei Concerti a Roma, Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese (Isa).

During her activity as a composer she was awarded prizes (al XX° Concorso ICOMS Città di Torino, al I° Concorso Angelo Paccagnini per orchestra, al XXVII e al XXVIII Premio Valentino Bucchi di Roma Capitale, 32° Concorso Guido d'Arezzo,...) and her works are regularly performed by chamber and orchestral groups in prestigious places in Austria, China, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Switzerland, Slovenia and the United States, Argentina, Israel.

The Simc (Italian section of the ISCM-International Society for Contemporary Music) has selected some her works for the ISCM World Music Days for Hong Kong (2007), Lituania (2008) and for Belgium (2012). In 2013 she was a finalist at the Earplay Donald Aird Competition (San Francisco, USA).

In 2014 his work *Vortice (di neve)* for solo viola won the competition Nooa Project 2014 (Spain), in 2016 won the Portland Chamber Music Festival Composers Competition (Maine, USA) and the third prize the Busan Maru International Music Festival Composer Competition 2016 with a work for soprano, tenor and orchestra.

She is also author of dramaturgies and theatrical operas. Intense is the level dramaturgical collaboration with Marco Santagata (finalist of the Strega Italy Prize in 2015).

Profitable and very original is her collaboration with the composer Carla Rebora. Together they wrote musical theater Operas and with their works have won the first prize in international competitions with a great audience and critic success.

Her works have been published and recorded by Ed. Casa Ricordi – Universal Music Publishing (Milan), Rai Com Edizioni (Rome, Milan), Taukay (Udine) and Sconfinate (Brescia).

Magnan is a playwright too, and founding editor (associate director) of the review of contemporary musical research *SuonoSonda* (<http://www.suonosonda.it>).

She is vice president of Pasquale Anfossi Association of Genoa, which organizes concerts and cultural events in the city and in 2020 celebrated its twenty-five years of activity. (<http://www.pasqualeanfossi.it>).

As demonstration of the importance of her figure as an interpreter, essayist, intellectual and obviously composer, on 8 March 2018 she was appointed Ambassador of Genoa in the World by the Mayor of Genoa, together with 28 other female excellences linked to the City.

She teaches at the Conservatory "Niccolò Paganini" of Genoa (Italy).