

BUSONI Sonatas for violin and piano

Luca Fanfoni, violin - Luca Ballerini, piano

FERRUCCIO BUSONI (Empoli, 1/4/1866 Berlin, 27/7/1924)

Sonata No. 1 in E minor op. 29 for violin and piano

01. Allegro deciso – Vivace – Poco sostenuto 08:54

02. Molto sostenuto – Più lento. Andante sostenuto – Più sostenuto 06:44

03. Allegro molto e deciso – Vivace 09:03

Composition Weimar, 1890

Dedicated to Adolf Brodsky

Rahter Edition, Hamburg, 1891

Sonata No. 2 in E minor op. 36 for violin and piano

04. Langsam – Poco con moto, assai deciso 09:25

05. Presto 02:57

06. Andante, piuttosto grave – Andante con moto – Poco più andante

Alla marcia, vivace – Andante – Tranquillo assai

Allegro deciso, un poco maestoso – Più tranquillo, apoteotico – Adagio 19:32

Composition 1898 - 1900

Dedicated to Ottokar Nováček

Published by Breitkopf & Härtel, Leipzig 1901

Total Time: 56:35



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Artistic and technical coordination **Federico Caldara**

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Violin **Carlo Bergonzi** (Cremona 1742)

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Busoni's violin and piano sonatas, which represent a significant landmark in musical literature, require a deep understanding of Busoni's musical idiom. The Sonata Op. 29 in E minor, composed in 1890, is notable for the quality of its themes, the late-Romantic influence of Brahms and its solid constructive structure, imitative contrapuntal writing and a predilection for melodic chromaticism. The first movement begins with a passionate and heroic theme expounded by the violin. The second theme is presented in a dreamy and distended manner, with chromaticism in the violin accompanied by piano chords. The musical discourse continues, culminating in the Vivace in B major with an intense lyrical expression of the violin supported by rapid chromatic passages on the piano and motivic fragments of the first theme. The second movement begins with an episode featuring a long-note chromatic motif on the piano, followed by a cadenza, in the style of the chorale, introducing the main theme. In the second part, the main theme reappears in the treble of the violin, followed by another reference to the second theme of the first movement. The Allegro molto e deciso opens with a heroic theme in E minor, a delicate transition, using an ascending motif in dotted rhythm, dampens the initial energy and introduces the second theme in B major, more calm and serene. The musical discourse gradually comes alive and leads to an emphatic exposition of the ascending motif in dotted rhythm. Busoni's Second Violin Sonata op. 36a consists of several sections that follow one another without interruption. Formally, the work follows the structure of Beethoven's Piano Sonata op. 109, with an opening movement alternating slow and fast sections, followed by a Scherzo in 6/8 and a final movement with theme and variations. The first half begins with an austere theme presented by the piano, followed immediately by the violin. This initial motif dominates the entire movement, accompanied by a second theme presented by the violin. After a fast transition and a fleeting appearance of the initial motif, there follows the finale that condenses all the motivic material, culminating in an Adagio coda that repropounds the initial theme in an altered form. In the second half, a Scherzo in the form of a Tarantella, one can recognise references to the Prestissimo from Beethoven's Op. 109 and the finale of the Sonata 'a Kreutzer'. The third movement begins with the violin introducing a solemn piano sequence, followed by a slower reminiscence of the main theme of the Tarantella. The section breaks into tremolos and trills and a descending scale on the violin introduces the final theme of the movement, a Bachian Chorale, which is developed through variations following the Beethovenian pattern. The variations culminate in a monumental Fugue and the Chorale ends with a perfect cadenza.

Luca Ballerini



Luca Fanfoni, Photographer: A. Ballerini - Dynamic

Luca Fanfoni, who graduated in violin with top marks at the 'G. Verdi' Conservatory of Music in Milan with Gigino Maestri, is a winner and prize-winner at international competitions in Genoa ('N. Paganini'), Brescia ('R. Romanini') and Vercelli ('G. B. Viotti'). He has performed in prestigious concert halls all over the world, gaining unanimous acclaim from audiences and critics alike, so that today he is considered one of the most outstanding Italian violinists. For the Dynamic label, he recorded the complete concertos by P.A. Locatelli's L'Arte del Violino and, by Antonio Lolli, the complete 10 Violin Concertos in collaboration with Reale Concerto Ensemble as soloist and conductor. The recordings received unanimous acclaim from specialist critics. In 2013, he recorded the Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin by J. S. Bach for Dynamic. In February 2002 he made his New York debut at Carnegie Hall, where he was a guest again in February 2003, the opening concert of his US tour. The important magazine Amadeus published in 2004 the CD with the six Sonatas for solo violin by E. Ysaie, in 2012 the CD of the two Sonatas for violin and piano by F. Busoni in collaboration with Luca Ballerini. In 2005 and 2014 he participated in the live

radio broadcasts of Rai Radio 3 "I Concerti dal Palazzo del Quirinale" and in the programme "La Stanza della Musica". With the chamber ensemble Reale Concerto in May 2012, he toured Japan for nine concerts as solo conductor, performing in Japan's most important concert halls. The Tokyo concert was broadcast live on NHK television. In 2014, he was engaged in the tour of the 'Pietro Antonio Locatelli' Festival on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of his death, with numerous concerts in Europe in cooperation with the ensemble Reale Concerto. Also in 2014 and 2015, the Dutch record company Brilliant Classics released two CDs dedicated to Luigi Dallapiccola and Antonio Bazzini, a 19th-century Italian violin virtuoso. The latest CD produced by Dynamic, 'Paganini Rediscovered', has just been released. It features six unreleased Paganini pieces discovered by Luca Fanfoni together with musicologist Dr. Danilo Prefumo and performed by Luca Fanfoni on the famous Guarneri del Gesù 1743 'Il Cannone' that belonged to Niccolò Paganini. Luca Fanfoni's dexterity and passion for risk honours his illustrious predecessor Niccolò Paganini (Diapason, December 2015, Jean-Michel Molkhou). In 2020 during the tremendous pandemic in collaboration with his entire family of musicians and with the support of other very good friends, Luca Fanfoni discovered and recorded the world premiere of the beautiful concertos of Mauro D'Alay 'Il Maurino' Parma 1687/1757, 12 Concertos for violin and strings op. 1. In 2022, the label Aulicus Classics released its latest recording Niccolò Paganini '24 plus 1' Capricci for violin. He teaches violin at the Conservatorio di Musica 'A. Boito' in Parma.



Luca Ballerini, Photographer: Andrea Di Giovanni

Luca Ballerini studied at the Conservatory G.B. Martini of Bologna with Gino Brandi, from 1986 to 1989 he attended the courses of *Perfectionnement et Virtuosité* with Maria Tipo at the Conservatory of Geneva, where he received the award *Premier Prix de Virtuosité avec distinction*. Finalist in many international piano competitions as *F. Busoni* of Bolzano in 1992, he received a number of international awards, including the 1st Prize at the *XVI International Piano competition* in Sengallia, the 2nd Prize at the *G. B. Viotti competition* in Vercelli, the 3rd Prize at the *Concours Géza Anda* in 1994. Among his chamber music partners he performed with the Fiesole Quartet, Luca Fanfoni (with whom, for the "Amadeus" magazine, he made a recording of the two Sonatas for violin and piano by Ferruccio Busoni), Stefania Cafaro, Gabriele Pieranunzi, Luca Signorini, Vadim Pavlov. He played as a soloist with orchestras, including the Orchestra of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the Suisse Romande Orchestra, the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Conservatory of Geneva, Marchigiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania. After winning the prize at the *Concours Géza Anda* he made a recording dedicated to Alfredo Casella piano music (Naxos record label). He also made a recording dedicated to Chopin for his bicentenary in collaboration with the Universities of Warsaw and Catania (*Tau Records* label). For *Da Vinci Classics*, he recorded the *Concert sans Orchestre op. 14* (version from the manuscript in a world premiere recording) and the *Carnaval op. 9*. He has been collaborating, for several years, with live performances, on some productions of *Zappalà Dance Company*, one of the most interesting and productive contemporary dance ensembles, with which he has made national and international tours in important theaters. Luca Ballerini also teaches at the Conservatory V. Bellini of Catania, where he holds the chair of piano.