



**The "Costantino Bertucci" Plectrum Orchestra**

Conductor **Álvaro Lopes Ferreira**

First Mandolins **Olena Kurkina, Sonia Maurer, Aldo Arbusti, Giuseppe Montalto**

Second Mandolinis **Giuliano Latini, Ruy Lopes Ferreira, Rosaria Vecchione**

Mandola **Sergio Napolitano**

Guitars **Francesco Di Giovanni, Angelo Schietroma, Aurora Orsini**

Double bass guitar **Stefano Guerra**

Cello **Eva Csuthi**

Piano, Harpsichord **Gabriella De Nardo**

Harp **Maria Olga Greco**



**Francesco Di Giovanni**

**MANDOLIN IN CONCERT**

Soloists: **Olena Kurkina, mandolin** - **Sonia Maurer, mandolin** - **Gabriella De Nardo, piano, harpsichord**

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**Álvaro Lopes Ferreira, conductor**

01. Fantasia for Plectrum Orchestra: I. Allegro	02:42
02. Fantasia for Plectrum Orchestra: II. Andantino	04:11
03. Fantasia for Plectrum Orchestra: III. Rondo	02:06
04. Fantasia for Plectrum Orchestra: IV. Allegro Vivace	02:47
05. Prelude and Fugue	05:03
06. Theme with Variations	05:12
07. Sonata for Mandolin: I. Allegro	04:08
08. Sonata for Mandolin: II. Waltz	02:36
09. Sonata for Mandolin: III. Presto	02:14
10. "Marco Polo" Suite: I. Allemande	03:30
11. "Marco Polo" Suite: II. Minuet	03:19
12. "Marco Polo" Suite: III. Gigue	02:52
13. Concerto for Harpsichord and Plectrum Orchestra: I. Moderato	04:13
14. Concerto for Harpsichord and Plectrum Orchestra: II. Adagio, non troppo	03:50
15. Concerto for Harpsichord and Plectrum Orchestra: III. Moderato	02:40
16. Concerto for Harpsichord and Plectrum Orchestra: IV. Allegro	04:13

Total Time: 55:43

Recorded in 2022/2024 in Fonte Nuova (Rome)

at CMC Recording Studio, cordio.carlomaria@gmail.com

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**MANDOLIN IN CONCERT**

**Soloists**

**Olena Kurkina, mandolin**

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## FRANCESCO DI GIOVANNI AND THE "COSTANTINO BERTUCCI" PLECTRUM ORCHESTRA

The Plectrum Orchestra named after the mandolinist and composer Costantino Bertucci was founded in Rome in the early 1990s. The collaboration between Francesco Di Giovanni and the Orchestra began twenty years later, in 2012, when he joined as a guitarist, immediately becoming passionate about the language and sounds of the mandolin. The plectrum instruments follow, in structure, their bowed counterparts. In fact, the mandolin is, both in intonation and extension, the plectrum version of the violin. The long notes that the violin produces with the bow, in the mandolin are produced with the tremolo, a very fast picking that allows the note to be prolonged at will. Thus, the mandolin orchestra also follows, in its structure, that of the Strings, with first and second mandolins, mandolas, sometimes mandolincellos, then guitars, bass guitar or double bass and other additional instruments. The Orchestra, conducted with passion by Maestro Álvaro Lopes Ferreira, avails itself of the collaboration of excellent soloists such as the mandolinists Olena Kurkina and Sonia Maurer. The recent addition of the keyboard has also highlighted the talent of pianist Gabriella De Nardo. Francesco Di Giovanni has dedicated numerous original compositions and arrangements to the mandolin, both as a Plectrum Orchestra and as a chamber and solo instrument, characterized, like all his music, by a perfect balance between elements of both classical and jazz origin, intimately and inextricably fused. The first work, in 2013, is the "Fantasia per Orchestra di Plettri" in four movements: Allegro, Andantino, Rondò, Allegro Vivace, in which Olena Kurkina's mandolin is colored with jazz elements, far from the traditions of this instrument. The Fantasia is followed, in 2016, by Preludio e Fuga, in which two concertante mandolins, respectively that of Olena Kurkina and that of Sonia Maurer, dialogue alternating and joining the Orchestra. Here too, the jazz feeling emerges for both soloists. In 2018, "Tema con Variazioni" was released, a Concerto for solo Mandolin and Orchestra, built in the form of a Theme with Variations, in homage to Kurkina's virtuosity. Finally, 2019 was the year of composition of the "Concerto per Clavicembalo e Orchestra di Plettri" in four movements: Moderato, Adagio non troppo, Moderato, Allegro, composed for Gabriella De Nardo, in whose hands the fascinating Harpsichord is colored with modernity, becoming at times exuberant like an Electric Piano. In 2014, Francesco Di Giovanni also wrote two other works: the Sonata per Mandolino o Domra (a Russian four-string mandolin) for Olena Kurkina, inspired by Eastern European landscapes, in three movements: Allegro, Valzer and Presto, and the "Suite Marco Polo", also in three movements: Allemande, Minuetto and Giga, inspired by ancient music, although with a jazz essence, for the Marco Polo Quartet, a chamber music group, with two mandolins, a guitar and a double bass guitar, which features Kurkina and other members of the orchestra.

**Francesco Di Giovanni** Guitarist, Jazz Player, Composer, Arranger, Author, Francesco Di Giovanni, aka Frankie, still a minor and self-taught, began his intense life as a musician playing in Roman nightclubs on Via Veneto, in Capri and in hotels around the world. He soon began to collaborate with well-known radio and television artists who were congenial to him, eventually playing in a quartet with Renato Carosone. However, he prefers personal projects, where he can better express his original style, ranging from Jazz Standards, to Bossa Nova, to international Songwriters. Over time, he obtained both the Diploma in Classical Guitar and that of Arranging for Jazz Orchestra, the latter under the guidance of Maestro Gerardo Jacoucci. He composes music for all instruments, both solo and for orchestral and chamber ensembles, largely published by the BERBEN and MUSITALIA (formerly MAP) editions. His production, which includes over forty compositions, almost all performed in public by brilliant musicians, also includes two Operettas, of which he also wrote the libretto. His arrangements have been performed in important venues including the Teatro Sistina in Rome, one of his arrangements of the song "My Favourite Things" is currently the theme song for the RAI Radio 3 Fahrenheit program. He has been invited to hold Masterclasses in Conservatories, a guest on RAI broadcasts and interviewed by prestigious international magazines. He has a dozen records under his name, between Classical Music and Jazz, published by various labels including PHOENIX, AULIA, ALFAMUSIC, MUSITALIA.



Francesco Di Giovanni  
Soloists (from left):  
Sonia Maurer, mandolin  
Gabriella De Nardo, piano, harpsichord  
Olena Kurkina, mandolin



Roberta Sanna and Eva Csuthi, Photographers