

FRANCO ALFANO ORAZIO MAIONE *piano*

Quatre Pièces Op. 2

01. Romance	02:41
02. Petite Valse	01:29
03. Canon	06:00
04. Elegie	03:53

Quatre Pièces Op. 11

05. Vieille Fable	03:15
06. Valse	03:00
07. Notturmo	04:47
08. Scherzino	02:09

Cinq Pièces Lyriques Op. 14

09. Chant sans paroles	02:37
10. Taquinerie	01:46
11. A la Mazurka	02:09
12. Scherzo	01:56
13. Serenade exotique	03:40

Quatre Pièces Lyriques Op. 16

14. Désir	02:05
15. Au Ruisseau	01:51
16. Aveu intime	02:29
17. Bagatelle	01:25

Trois Pièces Lyriques Op. 24

18. Feuille d'Album	02:09
19. Boite a Musique	02:10
20. Canzonetta	03:39

21. Amour...amour... (Valse) 05:12

**22. Petite Mazurka
(unpublished)** 03:18

Total Time: 63:40



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FRANCO ALFANO

Quatre Pièces Op. 2

Quatre Pièces Op. 11

Cinq Pièces Lyriques Op. 14

Quatre Pièces Lyriques Op. 16

Trois Pièces Lyriques Op. 24

Amour ... amour ... (Valse)

Petite Mazurka

ORAZIO MAIONE *piano*

Thanks to the pianist Orazio Maione, Franco Alfano's discography is enriched with another 22 piano jewels.

Together with the first CD (Naxos 8.573754) this second publication adds the pieces of Operas 2, 11, 14, 16 and 24, plus a Waltz and a small unpublished youth Mazurka (1893), thus completing what is currently available of the composer's piano compositions.

These few notes are focused on the composer's small jewels for piano solo, being the operist magnificently presented by the well-known music critic Paolo Isotta in the booklet accompanying the first CD, dedicated to him by Orazio Maione.

Of course I cannot but mention the remarkable chamber repertoire where Alfano stands out like a Hugo Wolf, with his splendid lyrics for voice and piano, the sonata for violin, the sonata for cello, etc.

It is a story of friendship that links our families and Maestro Alfano: Orazio's young parents, the pianist Annamaria Pennella and Rino, conductor and musicologist, found an admirer and moral and artistic supporter in Alfano; Rino Maione will in turn be the promoter of his work in the decades following his death.

I already knew some pieces for piano, my sister Bianca Maria, a student of Pennella, had played them in the conservatory in Naples in 1975, in a concert "Homage to Franco Alfano" on the centenary of his birth, organized by Rino Maione for the "Associazione Polifonica Napoletana", pieces that had fascinated me greatly.

The influence on Alfano of the musicians of his Parisian stay is very much present (Debussy and Ravel archaizing in the pieces Op. 14/3 and 5, Satie in Elegie op. 2 n. 4 and the Waltz "Amour ... Amour...", the harmonic elegance of Fauré), all compositions at the turn of the 20th century: one can feel how characterized is his sensitivity in the colours, in the atmospheres that these pieces emanate.





The piano writing is always careful, logical, refined, stemming from the romantic piano tradition ("homage à" and almost quotes also in the titles of Chopin, Schumann, Mendelssohn and Liszt: Romance, Notturmo, Favola etc.); a tradition assimilated in first person as a performer and flanked by the attitude towards melodrama that will distinguish the most important part of his following production: Taquinerie, Op. 14/2, seems to have come out of the hands of Puccini in the Bohème. But Alfano has an originality of instrumental writing (together with him, other Neapolitan composers such as Terenzio Gargiulo should be re-executed) that makes each piece a small portrait, a miniature of style, perfect in every aspect.

Salvatore Orlando

ORAZIO MAIONE was born in Naples and became the winner of national and international piano competitions at a very young age.

He made his debut at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples at the age of twenty and then he performed in concerts for some of the most important Italian and foreign musical institutions - as soloist and chamber musician - and with important symphonic institutions. In 1986 he won the third edition of the prestigious international piano competition in Pretoria (South Africa).

He has made recordings for Italian and foreign radio and television institutions and for the English record label IMP Classic, England, Naxos and SuonareNews Records.

He has recorded the complete works of F. Chopin's 27 Studies, recently republished by Aulicus Classics, which have also been the subject of seminars held in Italian and foreign Conservatories. His videos - dedicated to the Chopinian piano method and the application of its principles through performance and analysis of his compositions - are present on internet in the DidatticalnWeb Channel. He has edited cycles of radio broadcasts on the piano repertoire and is author of articles, translations and publications for the publishers Curci and EDT-DeSono: for the latter he published the essay "Music Conservatories during Fascism Era. The reform of 1930: history and documents".

He has been guest lecturer at higher education institutions in Spain, Portugal, Germany, Romania, Malta, Turkey, USA and Canada.

Since 2014 he is a Steinway Artist, a short list of pianists sponsored by the prestigious German factory.

In 2017 and 2020 two CDs were published for the labels Naxos and Aulicus Classics dedicated to the complete Franco Alfano's piano works, important Neapolitan composer of the first half of the twentieth century, to which he is linked by family history. He currently holds a professorship at the "San Pietro a Majella" Conservatory of Napoli.



Photographer: FRANCESCO FRATTA