

DUO VALLE & VITIS

Simone Vallerotonda – *Archlute*

Andrea De Vitis - *Guitar*



ELLIPSIS
BETWEEN 1600 AND 1900

Arvo Pärt (1935)

Da pacem domine

Alexandre Tansman (1897 – 1986)

Suite in modo polonico (*Entrée, Kolysanka, Oberek*)

Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa (1566 – 1613)

Deh, come invan sospiro

Giovanni Girolamo Kapsperger (1580 – 1651)

Toccata VI (from Libro primo d'intavolatura di lauto)

Mario Castelnuovo - Tedesco (1895 – 1968)

Passacaglia on the names of Henry and Ronald Purcell

Philip Glass (1937)

Opening

Arvo Pärt (1935)

Fratres

Manuel Ponce (1882 – 1948)

Preludio – Balletto – Courante

SIMMETRY BETWEEN 1600 AND 1900

The project of a guitar and archlute duo is very unusual (since in the history those instruments have never met) but it is artistically justified by the marvelous sonority which the duo is capable to produce and by a very accurate choice of repertoire, in order to convey a coherent musical message.

The programme is focused on personal transcriptions and elaborations of compositions from the XX Century which were directly inspired to the world of the lute (Manuel Ponce, Alexandre Tansman, Ottorino Respighi, Francis Poulenc), pieces in minimalistic style which are connected for their atmosphere or structure to ancient music (Arvo Part, Philip Glass), and also compositions specifically written for this duo from contemporary composers (Giorgio Colombo Taccani, Giacomo Susani). At the same time, the programme includes transcriptions of dissonant madrigals by Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa, in order to convey a sense of continuity between past and present.



ANDREA DE VITIS

Andrea De Vitis is acclaimed for *"the infinitely varied color palette he creates"* (American Record Guide), the *"absolute control over the details of the performance"* (Musica) and for the capacity of being always *"perfectly attuned to the sensibility underlying the music"* (Music Web International).

Born in Roma in 1985, Andrea received his musical training from Leonardo De Angelis, Paolo Pegoraro, Frédéric Zigante, Oscar Ghiglia, Carlo Marchione, Marco Cerroni.

His intense concert activity has led to invitations to perform as a soloist by leading festivals and orchestras in prestigious concert halls around the world (including Liszt Academy in Budapest, Grand Theatre in Shanghai, Krakow Academy of Music, The Sheen Theatre in New York, Royal Academy in Copenhagen, Omni Foundation in San Francisco, Saint Petersburg State Academic Capella).

De Vitis is in high demand to teach masterclasses in prestigious academies (Maastricht Conservatorium, California State University, Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart, Conservatoire de Lyon, TU University Dublin, Koblenz Guitar Academy, Bucharest Academy of Music). He has taught in Italian Conservatoires and since autumn 2023 he is Univ. Prof. for guitar at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg.

He is an active recording artist and his extensive discography includes recordings for Naxos Records: an album about Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's works for guitar and the double CD *"Alexandre Tansman complete works for guitar"*, which includes the world premiere of newly discovered pieces. For the recording of Tansman's complete works, he received the *"Golden Guitar prize for the best CD"* from the International Guitar Convention in Milan and some tracks from the album are included in the film *"Impetus"* by Benjamin Knoebl. He recorded also for Vatican Radio, Slovenian National Radio, Radio Zacatecas (Mexico), Dotguitar.

De Vitis has won more than 40 prizes in various international competitions, including first prizes at Guitar Masters (Poland), Forum Gitarre Wien (Austria), Iserlohn International Guitar Competition (Germany), Certamen *"Julian Arcas"* de Almería (Spain), Budapest International Guitar Competition (Hungary), Gargnano, Gorizia (Italy); he also received 3 *"golden guitar awards"* at the International Guitar Convention in Milan and a special artistic medal from Senate of Italian Republic.

A supporter of new repertoire for the guitar, De Vitis performed the world premiere of numerous pieces dedicated to him and he regularly cooperates with composers such as Inés Badalo, Giorgio Colombo Tacconi, Francesco Telli, Angelo Gilardino, Steve Goss, Marco Ramelli, Marco De Biasi, Giacomo Susani, Kevin Swierkosz-Lenart, Nicola Jappelli. He also premiered *"Tre danze in modo polonico"* by Alexandre Tansman, recently rediscovered.

He is also very active as music publisher: very interested in the transcription process, he published his versions of Ciaccona from Partita BWV 1004, Suite BWV 823 and Fantasia BWV 917 by Johann Sebastian Bach, Valses Poeticos by Enrique Granados. He also cooperated with Italian guitarist and musicologist Frédéric Zigante for the volumes dedicated to Alexandre Tansman's music (Suites and Hommages). His editions and transcriptions are published by Hal Leonard, Productions d'Oz, Durand, Curci.

Andrea De Vitis is D'Addario artist and his activity is supported by CIDIM (Comitato Nazionale Italiano Musica).

SIMONE VALLEROTONDA

Born in Rome in 1983, Simone Vallerotonda started studying the classical guitar. At age 18, deeply in love with early music, he bought a lute without any idea on how to play it. Then he had lute tuition from Andrea Damiani at the "Santa Cecilia" Conservatory in Rome, where he graduated with the highest marks. He subsequently obtained a Master's Degree in theorbo and Baroque Guitar at the "Staatliche Hochschule für Musik" in Trossingen (Germany) under the guidance of Rolf Lislevand, also with the highest marks. Once again with full honours, he graduated in Philosophy at the "Tor Vergata" University of Rome, submitting a PhD dissertation about the relationships between 18th-century music and the French Philosophes.

In 2011, he ranked first in the soloists' class of the International Lute Competition "Maurizio Pratola", also obtaining the highest prize in the chamber music section from REMA (Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne).

He appeared at outstanding theatres and concert venues in the USA, Australia, South America, Far East, Europe, such as: New York's Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Conservatorium, Teatro de la Ciudad in Mexico City, Teatro Municipal in Santiago de Chile, the Singapore Lyric Opera, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, London's Wigmore Hall, Theater an der Wien, Theatre de Champs Élysées in Paris, Oporto's Casa da Música, the Liszt Academy of Budapest, Berliner Philharmonie, the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome.

He has recorded for major radio and television broadcasters such as RAI, ABC, BBC, Mezzo, France Musique, Radio4, Art, Polskie Radio, Kulturradio, RSI, Radio Classica, Vatican Radio, as well as for the labels Naïve, Sony, Erato, EMI, Decca, Amadeus, Brilliant, Aparté, E Lucevan Le Stelle Records, Arcana/ Outhere Music. In addition to his soloist's activity, he takes part as a continuo player in various ensembles including: Modo Antiquo, Rinaldo Alessandrini & Concerto Italiano, Imaginarium Ensemble, Cantar Lontano, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Ottavio Dantone & Accademia Bizantina.

Open to experimentation and contamination, he has played with Vinicio Capossela... but that's another good story!

He is professor of Lute at the Conservatory "A. Pedrollo" in Vicenza (IT).

In 2014 he founded "I Bassifondi", his own proprietary ensemble offering a 17th-18th century repertoire for guitar, theorbo and lute with continuo.

The concert and recording activity of Simone Vallerotonda and his ensemble I Bassifondi is supported by CIDIM - Comitato Nazionale Italiano Musica.