

Michele D'Ascenzo (L'Aquila, 1994)

Praised for the «perfect mastery of the keyboard and the precise control of the sound» (Paolo Viola, *Arcipelago Milano*), for his «great virtuosity» (Lidija Velickaite, *Lietuvos Aidas*) and for his «deep interpretative intentions» (Anna Maria Bruno, *Il Monferrato*), Michele D'Ascenzo leads an intense concert career throughout Italy, Austria, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Lithuania, San Marino Republic, etc. In 2022 he received the prestigious International Prize Gold Medal "Maison des Artistes" in Rome in recognition of his commendable artistic professionalism of concert pianist.

He obtained his Graduate Diploma with top marks and full honours at the State Music Conservatory "Alfredo Casella" in L'Aquila, Italy, where he studied under the guidance of Elena Matteucci and he continued his education with the Russian pianist Vsevolod Dvorkin (a former student of Lazar Berman) at the Talent Academy in Desio, Milan, where he attended also the periodic lessons of Natalia Trull (Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory). He followed the masterclasses of renowned pedagogues, such as Grigory Gruzman, Vincenzo Balzani, Roberto Cappello, Pierre Réach, Lya de Barberiis, etc. He enriched his musical and aesthetic taste studying composition with Alessandro Cusatelli and he obtained a Master Degree in Musicology at the Sapienza University of Rome with full marks and honours.

His technical and interpretative qualities have been appreciated in numerous international piano competitions: during the latest years Mr D'Ascenzo has won the first prize at the International Piano Competition in Gallarate, the first prize at the Moncalieri European Music Competition in Turin, the first prize at the International Competition in Filadelfia (Italy) and many other prizes and scholarships in Viterbo, Rome, Monza, Barlassina, Ancona, etc. Michele has appeared as a soloist with the Orchestra Filarmonica Italiana, the West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese, the Orchestra Classica di Alessandria, the ASF Orchestra, working with wellknown conductors, such as Sergei Kalyanov, Roberto Rizzi Brignoli, Martin Peschík, Andrea Oddone, Stefano Nigro, among others.

He has been invited by many historical Institutions and Festivals, such as Teatro Lirico di Milano, the Prague Summer Music Festival, Teatro Savoia in Campobasso, Amici del Teatro Carlo Felice e del Conservatorio di Genova, Accademia Filarmonica Romana, The Concert Society in L'Aquila, Amici della Musica di Campobasso, Theater de Bussel in Oosterhout-Breda, the Vienna Young Pianists Festival, Monferrato Classic Festival, Piano Talents Festival in Milan, The Roads of Europe Music Festival in Vilnius, Istituzione Sinfonica Abruzzese, Amici della Musica di Oleggio-Novara, and many others in Lugano, Turin, Den Haag, Marienbad, Chieti and on Como Lake. The latest seasons included also some recitals for important diplomatic Institutions: the US Missions to the United Nations Agencies in Rome

and the Senate of the Czech Republic (Waldstein Palace, Prague). Mr D'Ascenzo's performances are always acclaimed by public and critics alike.

Keen on the social aspects of music, he was the Secretary of L'Aquila's Circolo Giovani Amici della Musica for the promotion of classical music among young people and held charity concerts for the reconstruction of the city of L'Aquila after the earthquake. Also active as a musicologist and divulgator, he participates in conferences (e.g. Società Dante Alighieri) and collaborates with the Istituzione Universitaria dei Concerti in Rome giving music lectures and listening guides at the Rectorate of La Sapienza University. He was also included in the list of top performers proposed in the book 'Il pianoforte a 4 mani' by Alberto Cima Vivarelli (Zecchini Ed., 2022).

www.micheledascenzo.com