

Silete Venti!



Silete Venti! orchestra was born in Milan and it materializes the ideals, musical and human values of Simone Toni. It finds its *raison d'être* in the connection with the places and with the people who listen, establishing an even exchange of emotions between the parts. The orchestra responds to Mesmer's theories and its main philosophical reference lies in the Kantian starry sky. Their thirst for long forgotten timbres is unquenchable; their search for true and genuine sounds, with which they may come into contact with the invisible, is unstoppable. Their juvenile passion and thirst for knowledge is driven by a sincere and deep curiosity. Far from any

academic and "mainstream" manners, they wish to bring back to life unprecedented dynamics and colors; recreating a sonic word from the past with its original vibrations, its ancient enchantment, blowing away the thick pall of dust deposited over time by modern morality, in order to finally return "home", hand in hand with their listeners too.

In July 2004, Silete Venti! debuted with "Il Borghese Gentiluomo" Comedie-Ballet by J-B. Lully held in the Teatro alla Scala in Milan. Since December 2005 Silete Venti! collaborated with the Cappella Musicale del Duomo of Lodi. With the help of the talented singers from Westminster Abbey, they realized a long-term project focused on the performance of the major Oratorios by G.F. Haendel. In 2006, the year of the great Mozart, Silete Venti! took part at the birth of the first "Mozart Woche" in Milan, organized by the Gioventù Musicale d'Italia under the patronage of the Mozarteum in Salzburg. The Mozartian year of Silete Venti! continued with the project "The portrait" which consisted of a tour dedicated to "Spasso". In October 2007, Silete Venti! inaugurated the "Cattedrali" Festival, which over the years has involved the most important European cathedrals, by celebrating their histories and musical repertoires. Henceforth as a key member of the "Mozart Woche", in 2008 Silete Venti! presented a project dedicated to "Milan, City of Lights". In 2009, the year of Haendel, Silete Venti! undertook a long journey dedicated to the German genius, a path begun with "Haendel in Italy" that led to the final project "Haendel 2009". In the occasion of their last concert that took place in San Marco Church (Milan) on December 31st under the guidance of Corrado Rovaris, the orchestra premiered the newly rediscovered "Double Concerto by Lord Haendel" for oboe and bassoon, performed by Simone Toni and Laurent Le Chenadec. Sky Classica produced and promoted a video-documentary of the event. In November 2011, the first CD of Silete Venti! was released by Sony Classic: the orchestra recorded the 3 Handelian Concerti Grossi directed by Corrado Rovaris. In 2010 their journey continued with a project entitled "L'Acqua, il Fuoco" dedicated to the music of Haendel, realized with the collaboration of the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera and of the Accademia dei Piaceri Campestri of Varese.

The desire to involve enlightened cultural institutions in their further projects has opened a first partnership with the Accademia dei Pugni di Milano, an association born to celebrate the unique intellectual and artistic life of Milan during the Enlightenment Era. The first result of such collaboration was "The soul of Mozart", a concert conducted by Simone Toni on the 31st of December 2010 in San Marco Church in Milan. A further recording project was born in collaboration with Sony Classic: the integral 3-CDs "Vivaldi e l'Angelo d'Avorio". The release of the first album was celebrated in a concert organised in the church of San Giovanni in Bragora (Venice). This concert has been the occasion to celebrate the anniversary of the baptism of the Red Priest, which took place in this very church in 1678, by unveiling of a bust dedicated to the composer.

Silete Venti! toured the 'Vivaldi e l'Angelo d'Avorio' in the following events: International Festival of Culture in Bergamo, La Fenice Theater in Venice, Madesimo Music Festival, Baroque Festival in Viterbo, Castello di Masnago in Varese, Sala dell'Ospedaletto in Venice within the inaugural cycle of concerts organised by the 'Mozart association' in Venice, (thanks to this event La Chiesa dei Mendicanti has finally reopened its doors - during an evening pervaded of ancient magic),

Classical Music World at the Verona Fair, Chivasso in Musica Festival and Les Plaisirs Champêtres of Varese. Their recordings have been broadcasted by the main Italian classical music radio shows such as Primo Movimento, Piazza Verdi, Rotoclassica, Baroque Stravaganze, Reteduecinque, RSI, Ultimo Grido, Il Cimento and by prestigious foreign broadcasters, among the others: WDR3, MDR Figaro and BR Rundfunk. This recording has received enthusiastic critics on international newspapers and on the main musical magazines. A series of awards has been assigned to Silete Venti! and Simone Toni, celebrating them as a true revelation thanks to the unique soundscape they have been able to reproduce and their revolutionary approach to music. Furthermore, the three CDs "Vivaldi e l'Angelo d'Avorio" have received - for three consecutive editions - the nomination for best baroque recordings of baroque music of the year at the ICMA awards - international Classical Music Awards.

At the same time, thanks to their relentless researches and studies, Silete Venti! realized another ambitious project in collaboration with their beloved church of San Marco in Milan and with the patronage of the Pontifical Institute of Culture presided over by Cardinal Ravasi: a journey into spirituality in which they were celebrating consecutively: Bach's St. John Passion together with the choir Collegium Juvenum Stuttgart, Handel's Messiah played for the first time in its original version, and Telemann's visionary Brockes passion, unveiled in its original version and for the first time in Italy on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of its premiere (dating 1716). For this very special occasion, Italian distinguished Professor Quirino Principe wrote the first Italian translation of the Brockes' text which was published by Unicopli, with an introduction by Armando Torno. Their following recording of Stabat Mater by Pergolesi was released by Bottega Discantica and it is available in both CD and LP versions. This cycle of projects has aroused the attention of the most important newspapers; what is more, their concerts have been broadcasted live by Radio Tre (Italy) and worldwide (St. John Passion by Radio Vatican and the Messiah by Venice Classic Radio).

The desire to connect their sonic dreams to valuable editorial publications has encouraged the orchestra to collaborate with several writers and intellectuals. Following the Brockes' edition, the "Vivaldi and the Angel of Ivory" has also become the title of a collection of Venetian tales written by Mario Marcarini (published by Skira 2015). Together with their next opera production 'Don Giovanni' by W. A. Mozart (2016-17), the Italian journalist Giorgio Ferrari created "La sera della prima", an exciting essay dedicated to the creation Mozart's masterpiece in Prague in 1787 which immediately became a myth. (ed. La vita Felice, 2016)

The 2017 has been for Silete Venti! the year devoted to their transgressive and visionary "Don Giovanni" by W. A. Mozart, brought onto the stage first in Milan (Teatro della Triennale) and then in Florence (Teatro della Pergola). A lifelong dream, an utopian journey, a manifesto of ideals and of shocking and overwhelming sounds, strongly desired and imagined. The Milan-based project, entirely conceived and created by Simone Toni, was financed and realized by Barnaba Fornasetti - also a brilliant creator of alchemical, hypnotic and magical sets - and took shape thanks to the poetic and enchanting costumes tailored by Romeo Gigli.

Heretical and destabilizing, Don Giovanni "by" Simone Toni has sparked heated debates and even violent polemics. In 2018 became a box set (3cd + dvd) published by Warner Classics & Erato and greeted by criticism in many exciting articles; Don Giovanni was defined by Italian music critic Angelo Foletto (whose thoughts touched the heart of many and represented an extraordinary recognition for the orchestra) with the following words: " Surely, this record will provoke controversies, but it is already a chapter in history of contemporary Mozart's Don Giovanni. Starting from today it won't be forgettable listening to Don Giovanni without considering this one: you could love it, despise it, deny it or copy it, yet being strongly astonished. The frantic short circuits created by Simone Toni and his "Silete Venti!" ensemble (...) put the listener at the very centre of the stage. (..) Those who believe that Don Giovanni tells the last living day of a man who preempts from the very first note and even more, since he seems desperately running towards them, pushed by some little breath-taking music, will find himself totally into this work."(Source: Repubblica)

The future dreams of Simone Toni and his orchestra Silete Venti! are the following: "LvB projekt" and the return to Venice for an ambitious, noble, highly cultural, educational and humanitarian

project linked to the Ospedaletto and its precious ancient soul, in order to celebrate the values and ideals of the beloved Serenissima Republic... To be continued...