EUROPA GALANTE

Europa Galante was formed by Fabio Biondi to draw the international public’s attention to a new and definitive Italian presence in the interpretation of music from the baroque and classical eras on original instruments. Biondi gathered around him some of the best Italian musicians with whom he had already worked, and soon Europa Galante met with huge success.

Their first record, Vivaldi’s concertos was awarded the ‘Premio Cini’ of Venice and the ‘Choc de la Musique’, and it was soon followed in the subsequent years by a number of further awards such as five Golden Diapasons, Golden Diapason of the Year in France, RTL Prize, ‘Record of the Year’ nominations in Spain, Canada, Sweden, France and Finland, and the ‘Prix du Disque’ (Locatelli’s Concerti Grossi), ‘ffff’ of Telerama review (Alessandro Scarlatti’s oratorio Humanità e Lucifero).

Europa Galante has performed in many of the world’s major concert halls and theatres: La Scala Theatre in Milan, the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, the Suntory Hall of Tokyo, the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam, the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Musikverein in Vienna, Lincoln Center in New York and the Sydney Opera House. The ensemble has toured in Australia, Japan, Canada, Israel, the USA and South America, and often collaborates with the Ente Santa Cecilia in Rome to recover and restore eighteenth century Italian operas, such as Antonio Caldara’s La Passione di Gesù Cristo and Leonardo Leo’s Sant’Elena al Calvario. The ensemble regularly performs at the Alessandro Scarlatti Festival in Palermo and has given the world premières of Clori, Dorino e Amore serenata, Massimo Puppieno, Il Trionfo dell’Onore and in 2002 La Principessa Fedele.

Europa Galante’s repertoire ranges from the operas of Handel (Poro) and Vivaldi (Bazajet) and the oratorios of Alessandro Scarlatti (Maddalena, Humanità e Lucifero, Caino), through to the great instrumental works of the eighteenth century. The ensemble has a varying structure, and often performs chamber music such as the string sonatas of Italian composers of the seventeenth century including Castello, Legrenzi and Farina. Their recent recording of Luigi Boccherini’s string quintets has received great critical acclaim.

After years of collaboration with the French record company Opus 111, in 1998 Europa Galante signed an exclusive contract with Virgin Classics which went on to release their recordings of Vivaldi’s L’Estro Armonico, Luigi Boccherini’s string quintets as well as arias from cantatas by J.S. Bach with the tenor Ian Bostridge, Sinfonia by Scarlatti, and Vivaldi’s opera pastiche Batjazet,
Biography, Fabio Biondi (violin, conductor)

Born in Palermo, Fabio Biondi began his international career at the age of twelve, performing his first solo concert with the RAI symphony orchestra. Moved early on by an inexhaustible cultural curiosity, Fabio Biondi was introduced to pioneers of the new approach to baroque music, an opportunity that was to expand his musical vision and change the direction of his career. When he was sixteen, he was invited by the Musikverein of Vienna to perform Bach's violin concertos. Since then, Fabio Biondi has performed with ensembles including Cappella Real, Musica Antiqua Wien, Seminario Musicale, La Chapelle Royale and Les Musiciens du Louvre (ever since its foundation) all specialized in the performance of baroque music using original technique and instruments.

In 1990, Fabio Biondi founded Europa Galante, an ensemble that, in a few years thanks to their worldwide concert schedule and extraordinary recording successes, became the most internationally renowned and awarded Italian ensemble of baroque music. Fabio Biondi’s musical development, oriented towards both the universal repertoire plus the rediscovering of minor composers, includes three centuries of music. This is proved by his varied discography: Vivaldi’s 'The Four Seasons', Corelli’s Concerti Grossi, the oratorios, the serenatas and operas of Alessandro Scarlatti (La Messa di Natale, Clori, Dorino e Amore, Massimo Puppieno and Il trionfo dell'onore) Handel’s operas (Poro), and the XVIII century Italian violin repertoire (Veracini, Vivaldi, Locatelli, Tartini) to sonatas by Bach, Schubert and Schumann.

Nowadays, Fabio Biondi embodies the perpetual pursuit of style, free from dogmatism and intent in his quest for the original language. It is due to this very approach that he can collaborate as soloist and conductor with many varied orchestras, including Santa Cecilia in Rome, Rotterdam Chamber Orchestra, the European Baroque Orchestra, the Opera of Halle, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Norway, the Orchestre Nationale of Monpellier, the Orchestra Ciudad de Granada to name but a few.

Fabio Biondi also performs in duo with piano, harpsichord or forte-piano in prestigious venues around the world including Cité de la Musique in Paris, Hogi Hall in Tokyo, Auditorium Nacional in Madrid and Wigmore Hall in London.