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Following BBC Music Magazine Awards triumph, the
orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia opens
the Edinburgh Festival with Sir Antonio Pappano and
Bulgari Ambassador Carmen Giannattasio

6 – 7 August 2016
Edinburgh International Festival



6 August 2016

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

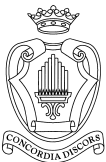
**Orchestra dell'Accademia
Nazionale di Santa Cecilia
Edinburgh Festival Chorus
Christopher Bell** *chorus master*
Antonio Pappano *conductor*
Carmen Giannattasio *soprano*
Marianna Pizzolato *alto*
Yijie Shi *tenor*
Roberto Tagliavi *bass*
Rossini *Otello - overture*
Bellini *I Capuleti e I Montecchi -
overture*
Verdi *Macbeth – Ballabili*
Rossini *Stabat Mater*

7 August 2016

Usher Hall, Edinburgh

**Orchestra dell'Accademia
Nazionale di Santa Cecilia
Antonio Pappano** *conductor*
Boris Berezowsky *piano*
Tchaikovsky *Romeo and Juliet*
Rachmaninoff *Rhapsody on a
Theme of Paganini*
Schoenberg *Pelleas und Melisande*

Following last night's triumph at the BBC Music Magazine Awards where their recording of Verdi's *Aida* won the Album of the Year and the Opera category, the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and Sir Antonio Pappano return to the Edinburgh Festival on 6-7 August for the first time in almost 70 years. The last time the orchestra appeared at the festival was in 1948 for a 6-concert residency with conductors including Furtwängler in his first UK appearance following the Second World War - Furtwängler had regularly worked with the orchestra in Rome every season for over twenty years prior to this. This year, the orchestra opens the festival with two contrasting concerts; both themed



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around Shakespeare including Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, classical interludes from Bellini and Verdi operas and the lesser known *Pelleas und Melisande* by Schoenberg. For the *Stabat Mater*, the orchestra is joining Edinburgh Festival Chorus and a stellar cast including soprano and Bulgari Ambassador Carmen Giannattasio, alto Marianna Pizzolato, tenor Yijie Shi and bass Roberto Tagliavini. Pizzolato starred in the Orchestra's recording of the *Stabat Mater* in 2011. In the second concert, pianist Boris Berezowsky joins the orchestra for Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini.



This season, Sir Antonio Pappano marks his 10th anniversary with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. This special celebration has brought further accolades and awards including a double win at the BBC Music Magazine Awards this month and a nomination for an International Opera Award. Their extensive international touring this season includes a German tour, their debut at the Paris Philharmonie and their first South-American tour.

In addition to the *Aida* there have been four further discs in the autumn including Beatrice Rana's Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev disc, Jonas Kaufmann's sensational Puccini disc *Nessun Dorma*, Janine Jansens' CD of Brahms Violin Concerto and Bartok Violin Concerto No.1 and another with Jan Lisiecki playing Schumann's Piano Concerto. It is further testament to the popularity of the Pappano - Santa Cecilia partnership that the world's leading artists choose to collaborate with them for their distinctive vitality and unmistakable lyricism.

Their disc of Verdi's *Aida* with a stellar cast including Anja Harteros and Jonas Kaufmann was honoured in Japan at the Record Academy Awards with Record Geijutsu whilst also becoming Best Classical Music Recording of 2015 in the Telegraph, Sunday Times and New York Times. Though a symphonic orchestra, the Accademia di Santa Cecilia with its multi-award winning Chorus has been returning to the studio to record opera, often performing them for the first time. "It's important that they have contact with Italian music, because it's in their DNA, even if they haven't played this," as Pappano explains.

At a time of cultural instability and economic malaise, the Accademia di Santa Cecilia stands as a beacon of artistic excellence, progress and enlightened administration in Italy. Over the past 10 years, Antonio Pappano has revived the Roman orchestra and has re-established it among the top European orchestras. Together they have won numerous awards for their extensive discography on Warner Classics (previously EMIClassics).

As Nicola Bulgari, entrepreneur and supporter of the orchestra explains: ***"Like the Rome's distinguished orchestra, Bulgari was founded on Italy's rich artistic and cultural tradition. Though both have modernised to compete in the international arena, we both appreciate and value our roots. Preserving this heritage makes Italy a world leader in style, design and artistry from science to music. During the past decades, Italy's precious opera and orchestral world has been at times undervalued but the recent flourishing of Pappano's orchestra has catapulted one of the world's oldest music institutions into the international limelight. We are proud to celebrate the opening of our***



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flagship boutique in New Bond Street by putting the Accademia di Santa Cecilia Orchestra and Italy's brightest opera star Carmen Giannattasio centre stage. It is our past which gives Italy its future"



Aida

"the opera sensation of the year [...] is not overstated"
Telegraaf in The Netherlands

"unmissable for Pappano's expansive, poetic yet tautly dramatic conducting"
Sunday Times

"thrillingly alive here in a superb new recording which could hardly be bettered today"
Telegraph

"Who needs elephants when the music sounds this good?"
The Times *****



Beatrice Rana Tchaikovsky Prokofiev CD

"There has been a lot of star-is-born noise around the 22-year-old Italian pianist Beatrice Rana, and it might be justified. Teamed with Antonio Pappano and his Accademia di Santa Cecilia orchestra, she is a compelling storyteller"
Guardian



Jan Lisiecki Schumann CD

"Jan Lisiecki made his Proms debut in 2013 in this very work, together with Pappano and the Santa Cecilia orchestra, and it's a partnership that audibly works very well."
Gramophone



Janine Jansen Brahms CD

"hand-in-glove relationship that exists between soloist, conductor and Pappano's superbly responsive Santa Cecilia orchestra.....I find it remarkable that the Rome recording of the Brahms is live, so rapt is the atmosphere, so inch-perfect the recorded balances."
Gramophone





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The Orchestra and Chorus of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia



The **Accademia di Santa Cecilia** is a rare example of an Italian symphony orchestra unattached to an opera house and is unanimously recognised as the country's finest symphonic orchestra. Since taking over as **Music Director** nine years ago, **Sir Antonio Pappano** has revitalised and galvanised the Orchestra with his enthusiastic spirit, positive energy and consummate musicianship. It has been voted one of the leading orchestras of the world, whilst the **Chorus of the Accademia di Santa Cecilia** has been described as "one of the world's great choirs" (The Independent), being in great demand on tour both with the Orchestra and on its own. In the UK alone, they have **won more than 9 music awards over the past 2 years**.

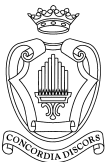
The Accademia di Santa Cecilia has an impressive heritage. Since its creation in 1908 the Orchestra has collaborated with distinguished composers including **Mahler, Debussy, Richard Strauss, Sibelius, Stravinsky, Hindemith, Respighi, Berio and Stockhausen**. They have also worked with conductors including **Toscanini, Furtwängler, Karajan, Böhm, Kleiber, Celibidache, Bernstein, Carlos Kleiber, Sawallisch, De Sabata, Stokowski, Abbado, Muti and Barenboim**. Most recently its Music Directors have been **Bernstein, Sinopoli, Gatti and Myung Whun Chung**. They have imbued in the orchestra the great European symphonic tradition from Beethoven to Shostakovich.

Sir Antonio Pappano

Born in London, Pappano moved to the USA at the age of 13. He conducted his first performance in 1987 at the Norwegian National Opera, where he was to become Music Director in 1990. At the age of 32 he moved to Brussels, having been appointed to the same office at La Monnaie where he remained from 1992 to 2002. During this period he made his debuts in Vienna, at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and at the Bayreuth Festival. He became Music Director of The Royal Opera in 2002 (gaining the 2003 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera) and of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome in October 2005. Recent highlights with The Royal Opera include a new production of *Il tritico*, a celebration of Plácido Domingo's 40 years performing with The Royal Opera, a tour to Japan (conducting *Manon*, *La Traviata* and Handel's *Messiah*) and the world premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Anna Nicole*. In May 2010 he presented a widely acclaimed series, 'Opera Italia', for BBC television, and since then he has made many recordings for EMI, most recently Rossini's *Guillaume Tell* (released July 2011) and Mahler's Symphony no. 6 (November 2011). Pappano received a knighthood in the Queen's 2012 New Year Honours, and in May of this same year was made a Cavaliere di Gran Croce Dell'Ordine Al Merito della Repubblica Italiana.

Recent Discography

Rossini Overtures October 2014
Britten's War Requiem, November 2013
Sacred Verdi, August 2013
Dvorak Cello Concerto and Symphony No.9, October 2012
Mahler, Symphony no. 6, November 2011
Rossini, *Guillaume Tell*, July 2011



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Rachmaninov, Symphony no. 2, February 2011
Rossini, Stabat Mater, November 2010



Recent Awards

Verdi Aida

Opera Award, BBC Music Magazine Awards (2016)
Album of the Year, BBC Music Magazine Awards (2016)

Antonio Pappano - Echo Klassik 2014 with Ian Bostridge

Antonio Pappano: Male Artist of the Year, Classic Brit Awards (2011)
Verismo with Jonas Kaufmann: Recital Category, Gramophone Award (2011)
Rossini Stabat Mater: Editor's Choice, Gramophone Award (2011)

Verdi Requiem:

Critics' Choice, Classical Brit Awards (2010)
Choral category award, BBC Music Magazine Awards (2010)
Choral award, Gramophone Awards (2010)

Madama Butterfly:

Female artist of the year (Angela Gheorghiu), Classic Brit Awards (2010)
Opera Disc Award, Classic FM Gramophone Awards

Colbran, The Muse with Joyce Di Donato:

Recital, Gramophone Awards (2010)

www.santacecilia.it



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