

CU ★ PRESENTS

2023-24 Season



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Faculty Tuesdays

Concerto per Margherita

Nicolò Spera, classical guitar
with:

Cristina Greco, harp

Corrado Margutti, tenor

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Grusin Music Hall

Program

Fantasia 33

Francesco da Milano (1497-1543)

Dis/simulazioni

Nicola Jappelli (b. 1975)

World première

Der Tod Und Das Mädchen

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)/

Ferdinand Rebay (1880-1953)

Cadenza sospesa

Filippo Del Corno (b. 1970)

World première

Ciaccona BWV 1004

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

trans. Nicolò Spera

Nicolò Spera, six-string and 10-string guitars

—Intermission—

Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Glückwunsch

Erich Korngold (1897-1957)

Lyrics: Richard Dehmel

L'heure exquise

Lyrics: Paul Verlaine

La barcheta

Lyrics: Pietro Buratti

Reynaldo Hahn (1874-1947)

Duo Exquis

Corrado Margutti, tenor

Cristina Greco, harp

Deux Regards

Corrado Margutti (b. 1974)

World première

In loving memory of Margherita Bono

- I. *Nuit* (lyrics: Pablo Picasso)
- II. *Un Ciel* (lyrics: Vincent van Gogh)

Nicolò Spera, six-string guitar

Cristina Greco, harp

Corrado Margutti, tenor

Program notes

Margherita Bono was Nicolò Spera's high-school best friend. She passed away unexpectedly last December. Faced with the impossibility of altering the course of events, Nicolò Spera dedicates his playing and this concert to honor her life. The featured guitar music conveys stories of her uniqueness and the enduring nature of their friendship. Nicolò Spera hopes to raise awareness of the stigmatized topic of mental health and suicide, and encourages everyone to engage within their local communities to make a lifesaving impact.

Deux Regards

Corrado Margutti (1974)

World première

In loving memory of Margherita Bono

Nuit

la nuit
dans la fontaine
le rêve tord son bec au coup donné
contre l'air
arraché
aux boyaux de la couleur
cachée
dans la guitare
sa joie enivrée
par le chant de la douleur
tirant
les fils
qui soutiennent le plateau
de la scène
déverse
l'eau
du lustre
le long de l'escalier

the night
by the fountain
the dream twists its beak at the given
blow
against the air
ripped off to the guts of color
hidden
in the guitar
his joy
drunk
through singing pain
pulling
the wires that support the plan
of the stage
pours
the water
of the chandelier
along the staircase

que
la main noire parapluie
à l'oreille bleue résonne
la bulle de savon qui s'échappe
et emporte prisonnière l'aube
naissante

—*Pablo Picasso*

Un Ciel

Je ne serais pas surpris
si tu aimerais la nuit étoilée.¹
Un ciel bleu avec nuages blancs.
Un immense terrain d'un lilas cendré,
l'horizon de collines bleues
et de buissons verts
avec petits mas à toits orangés.²
Un ciel bleu dessus
et un avant plan
de sable gris.³
Je ne sais si tu comprendras
que l'on puisse dire de la poésie
rien qu'en bien arrangeant des
couleurs, comme on peut dire
des choses consolantes en musique.⁴

—*Vincent van Gogh*

that
the black hand umbrella
to the blue ear resonates
the soap bubble who runs away
and takes prisoner the rising dawn

I wouldn't be surprised
if you liked the starry night.
A blue sky with white clouds.
An immense field of an ashy lilac, the
horizon of blue hills
and green bushes
with small farmsteads with orange-
colored roofs.
A blue sky above
and a foreground
of gray sand.
I don't know if you'll understand
that one can speak poetry
just by arranging colors well, just as
one can say
comforting things in music.

¹ *From a letter to Theo van Gogh, Sept. 29, 1888*

² *From a letter to Theo van Gogh, Sept. 25, 1888*

³ *From a letter to Theo van Gogh, Oct. 3, 1888*

⁴ *From a letter to Willemien van Gogh, Nov. 12, 1888*

Personnel

Text that is bold and underlined is a hyperlink; click or tap for more information.

Nicolò Spera, classical guitar

Filippo Del Corno, composer

Filippo del Corno's music has been performed by Luciano Berio, James MacMillan, David Alan Miller, Dimitri Ashkenazy, John Axelrod, Enrique Mazzola, Carlo Boccadoro, RAI National Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, California EAR Unit, Almeida Opera in various festivals, theatres and concert halls including the South Bank Centre (London), Internationale MusikFestwochen (Luzern), Bang On A Can Marathon (New York), Konzerthaus (Berlin), Festival de Radio France et Montpellier, Teatro alla Scala and Biennale (Venezia).

The City of Copenhagen, European Capital of Culture in 1996, invited him to participate in the collective composition of *European Requiem*, written by young poets and composers from different areas and cultures of Europe. In 1997, in collaboration with Carlo Boccadoro and Angelo Miotto, he founded Sentieri selvaggi, a group for contemporary music.

In 2001 he wrote *Orfeo a fumetti*, a chamber opera based on the comic book *Poema a fumetti* by Dino Buzzati. The opera premiered in Milano and was performed in Torino, Mantova and Roma.

In 2002 his opera *Non guardate al domani*, based on a libretto by Angelo Miotto about the kidnapping and the murder of Aldo Moro, was selected for the workshop phase of the Genesis Prize for Opera, and the first part was performed in London by Almeida Opera. After a long work in progress, the opera premiered in 2008 in Milano.

In 2009 the international Festival MiTo Settembre Musica produced his work *Io Hitler*, on a text by the Italian writer Giuseppe Genna. The staging, directed by Francesco Frongia and conducted by Carlo Boccadoro, takes place at Teatro Franco Parenti in Milano.

His works have been recorded for different labels such as Cantaloupe, RaiTrade, BMG Ricordi, EMI Classics, Sensible Records, Stradivarius and Thymallus; his music is published by RaiTrade Edizioni Musicali, Ricordi, Suvini Zerboni and Sonzogno. Since 2011, he teaches composition at the Conservatory of Milan, Italy.

Cristina Greco, harp

Cristina Greco was born in Sardinia. She completed her studies at the Conservatorio “G.P. da Palestrina di Cagliari” and graduated in harp under the tutelage of Anna Maria Melis; and composition, choral music and choral conducting, orchestral conducting and symphonic band orchestration. She specialized in harp with Isabelle Perrin at the Ecole Normale de Musique “A. Cortot” in Paris and orchestral conducting with Maurizio Arena. She obtained the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Conducting Contemporary Repertoire at the Conservatory of Italian Switzerland in Lugano in the class of Arturo Tamayo. As a harpist, she plays regularly in France with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice, the Orchestre National de Cannes and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo. A member of numerous chamber music ensembles, she has performed in Italy, France, Belgium, Switzerland and the Principality of Monaco. She is passionate about historical harps, and plays both the baroque harp and the medieval harp in some ensembles. She is a harp teacher at the Conservatorio “A. Scarlatti” of Palermo.

Nicola Jappelli, composer

Nicola Jappelli was born in Milan in 1975. He studied classical guitar with Paolo Paolini at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory in Milan, where received his degree in guitar and composition in 1996.

His encounter in 1991 with Cuban composer and guitarist Leo Brouwer and his participation in Brouwer’s master classes throughout Europe allowed him to perfect his creativity and expressiveness as an interpreter and as a composer. He has performed in many concerts and musical events as a soloist and with various chamber ensembles (from duos to quintets), including Società dei concerti in Milan, Salone Estense in Varese, Lyceum pro Musica in Florence, Festival Pucciniano in Forte dei Marmi, Festival Chitarristico in Pordenone,

Festival Paganini in Parma, Face International Guitar Series in Falmouth (England), Fondazione Cini in Venice, Mendelssohn-Stiftung in Leipzig (Germany), Musica nelle dimore storiche della Toscana in Florence, Teatro Dal Verme in Milan, University of Valencia (Spain), Conservatory of Florence and the Musica Rara concert series held in the Sacristy of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Instituto Cervantes Manila (Philippines), Instituto Cervantes Palermo, Incontri con la Chitarra Palazzina Liberty Milano, XXIII° International Guitar Festival Mikulov (Repubblica Ceca) and Fondazione “Arts Academy” Roma. In 2005 he collaborated with the Sentieri Selvaggi Ensemble, an important organization within the international contemporary music.

In 2004 and 2006 he was invited to perform works of his own and of other composers on live broadcasts by RAI RADIO 3 devoted to the theater and music.

In 2002 he recorded a CD of music by 19th century composer Fernando Sor for the Frame Record Company of Florence, which specializes in editions of great stylistic and technical quality.

Together with the Spanish soprano Pilar Moral, he investigates the Italian and Iberian vocalism between eighteenth and early nineteenth century, proposing himself in highly appreciated concerts. In 2004, this co-operation led him to the realization of his second album featuring voice and guitar melodies inspired to Sor's, Castro's and Moretti's Spanish early nineteenth century, once again for Frame. Since 2004, he teaches Guitar at the Conservatory of Mantova, Italy.

Corrado Margutti, tenor

Corrado Margutti was born in Turin, where he completed his studies at the Conservatorio “Giuseppe Verdi”. He graduated in composition under the tutelage of Daniele Bertotto, choral music and choral conducting, symphonic band orchestration and music education. As a composer he has won numerous prizes in international competitions. He participated in the transcription of J.S. Bach's *The Art of Fugue*, a project organized and directed by Luciano Berio. Many of his works had been published by A Coeur Joie (France), Astrum (Slovenia) and Walton Music (U.S.). Some of his compositions were commissioned by the SYC Ensemble Singers (Singapore), St. Jacob's Chamber

Choir (Stockholm) and Nicolò Spera with the University of Colorado Boulder. He also performs regularly as a singer in Italy and abroad, having recently recorded *Madama Butterfly* and *Rigoletto* with Casa Editrice Ricordi. In 2006 he sang the Italian premiere performance of Michael Nymans' *Man and Boy: DADA* at the Teatro Regio (Turin) and he also sang the Italian premiere performance of Michael Gordon's *Van Gogh*. Since 2007, he teaches at the Conservatorio "Giorgio Federico Ghedini" in Cuneo.

Upcoming Events

Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up to date. Click or tap below to explore your options.



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