

## ROBERTO PLANO (Italia)



Nato a Varese nel 1978, Roberto Plano si è imposto all'attenzione del mondo musicale con la vittoria del prestigioso Cleveland International Piano Competition. Quest'affermazione e i premi ottenuti all'Honens International Piano Competition e al 12mo Van Cliburn International Competition hanno segnato l'inizio di numerose tournées in tutto il Nordamerica, che lo hanno visto in recital in più di 30 Stati negli Usa e lo hanno portato a suonare negli studi delle maggiori radio americane, canadesi e italiane, quali NPR (Performance Today) a Washington, WGBH a Boston, WNYC a New York, WFMT radio a Chicago, CBC a Toronto, BBC Radio 3 (Londra), RadioRai 3, Radio Classica, Radio Vaticana; i suoi recital di debutto al Festival Chopin in Polonia e alla Herculessaal a Monaco sono stati trasmessi da Polske Radio 2 e da Bayern 4 Klassik.

La sua attività concertistica l'ha visto esibirsi in alcune delle più importanti sale da concerto italiane ed estere, tra le quali Sala Verdi, Teatro Dal Verme e Auditorium di Milano, Teatro Donizetti di Bergamo, Teatro Coccia di Novara, Teatro Manzoni di Bologna, Parco della Musica, Accademia Filarmonica e Università La Sapienza di Roma, Teatro Politeama di Palermo, Teatro Bibiena di Mantova, Wigmore Hall e St. John's Smith Square di Londra, Salle Cortot di Parigi, Gasteig e Herculessaal di Monaco di Baviera, National Concert Hall di Dublino, Severance Hall di Cleveland, Lincoln Center-Alice Tully Hall e Steinway Hall di New York, per prestigiosi Festivals quali tra gli altri il Festival Michelangeli di Brescia e Bergamo, MusicaRivaFestival, Festival Internazionale di Musica di Portogruaro, lo Chopin Festival di Duszniki (Polonia), i Ravinia Festival, Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, Portland International Piano Festival (Usa), lo Stellenbosch Piano Symposium (Sudafrica) e il Bologna Festival – Grandi Interpreti.

Ha suonato come solista con prestigiose orchestre in Italia e all'estero (Archi dei Berliner Philharmoniker, Houston Symphony, RTE National Symphony Orchestra – Dublino, Konzertverein Orchestra – Vienna, Festival Strings Luzern, Orchestra Sinfonica Verdi e I Pomeriggi Musicali – Milano, Young Symphony Orchestra – Londra, Orchestra Sinfonica di Valencia) e con noti direttori d'orchestra tra i quali Sir Neville Marriner, James Conlon, Pinchas Zuckerman, Gianluigi Gelmetti e Donato Renzetti. In aggiunta ai riconoscimenti ottenuti al Cleveland, Van Cliburn e Honens e alle vittorie in Italia del Treviso, del Togni e dello Scriabin è stato premiato al Concorso Iturbi di Valencia, al Sendai International Music Competition, al Dublin International Piano Competition e al Geza Anda di Zurigo. Il documentario *Encore*, di cui è uno dei protagonisti, è stato trasmesso in tutto il Nord America, Europa e Nordafrica; Philippe Entremont lo ha selezionato per una trasmissione televisiva legata alla musica di Mozart, trasmessa in Giappone dalla NHK, e ha suonato per i canali televisivi satellitari Mezzo e Arte, nonché per le reti Rai e Mediaset.

Molto attivo anche nel campo della musica da camera, ha collaborato con numerosi quartetti d'archi, tra i quali il Quartetto di Cremona, i Quartetti Takacs, Fine Arts, San Pietroburgo, Jupiter, ENSO, Vogler, Henschel, le Prime Parti del Teatro alla Scala e con solisti quali Enrico Bronzi, Gabriele Cassone, Ilya Grubert, Giovanni Scaglione e Amiram Ganz e con il pianista jazz Paolo Paliaga, con il quale ha inciso un disco – *Inspiration* – dedicato alla fusione tra musica classica e jazz. Il disco inciso per la Concerto e dedicato ad Andrea Luchesi – una prima incisione mondiale – è stato recensito con la massima valutazione (5 stelle) dal mensile *MUSICA*.

Già membro di giuria in svariati concorsi (tra i quali il Singapore Piano Competition) è stato invitato a far parte della commissione del Cleveland International Piano Competition, che si è tenuto negli Usa nell'agosto 2013. In qualità di docente ha tenuto numerosi corsi di perfezionamento in importanti istituzioni tra i quali Kent State University, Augusta State University, Utah State University, Cleveland Institute of Music, University of Massachusetts (Usa), Alberta Conservatory (Canada), Conservatorio di San Juan (Puerto Rico), a Parigi (Ecole Normale "A. Cortot"), al Yamaha Center di Taipei (Taiwan) e alla Stellenbosch University (Sudafrica). È Presidente dell'Associazione Musicale "Alfred Cortot", fondata nel 2011 con la moglie Paola Del Negro, con la quale suona stabilmente in duo pianistico. Ha inciso per le etichette Azica, Arktos, Concerto, Sipario Dischi e Tau Records, e per la collana "Musica in Bocconi". Al numero di febbraio 2014 del mensile *Suonare News* è allegato un suo cd con musiche di Chopin e Schumann.

Nel luglio 2013 e nel Febbraio 2015 il mensile *Amadeus* gli ha dedicato la copertina allegando un Cd in cui interpreta le Sonate op. 1 di Luchesi in prima registrazione mondiale e un'antologia di musiche Scriabiniane. Sono di recente pubblicazione anche due dischi per Brilliant Classics, uno dedicato alla musica pianistica di Smetana e l'altro con i due Quintetti per pianoforte e archi di Sgambati.

Il 4 marzo 2016 è uscito il suo disco di debutto per Decca con l'incisione integrale delle *Harmonies Poétiques et Religieuses* di Liszt, opera che mancava nel catalogo della grande casa discografica inglese da più di 50 anni.

Per i suoi meriti artistici è stato nominato Socio Onorario dal Lions Club Varese Prealpi, che in precedenza gli aveva assegnato il Premio Lumen Claro, onoreficenza già ricevuta da personalità quali Mario Monti, Ottavio Missoni, Barbara Frittoli, ed è stato invitato dal Senatore Thad Cochran presso lo U.S. Capitol a Washington. È stato definito dal *Chronicle* il "Pavarotti del pianoforte" per il suo liricismo, definito l'erede di Rubinstein e Horowitz dal commentatore radiofonico di

Chicago P. Harvey e additato come uno tra i più grandi interpreti di Scriabin dal critico americano John Bell Young. Il New York Times ha scritto di lui: “Questo pianista italiano ha mostrato una maturità artistica che va ben oltre la sua età anagrafica... una meravigliosa purezza e una padronanza delle suggestioni più profonde hanno caratterizzato le sue interpretazioni... Plano ha dato dimostrazione di virtuosismo levigato a livelli di competizione tanto quanto di profondità musicale...”.

Docente presso la Boston University dal 2016, nel 2018 Roberto Plano ha ottenuto la cattedra di pianoforte presso una delle facoltà di musica universitarie più prestigiose al mondo, l'Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, e nel gennaio 2018 ha vinto l'American Prize nella categoria Professionisti – pianoforte solista.



First Prize Winner of the 2001 Cleveland International Piano Competition, Finalist at the Twelfth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2005, Laureate of the 2003 Honens International Piano Competition (Calgary, Canada) and the 2006 Axa Dublin International Piano Competition, Italian pianist Roberto Plano has performed all over the world. Important venues in North America include Alice Tully Hall in New York City's Lincoln Center, where he performed the American premiere of Luis de Pablo's *Retratos y Transcripciones*; Severance Hall in Cleveland, National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and others. He regularly performs in Europe – notably at Sala Verdi in Milan, Salle Cortot in Paris, Wigmore Hall and St. John Smith Square in London, National Concert Hall in Dublin, and at the Herceulesaal and Gasteig in Munich. He has been a featured recitalist at internationally acclaimed Festivals such as the Chopin Festival in Duszynki, Poland; the Festival at Sandpoint, the Portland Piano International Festival, Savannah Music Festival, the Wassermann Piano Festival (UT) and the Newport Music Festival in the USA.

He has appeared with orchestras in Italy (Milan Symphony Orchestra “Verdi”, Rome Symphony), Germany (Rheinland-Pfalz), Spain (Valencia Symphony), Czech Republic (Marienbad Symphony), Slovakia (Kosice State Symphony), Romania (Oradea, Sibiu, Targu Mures Symphonies), Switzerland (Festival Strings, Lucerne), the UK (Young Symphony Orchestra), Japan (Sendai Symphony), USA symphony orchestras (Houston, Fort Worth, Spokane, Akron, Illinois S.O., and others), under conductors such as James Conlon, Pinchas Zuckerman, Jahja Ling, Marcelo Lehninger, Robert Franz, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Jahja Ling, Enrique Garcia Assensio, Gianluigi Gelmetti, Donato Renzetti, Ari Raisilainen, Kerry Stratton and Gary Sheldon. In Canada he has been soloist with Calgary Philharmonic under the direction of Sir Neville Marriner.

Roberto Plano's friendly and outgoing personality has made him a favorite for guest appearances on a number of radio stations, including NPR's Performance Today, WNYC in New York City, WFMT in Chicago, WGBH's Classics in the morning (Boston), WCRI (Newport), CBC's In Performance (Toronto), BBC In Tune (London), RadioRai 3 Grammelot and Piazza Verdi (Milan), Rete 2 (Lugano). As a result of his success at the 2005 Van Cliburn Competition, he appeared in the film documentaries “In the Heart of Music” and “Encores” (together with James Conlon and Menahem Pressler) which was aired on PBS stations across the United States, as well as in Europe through the satellite channel MEZZO. In 2006, Plano was chosen to participate in the DVD recording “A Masterclass with Jean-Michel Damase”, filmed in Paris by ARTE at Salle Cortot; and together with Philippe Entremont, a second video project about the music of Mozart, broadcast by NHK in Japan.

As a teacher, he has given public master classes in prestigious University such as Indiana University, Houston University, Kent State University, Augusta State University, University of

Mississippi, Utah State University, University of Dayton, the University of Massachusetts (Amherst), Boston Conservatory, the Cleveland Institute of Music, at the Alberta Conservatory (Edmonton, Canada), at the Conservatory of San Juan (Puerto Rico), and in all the major cities of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, as well as in Paris at the Ecole Normale Cortot, in Taiwan, and throughout North America. During the summer he also regularly presides at the Music International Masterclasses in Portogruaro, Italy.

Plano was also named the “Best Ensemble Performer” at the 2003 Honens Competition for his performances with cellist Shauna Rolston and soprano Ingrid Attrot. He was also the winner of the “Best Recital” and “Best Performance of a Commissioned Work” prizes at the 2006 Axa Dublin International Piano Competition and won Prizes at the Geza Anda (Switzerland), Iturbi (Spain) and Sendai (Japan) Competitions (after having won First Prizes in several National Competition in Italy).

In previous seasons Mr. Plano made his debut at the Festival “Les Fêtes Musicales” in Biarritz, France, toured Italy playing Beethoven’s Triple Concerto, toured Canada and the U.S. (Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Cincinnati, Fort Worth, Austin, Los Alamos, Denver, and New York’s Steinway Hall), played with the Vienna Concert-Verein Orchestra at the Weston Recital Hall in Toronto, and made his debut with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa conducted by Pinchas Zukerman. Highlights of recent previous seasons include Mr. Plano’s debut with the strings of the Berliner Philharmoniker in Italy, his debut recital at London’s Wigmore Hall, his debut with the Houston Symphony Orchestra and concerts with the Milan, Fort Worth, Calgary, Bakersfield, Glens Falls, Reading and Yakima Symphony Orchestras, plus new collaborations with groups such as the St. Petersburg String Quartet. North American recital engagements followed in Pennsylvania, Oregon, Texas, Minnesota, Arizona, New York, Illinois, and British Columbia, plus debut appearances at the Ravinia Festival (IL) and the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival (MI).

In 2011, he performed at SUNY New Paltz’s McKenna Theatre (NY) at the invitation of Vladimir Feltsman’s PianoSummer Festival. In the summer of 2012 he made his recital debut at the prestigious Newport (RI) Music Festival, and invited to return in 2015. The 2012-13 season saw him as soloist with the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra (NY) – invited back in 2015 – and return engagements with the Bakersfield S.O. (CA), and the Boise Philharmonic (ID). He was also Guest Artist for the 2013 Young Artist World Piano Festival at Bethel University in St. Paul, MN, and invited to return in 2014. The 2014-15 season also included performances as guest soloist with the New Bedford S.O., Glacier S.O. & Chorale in Montana, North Mississippi S.O., the Arkansas Philharmonic and the University of Houston International Piano Festival in Texas.

As a chamber musician he played with groups such as the Takacs, Cremona, Fine Arts and St. Petersburg String Quartets, as well as with soloists such as Ilya Grubert, Enrico Bronzi and Giovanni Scaglione. He has a piano duo with his wife Paola Del Negro. Often invited as a juror in national and international competitions Roberto served on the juries of the Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition as well as the Cleveland International Piano Competition.

Mr. Plano’s debut recording of sonatas and rondos by Andrea Luchesi (1741-1801) on the Concerto Classics label in 2012, received 5 stars out of 5 from MUSICA magazine; in February 2013 he performed the world premiere of the composer’s two piano concertos with the Busoni Chamber Orchestra in Trieste, Italy, Massimo Belli conducting. The performance included a never-before heard cadenza written for the concerto by Mozart. Amadeus, the most widely-read music magazine in Italy, featured these events with Roberto’s photograph on the magazine’s

cover. The Toledo Symphony (OH), conducted by Stefan Sanderling, and Mr. Plano gave the Luchesi concertos their North American premiere in March of 2015. In addition to 2 cds with music by Andrea Luchesi published by Concerto Classics label, he recorded also for Amadeus, Brilliant, Azica, Arktos, Sipario and Tau Records. He appeared once more on the Amadeus cover in February 2015, with a cd with music by Alexander Scriabin. In March 2016 Mr. Plano's debut recording with DECCA Classics was released, featuring the "Harmonies Poetiques et Religieuses" by Liszt, which have not been recorded by Decca since the 60's.

In 2011 he created in Italy the Music Association "Alfred Cortot", which he chairs, and the Accademia Musicale Varesina, with the purpose of spreading the joy of classical music in all its aspects and giving priority to the musical education of young people.

Recent events include soloist appearances with the Royal Camerata at the Athenauem Theater in Bucarest (Romania) and with the Boston Civic Symphony at Regis College, and recitals and chamber music concerts at the Stellenbosh Symposium, Sudafrica, at the Yamaha Center, Taiwan, at Vivace Vilnius Festival in Lituania, Gijon International Piano Festival in Spain and at the Boston Athenauem in USA.

A recital at the Janet Wallace Fine Arts in St. Paul, MN, for the Frederic Chopin Society was marked by the Saint Paul Pioneer Press critic Ron Hubbard describing his performance among the top ten events of the year. Mr. Plano has been described by The Chronicle in Glens Falls, NY, as the "Pavarotti of the Piano" for his lyricism, and also defined by the Chicago radio commentator Paul Harvey as the heir of Rubinstein and Horowitz. NY Times music critic Anthony Tommasini has written: "This Italian pianist showed artistic maturity beyond his years... there was a wonderful clarity and control of inner voices in his performances..."

After joining in 2016 the Faculty of Boston University he has been recently appointed as Associate Professor of Piano at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. In January 2018 the American Prize Competition announced that Mr. Plano won 1st Prize in the solo professional division.