

REGGIO INIZIATIVE CULTURALI S.R.L.

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# La Scala String Quartet

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**FRANCESCO MANARA** *violin*

**DANIELE PASCOLETTI** *violin*

**SIMONIDE BRACONI** *viola*

**MASSIMO POLIDORI** *cello*

## PRESENTATION

The first formation of the La Scala String Quartet is historical and dates back to 1953 when its lead members felt the need to follow the example of the world's greatest orchestras and work on developing an important chamber music project. In the course of the following decades, the Scala's Quartet was the protagonist of important musical events and recordings. After a pause lasting some years, in 2001, four young musicians, prize-winner of international soloist competitions as well as section's leaders of the Theatre's Orchestra, decide to give new life to this prestigious formation. By further developing their musical affinities, already well established within the Orchestra, they elevate these to that maximum expression of chamber music typical of the String Quartet.

The La Scala String Quartet, has been invited in some of the most important chamber music festival in Italy (MusicaInsieme in Bologna, Serate Musicali, Società dei concerti e stagione "Cantelli" in Milan, Associazione Scarlatti in Naples, Sagra Malatestiana a Rimini, Amici della Musica in Palermo, Estate Musicale in Portogruaro, Asolo Musica, Ravenna Festival, Teatro La Fenice and Malibran in Venice, Stresa, Teatro Bellini in Catania, Teatro alla Scala ecc.) and abroad (Brasil, Perú, Argentina, Uruguay Japan, United States, Croazia, Germany, France, Spain ecc. ).

They recorded for DAD, Fonè, Decca.

In 2008 they had concert at the Salzburg's Mozarteum. In 2012 they won the critic's price as best foreign chamber group in Argentina.

They had collaborations with eminent soloist such as M. Argerich, J. Swann, A. Hewitt, E. Pahud, and the tenor J. Carreras.

Maestro Riccardo Muti wrote about them: "the quartet stands out for its technical and musical excellence, ...the quartet ensures beauty of sound while its performance of the cantabile parts proves that it is very familiar with opera music, making listening a joy and pleasure indeed".

### Instruments:

FRANCESCO MANARA: (Giovanni Battista Guadagnini, 1773)

DANIELE PASCOLETTI: (Antonio e Girolamo Amati, 1590)

SIMONIDE BRACONI (Giuseppe Gagliano, 1800)

MASSIMO POLIDORI: (Paolo Castello, 1760)

**FRANCESCO MANARA** – *violin*



Francesco Manara was born in Turin.

He studied at this city's Musical Academy where he obtained his diploma with full marks, honours and special mention under the guidance of Maestro Marin.

He then perfected his studies with F. Gulli, S. Gheorghiu and H. Krebbers. He has won numerous international prizes, such as the "J. Joachim" Hannover award, the "Stradivari" of Cremona, the "Spohr" of Freiburg, the "Doug-A" of Seul, the "ARD" of Munich and "Tchaikowski" (special award) of Moscow, as well as the "Paganini" (special award) of Genoa and "CIEM" (first prize) of Geneva.

Such important awards soon led him to undertake a brilliant career as a soloist, in the course of which he has performed with more than fifty orchestra.

Furthermore, as a member of chamber music ensembles, he played in some of the most prestigious theatres in the world.

He teaches at the "Accademia di Perfezionamento" for the Scala's orchestra professors.

**DANIELE PASCOLETTI** – *violin*

He studied under the guidance of Maestro Enzo Porta at the Conservatory "A. Boito" in Parma and he perfected his studies with Maestros Honeck, Magad, Blacher, Vernikov, DeLay, with Uto Ughi at Accademia Musicale Chigiana and with Lukas Hagen in Salzburg, by debuting as soloist for Mozartwoche 2007.

Member of Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester and Mozart Orchestra, he is also concertino of Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala. He worked with conductors such as Abbado, Ozawa, Boulez. He collaborated as first violin with Orchestras "Haydn" of Trento and Bolzano, Sinfonica Siciliana, Teatro Lirico of Cagliari, Teatro Verdi of Trieste, La Fenice in Venice, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Mozart, Orchestra of Teatro alla Scala and Filarmonica della Scala, and as concertino with Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

He is the founder of the David Trio, with which he recorded the complete version of F. Schubert's Trios for Altara and the Trios of Ciajkowskij and Shostakovic for Stradivarius.

He won many national and international competitions, such as "S. Omizzolo" of Padua, "D. Caravita" of Fusignano, "R. Lipizer", "Premio Città di Vittorio Veneto" and in trio "F. J. Haydn" (Vienna), "Yellow Springs" (Ohio), "Trio di Trieste", "Chesapeake" (Maryland).

He plays concerts in Europe and America (recently he was on tour with the trio in South America), by performing in important seasons and festivals, such as: Festival Casals in Prades, Festival in Porrentruy, Teatro Ponchielli in Cremona, Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, Concerti del Quirinale RAI- Radio3, Festival Allegro Vivo, Cameralia07, Montpellier - Radio France.

He teaches at International Music Mastercourses in Cividale del Friuli, Moneglia and at Festival Cameralia in Santiago de Compostela.

Since 2015 Pascoletti is part of La Scala Quartet.

He plays an 1590 Antonio and Girolamo Amati violin.



## **SIMONIDE BRACONI** - *viola*



Born in Rome, Braconi graduated with First Class Honours from the Santa Cecilia Conservatorium of Rome and later from MUSIC HOCHSCHULE of Friedburg (with Honours), studying respectively with maestros S. Esposito and K. Kashkashian. He pursued his studies with B. Giuranna (Acc. "W. Stauffer" of Cremona) and J. Bashmet (Acc. Chigiana of Siena earning a Diploma with Merit). He received prizes in numerous international competitions (Colonia "LIONEL TERTIS" competition and so on).

Principal Viola of the des jeunes de la mediterrannée orchestra, Braconi earned a place in the European Community Orchestra at the young age of 22, and he was selected

by Maestro RICCARDO MUTI to assume the role of principal viola in the orchestra of Teatro alla Scala of Milan.

As a soloist Braconi worked with numerous Italian and foreign orchestras. He recently won much acclaim for his performance of P. Hidersmith's KAMMERMUSIC No 5 at the Teatro degli ARCIMBOLDI, playing with the Teatro alla Scala Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Maestro W. SAVALISCH.

Braconi recently founded the D'ARCHI DELLA SCALA QUARTET together with several section-leaders of the Scaligera orchestra. Further, he performs in DUO together with his brother MONALDO, pianist and associate of the National Academy of S. Cecilia of Rome.

He is invited annually to hold master classes across several leading musical institutions: Bergamo, Portogruaro, Gubbio, Accademia "T. Varga" of Sion.

Braconi teaches at Milano Music Master.

Braconi made several recordings both as a soloist and with chamber groups.

What reliable critics say about Braconi: "a consistently compact sound" (The Strad), "he has made an impact with his technical skill, and the glow of his instrument" (Badener Tagblatt), "notice Braconi's light, gallant touch while playing C. Bach's Adagio concerto in C minor" (Corriere della Sera), "Braconi displays first-class instrumental skill demonstrating a smooth, delicate and consistent sound with excellent technique (CD Classica).

Braconi plays an 1800 Giuseppe Gagliano viola.

## **MASSIMO POLIDORI** – *cello*

Born in Turin, Massimo Polidori completed his first studies with Maestro R. Brancalon in the Musical Academy of his city, obtaining a diploma as a violoncellist with full marks. Later, he went on to perfect his studies with A. Janigro, M. Brunello and D. Schafran.

In 1996 he won first prize as a virtuoso at the Geneva Musical Academy under the guidance of Daniel Grongurin.

Starting in 1995, he held the position of primary violoncello soloist for the following five years in the "Camerata Bern", with which he toured the world in the company of musicians of great standing such as A. Shiff, H. Holliger, A. Chumachenko and T. Zethmair, while also recording for Decca, Berlin Classic and Philips. In February 2000, he was chosen by Maestro Riccardo Muti to take up the position of first violoncello in the Scala's Theatre Orchestra.

He has always been strongly committed to developing his repertoire of chamber music.

He also teaches at the "Accademia di Perfezionamento" for the Scala's orchestra professors.





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## PROGRAM PROPOSALS

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### Program 1

- F. Schubert** Quartettsatz  
**L. Van Beethoven** Quartet op. 18 N. 4  
Allegro ma non tanto-Andante scherzoso quasi allegretto-Minuetto-Allegro
- C. Debussy** Quartet op. 10  
Animé et très décidé – Assez vif et bien rythmé – Andantino – Très modéré

### Program 2

- F. Schubert** Quartet “La morte e la fanciulla”  
Allegro – Andante con moto – Allegro molto – Presto
- M. Ravel** Quartet in F Major  
Allegro Moderato – Assai vivo \_ Molto lento – Vivo ed agitato

### Program 3

- J. Haydn** Quartet Op. 64 N. 5 in D Major  
Allegro Moderato – Adagio cantabile – Menuetto – Finale (vivace)
- W.A. Mozart** Quartet KV 387 in G Major  
Allegro vivace assai-Minuetto-Andante cantabile-Molto allegro
- D. Shostakovich** Quartet op.73 N.3  
Allegretto-Moderato con moto-Allegro non troppo-Adagio-Moderato

### Program 4

- L. Van Beethoven** Quartet op. 18 N. 1  
Allegro con brio – Adagio affettuoso ed appassionato – Scherzo – Allegro
- G. Puccini** Crisantemi
- G. Verdi** Music from “Rigoletto” (arrangement by Antonio Melchiori)

### Program 5

- F. Schubert** Quartettsatz
- A. Borodin** Quartet in D Major  
Allegro Moderato – Scherzo – Notturmo - Finale
- M. Ravel** Quartet in F Major  
Allegro Moderato – Assai vivo \_ Molto lento – Vivo ed agitato

### Program 6

- J. Haydn** Quartet Op. 64 N. 5 in D Major  
Allegro Moderato – Adagio cantabile – Menuetto – Finale (vivace)
- W. A. Mozart** Quartet KV 421 in D minor  
Allegro moderato-andante-menuetto-allegretto ma non troppo
- L. Van Beethoven** String quartet op. 59 N. 1  
Allegro - Allegretto vivace e sempre scherzando – Adagio

### Program 7

- Webern** Langsamersatz
- J. Brahms** Quartet N.1 in C minor  
Allegro-Romanza-Allegretto molto moderato e comodo-Allegro
- D. Shostakovich** Quartet op.73 N.3  
Allegretto-Moderato con moto-Allegro non troppo-Adagio-Moderato

### Program 8

- F. Schubert** Quartet “La morte e la fanciulla”  
Allegro – Andante con moto – Allegro molto – Presto
- C. Debussy** Quartet op. 10  
Animé et très décidé – Assez vif et bien rythmé – Andantino – Très modère