

il pomo d'oro is an orchestra founded in the year 2012 with a special focus on opera, but equally committed to instrumental performance in various formations. The musicians united in this group are among the best to be found worldwide for authentic interpretation on period instruments. Together with the young Russian chief conductor Maxim Emelyanychev they form an ensemble of outstanding quality, combining stylistic knowledge, highest technical skills, and artistic enthusiasm.

Already the first recording with violinist and conductor Riccardo Minasi (Vivaldi, *Per l'Imperatore*), received a Choc by the French magazine 'Classica'. The second recording, Vivaldi's violin concertos *Per Pisendel* with Dmitry Sinkovsky as soloist and conductor, received a Diapason d'Or. In 2012, **il pomo d'oro** also recorded 3 solo CDs with three countertenors – Max Emanuel Cencic (*Venezia*), Xavier Sabata (*Bad Guys*) and Franco Fagioli (*Arias for Caffarelli*), under Riccardo Minasi's direction. The album *Arias for Caffarelli* was awarded the Choc de l'annee 2013 by the French magazine 'Classica'. A further contribution to the Naive-Vivaldi-Edition was a recording of the *Concerti per due violini*, played and directed by Riccardo Minasi and Dmitry Sinkovsky, released in October 2013. In conjunction with a book project about the Venetian *Gondola* by American writer Donna Leon, **il pomo d'oro** recorded a collection of ancient Venetian Barcarole, sung by Vincenzo Capezuto. A recital of various *Agrippina* Arias – most of them world premieres on CD – with the Swedish mezzosoprano Ann Hallenberg, directed by Riccardo Minasi, was released in 2015. *Agrippina* won the International Classic Music Award and the International Opera Award. A second album with Max Emanuel Cencic, *Arie Napoletane* (directed by Maxim Emelyanychev) was released in November 2015. It includes many world premiere recordings of the still to be rediscovered Neapolitan repertoire. In 2016, **il pomo d'oro** recorded its first recital with the American mezzosoprano Joyce DiDonato, *In War & Peace*, released in November 2016, followed by a concert tour in Europe and the US, conducted by Maxim Emelyanychev. For this album Joyce DiDonato was awarded the Echo Klassik for 'Singer of the year 2017'. A second recital with Ann Hallenberg was recorded in the fall 2016, presenting Greatest Hits from the Venetian *Carnevale 1729* – **il pomo d'oro**'s first recording under the direction of Stefano Montanari. The recording year 2016 closed with *Opera prologues of the 17th century*, a first collaboration with Enrico Onofri and the young Italian soprano Francesca Aspromonte. In March 2017, **il pomo d'oro**, led by Zefira Valova, recorded a new recital of *Handel Arias* with countertenor Franco Fagioli, which has been touring France and Spain at the beginning of 2018. Within the concert schedule of 2017, **il pomo d'oro** also gave a series of concerts with the young Russian violin virtuoso Alina Ibragimova, playing a classical and romantic programme under the direction of Federico Guglielmo. In February 2018, **il pomo d'oro** has started his collaboration with young Polish countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński with his recital debut in Paris and his first solo recording *Anima Sacra*, conducted by Maxim Emelyanychev. Later in the year, a further recording is dedicated to Venetian composer and singer Barbara Strozzi (400th birthday in 2019), interpreted by soprano Emőke Barath, led by Francesco Corti. Highlights of the concert season include a new European tour of *In War & Peace* with mezzosoprano Joyce DiDonato, a concert performance of Handel's *Arianna in Creta* at the Handel Festspiele (Halle) with Karina Gauvin in the title role, a concert at the Saint-Denis Festival with conductor Speranza Scappucci and various concerts with cellist Edgar Moreau (*Giovincello*), soprano Francesca Aspromonte, and conductor Enrico Onofri.

il pomo d'oro will start season 2018/2019 with a series of concerts with mezzosoprano Ann Hallenberg (*Carnevale 1729*), soprano Francesca Aspromonte (*Prologue*), and countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński (*Anima Sacra*). The orchestra will also tour Europe with Handel *Serse* and, later in May 2019, Handel *Agrippina* - featuring Joyce DiDonato in the title role, followed by a recording. **il pomo d'oro** will continue its collaboration with the American mezzosoprano showcasing their programme *In War and Peace* in Moscow (December 2018) and touring Asia and Middle East (January-February 2019). Highlights of the concert season will see **il pomo d'oro** performing Mozart *Piano Concertos* (Maxim Emelyanychev) - followed by a recording -, various concerts with cellist Edgar Moreau, soprano Emoke Barath, conductor Francesco Corti (*Barbara Strozzi*), and Violinist Shunske Sato. Moreover, the orchestra will further continue its collaboration with countertenor Franco Fagioli recording a new recital album focused on Vinci's music- followed by a European tour -, and the one with countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński, recording a new album for Erato/Warner Classic .

il pomo d'oro so far recorded five complete operas: Handel's *Tamerlano*, Vinci's *Catone in Utica* (awarded with an Echo Klassik 2016), Handel's *Partenope* (all directed by Riccardo Minasi), and Handel's *Ottone* (directed by George Petrou). Among the singers to be heard are Franco Fagioli, Max Emanuel Cencic, Xavier Sabata and Karina Gauvin. In 2017 the opera *La Doriclea* by Alessandro Stradella was recorded under the direction of Stradella-specialist Andrea de Carlo - a world first

release in 2018. The recording of Handel's *Serse* under the direction of Maxim Emelyanychev, with a stellar cast and Franco Fagioli in the title role, concluded the 2017 recording season.

Il pomo d'oro's instrumental recordings include Haydn's concerts for harpsichord, violin, and horn, co-directed by Maxim Emelanychev as harpsichord-soloist and Riccardo Minasi as violin-soloist, including Johannes Hinterholzer as horn soloist; a cello recital with Edgar Moreau (*Giovinello*) with works by Haydn, Boccherini, Platti, Graziani, Vivaldi, released in November 2015. Both recordings won the Echo Klassik Award 2016. A recording with violinist Dmitry Sinkovsky explores the repertoire of the *Virtuosissimi* of the baroque violin, such as Locatelli, Tartini, Leclair, Pisendel. 2018 has also seen **il pomo d'oro** collaborating with violinist Shunsuke Sato in a recording of J.S. *Bach Violin Concertos*.

Il pomo d'oro is a frequent guest in the most important concert venues in Europe and the United States, such as Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Theater an der Wien, Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall (2017), Philharmonie Berlin (2017), Herkulesaal München, and many more. The season 2018/2019 will see **il pomo d'oro** will be resident orchestra at both the Barbican Centre (London) and Gulbenkian foundation (Lisbon).

El Sistema Greece

In 2016 **il pomo d'oro** became ambassador of EL SISTEMA GREECE, a humanitarian project to fight the loss of home and identity of refugee children by offering musical education and encourage own musical activity, to bring concerts, to create cultural transfer by exchanging musical traditions and to help integration by combining musical and language education. **Il pomo d'oro** plays concerts and offers workshops and music lessons according to the El Sistema method on a frequent regular basis in various refugee camps in Greece.

Our Name

The name of the ensemble **il pomo d'oro** refers to Antonio Cesti's opera from the year 1666. Composed to the wedding celebrations of Emperor Leopold I and Margarita Teresa of Spain, **il pomo d'oro** was probably one of the largest, most expensive, and most spectacular opera productions in the still young history of the genre. 24 different stage designs, a horse-ballet of 300 horses, a fireworks display of 73, 000 rockets, numerous 'special effects' – superlatives, which should make the Emperor's court the highlight of cultural splendour in Europe.