

Orfeo Mandozzi - Cellist

With his „fascinating musical personality and the bewitching beauty of his tone“ (Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung) Orfeo Mandozzi has captured the imagination of audiences in the whole of Europe, USA, Canada, Asia and South America. As a soloist and chamber musician he has performed in the most important concert halls and festivals. In addition he has appeared on many international radio and television programmes.

Born in 1968 in Locarno (Switzerland) as the child of a family with a long musical tradition, he received a wide –ranging musical training from his father, a composer and conductor. Aged 12, Orfeo Mandozzi began to study cello with Don Jaffé and Paul Szabo (Vegh Quartet). He was accepted at the Paris Conservatoire, where he studied with Michel Strauss, Maurice Gendron, Jean-Marie Gamard and Jean Brizard. Orfeo Mandozzi also studied at the Milan Conservatoire and at the New York Juilliard School of Music, where he gained his Diploma with Honours („Summa cum laude and „Mention of Honour“) and also obtained his Bachelor of Music. Alongside his cello studies with Harvey Shapiro, Felix Galimir and Robert Mann (chambermusic), he also took composition classes with Stanley Wolf, Jean-Jacques Hauser and Milton Babbitt.

Since 1991, Orfeo Mandozzi has lived in Vienna, where he undertook and completed postgraduate studies with Wolfgang Herzer (cello) and Karl Österreicher (conducting.) Additionally he participated as an active student on masterclasses with Yo Yo Ma, M. Rostropovich, P. Tortelier, D. Shafran, B. Pergamentschikov, H. Shapiro, B. Greenhouse and S. Palm. Mr Mandozzi has won several first prizes at international competitions including Osaka, Illzach, Pörschach, UFAM, Orpheus.

Mr Mandozzi has worked as a teacher and director at prestigious festivals and masterclasses (Austria, Italy, Hungary, Rome, Geneva, Holland, Buenos Aires, Montevideo,...) Since 1999 he has taught cello at a department of the Vienna Conservatoire. He regularly performs at international festivals such as Lockenhaus, Richter Festival, Bregenz Spring Festival, White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg, Festival Cervantino, Festival Austria, to name just a few.

His regular chamber music partners include the violinists Nicolai Znaider, Julian Rachlin, Thomas Christian, David Garrett and Melina Mandozzi, the violists Gérard Caussé, Yuri Bashmet, Ori Kam and Veronika Hagen, the cellist Misha Maisky, as well as the pianists Itamar Golan, Stefan Vladar and Michaela Ursuleasa. Orfeo Mandozzi is a member of the Vienna Brahms Trio (Boris Kushnir, violin and Juri Smirnov, piano); the Vienna String Trio (Jan Pospichal, violin and Wolfgang Klos, viola;) and since 1993 he has been Principal Cellist of the Tonkuenstler Orchestra, Vienna.

Alongside the performance of the standard repertoire, Orfeo Mandozzi´s primary interest is the promotion of neglected cello works from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. He has recorded several CDs, which frequently contain new discoveries and world premieres. His newly formed record company – Arteviva – has recently released a „Solo Recital“ CD covering a wide range of music from Bach to Schostakovich.

Performances during 2002-3 include concerto and chamber music appearances in Austria (including Vienna´s Musikverein Grosser Saal and the premiere of Gerhard Wimberger´s „Cellisimo“ in the Vienna Konzerthaus,) Germany, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Great Britain and Slovakia, a Spanish tour with the Vienna Brahms Trio, performances of the complete Beethoven Sonatas in Vienna and solo recitals in Vienna, Prague and Bratislava to mention just a few of many highlights from his busy schedule.

Orfeo Mandozzi plays a cello by Francesco Ruggeri (Cremona) made in 1675.