

**VIRGINIA GUASTELLA**  
**COMPOSER/PIANIST/PROFESSOR**  
**[www.virginiaguastella.net](http://www.virginiaguastella.net)**



Virginia Guastella (1979) has been working professionally for fifteen years. Born in Palermo, she works in different fields: contemporary classical, crossover and soundtracks to feature film and silent movies. Her catalogue includes pieces for various instrumental and vocal combinations, and twenty publications among which there is her monographic cd "So far so good". The CD contains different pieces that she wrote in these last years for string quartet, orchestra, piano, trio (alto sax, flute and piano), solo sax, viola d'amore and guitar, ensemble (6 performers).

Recently, she has been invited as Composer in residence and Pianist at the "CLASSIX" Festival in Kempten (Germany).

In October and November 2018 the TV Channel "SKY Classica" will broadcast her piano solo performance recorded live at the Festival Piano City Festival 2017 in Milan at Casa degli Atellani - La Vigna di Leonardo. In that occasion Virginia performed her original music.

The last May her opera project "My name is Floria" won the international selection of Classical Next 2018 (category "Project Pitch").

Emmanuel Pahud, Paul Meyer, Les Vents Français, Hervé Joulain, Yura Lee, Isaac Rodriguez, Olivier Doise, Anna Garzuly- Wahlgren, Novus String Quartet, Roberto Abbondanza, Yves Abel, El Cimarrón Ensemble, Gustav Kuhn, Orchestra Haydn of Trento and Bolzano, Sentieri Selvaggi Ensemble, Orchestra regionale della Toscana (ORT), ContempoArtEnsemble, Gillian B. Anderson, Paolo Fresu, Aldo Ceccato, FontanaMix Ensemble, I Pomeriggi Musicali Orchestra, Orchestra Sinfonica Siciliana, are some of the artists that perform her works.

Her music, edited by RaiCom, is performed at major international festivals, theaters and venues: MITO Festival, Turin and Milan; National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; BARD College, New York; Spectrum, NYC; Eastman School of Music (University of Rochester – USA); Ferrara Musica (founded by Claudio Abbado); Musique à l'Emperi, under the artistic direction of Emmanuel Pahud, Paul Meyer and Eric Le Sage, Salon de Provence (France); Voll Damm Jazz Festival, Barcelona (Spain); I Pomeriggi Musicali, Milano; Sentieri Selvaggi, Milano; Sofia Union of Bulgarian Composers, Sofia (Bulgaria); Orchestra Haydn of Trento and Bolzano; Rive gauche, Torino; Società aquilana dei concerti Barattelli, L'Aquila; Nuova Consonanza, Rome; Fondazione ORT Play It Festival (directed by Giorgio Battistelli), Florence; Piano City Festival, Milan.

In June 2017 she has been selected by the "Festival of Aix en Provence" to take part in the "Women Opera Makers Workshop" for professionals in the field of contemporary opera with the supervision of the english director Katie Mitchell. The two steps of the workshop were in London (Royal Court Theatre) and Aix.

There was the second time for her at the Festival. In 2015, in fact, she had been invited by the composer Fabio Vacchi to the "Opera Creation Workshop".

In September 2016 she was on tour in US for five concerts with her original music. The tour started in Washington, DC, at the National Gallery of Arts that invited her for two performances, and then continued in New York at BARD College, at Spectrum (NYC) and at Paducah (UNESCO Creative City) in Kentucky.

In 2008 she won the International Composition Contest "Strumenti di pace" of Rovereto (with Giorgio Battistelli as Commission chairman) with the score "Pax virginis" for solo voice (baritone) and orchestra. The work was performed by the Orchestra Haydn of Trento and Bolzano under the direction of Gustav Kuhn and reprised in the following seasons of the Orchestra conducted by Yves Abel.

Winner of national piano competitions, also with international juries, she performed with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra conducted by Alexander Lonquich, with the Orchestra of Teatro Comunale di Bologna, conducted by Daniele Gatti, and collaborated with Orchestra Mozart conducted by Claudio Abbado. In the same years she worked for the Cineteca of Bologna as pianist in ensembles playing soundtracks for silent movies, and as korrepetitor in "The Magic Flute" (conductor, Claudio Abbado – Director, Daniele Abbado) and in "Ariadne auf Naxos" (conductor, Zoltan Pesko – director, Toni Servillo).

She has worked as a music consultant and composer on the original soundtracks for the episodes of the documentary series "La Grande Storia" and "Correva l'anno" broadcast in prime time on RAI Tre, the national Italian television. In 2013 she wrote the soundtrack for the movie Yuki - produced by Movimento Film Production and the Department of Cinema of the University of Rome (Roma Tre).

With her Duo Improbabile, together with the drummer Claudio Trotta, she performed for Ferrara Musica in collaboration with Il Torrione Jazz Club, Voll Damm Jazz Festival of Barcelona (Spain) and for Bologna Jazz Festival. For this project she writes pieces that transfigure different backgrounds absorbing them to generate new ideas in appropriate musical shapes. Each piece contains improvising sessions. Their first cd is "Slancio moderato", published in 2008 by RaiCom Music Edition.

## TEACHING

In 2012 she obtained a position as Professor in Theory of Harmony and Analysis, Principles and Techniques of Harmony, Computer music, Analysis of the Repertoire I and II, History of the Musical Forms and of the Repertoire and Analysis of Musical Forms at the Conservatory of music "G. Puccini" of Gallarate, near Milan. Furthermore, she offers masterclasses in other European conservatories and institutions like ESMUC (University of Music) and Conservatory of Music in Barcelona, Spain.

## TRAINING

At the age of 17 she received her MA in Piano in her native city, then in Composition at 22 under the guidance of Adriano Guarnieri in Bologna, where she took also her MA in Aesthetics of Music with Maurizio Giani at DAMS (Disciplines of Art, Music and Drama), Faculty of Literature and Philosophy at the University of Bologna, graduating magna cum laude. In 1994 she received a prize in recognition of her outstanding musicianship in Jazz playing and Composition at the Berklee School of Boston Clinics at the Umbria Jazz Festival (Perugia). In 2001 she attended the conducting course with Piero Bellugi and the Florence Symphonietta. In the same year she took part in the course on Use of Live Electronics in Music Composition with A. Guarnieri and Alvis Vidolin (Luigi Nono's Sound Engineer). Then, she went on for advanced studies in Piano with Aquiles Delle Vigne, Boris Petrushansky and in Composition with Salvatore Sciarrino at the Accademia musicale Chigiana in Siena. In July 2011 she obtained the Teaching Certificate in Music Technology by MIDIWARE and IITM (Italian Institute for music technology).

## **CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL CATALOGUE**

(RAICOM EDITION)

*Studio – Omaggio a Bach* – for piano – 2004 (RaiCom and Curci musical edition)

Premiere: Venezia, Teatrino Groggia – Ensemble Laboratorio Novamusica

*Auf Naxos* – for sextet (piccolo/flute, clarinet/bass clarinet, piano, vibraphone, violin, viola) - 2004

Premiere: Firenze, Teatro della Compagnia - Contempoartensemble (Dir. Mauro Ceccanti)

*Agbekor* – for percussions (three players) – 2004

Commissioned by Nuovi Spazi Musicali Festival

Premiere: Nuovi spazi musicali (Rome) - Maurizio Trippitelli Ensemble

*Not in my name* – for trio (clarinet, accordion, violin) – 2006

Premiere: Bologna, Sala Bossi of the Conservatory – M. Scipioni, cl. M. Lo Russo, acc. S. Tarozzi, vl (Dir. Virginia Guastella)

*Ave* – for brass octet (2 horns, 3 trumpets, 2 trombones, 1 tuba) – 2006 Commissioned by the

International Adkins Chiti Women in Music Foundation under the sponsorship of UNESCO Premiere: Roma, Basilica of S. Pietro – Borealis Brass Ensemble

*September* – for soprano and string quartet – 2007 *September* – for sextet (soprano, flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello) – 2007

Premiere: Forlì, Sala Sangiorgi – Monesis Ensemble (Dir. Flavio Emilio Scogna)

*Pomona ed Icaro. Dalla terra in volo* – for violin – 2007

Premiere: Crespellano (Bologna), Ca' Vecchia (Laboratory of the sculptor Giuliano Giuliani) – Roberto Noferini, violin

*Pomona ed Icaro. Dalla terra in volo* – for viola – 2007

*Pax virginis* – for baritone and orchestra – 2008 Winner of the international composition contest “Strumenti di pace”

Premiere: Rovereto, MART Museum – Orchestra Haydn of Trento and Bolzano (Dir. Gustav Kuhn)

*Tre minuti in epitaffio* – for four hands piano – 2008

Commissioned by Festival5Giornate (Milano) after the “Spoon River Anthology” by Edgar Lee Masters

Premiere: Milano, Palazzo Reale – Rossella Spinosa and Alessandro Calcagnile, piano

*Notturna* – for quartet (violin, viola, cello, piano) – 2009

Premiere: L'Aquila, Società aquilana dei concerti “Barattelli” – Quartetto Michelangelo

*Do not stir up love before its own time* – for soprano and piano – 2010

Commissioned by Nuova Consonanza Festival

Premiere: Roma, Nuova Consonanza – Sonia Visentin, soprano Alessandra Ammara, piano

*Sketch* – for piano and orchestra - 2010

*Trumpet boulevard* – for trumpet and electronics – 2010

*El toque* – for guitar and marimba – 2011

*Re – wind* – for flute, clarinet, cello and piano – 2012

Premiere: Florence, “Play It Festival” - ORT Ensemble, Fabio Maestri

*...à bout de souffle...* - for flute, alto sax and piano – 2013

Premiere: Sofia (Bulgaria), Sofia Union of Bulgarian Composers, “Filip Kutev” Concert Hall – NyKy Trio

*In a real landscape* – for piano – 2013 (M.A.P. Editions) Premiere: Festival Pianocity Milano, Carlo Boccadoro

*Biforcazione binaria* – for piano – 2013 (M.A.P. Editions) Premiere: Milano, Rassegna “Giovane Musica Italiana” Spazio Sirin, Alfonso Alberti

*Iscore* – per elettronica – 2013 (RaiTrade)

Premiere: Matera, MUSMA in collaborazione con il Centro Musica Contemporanea Milano , IX edizione della "Giornata del Contemporaneo" promossa da AMACI - Ensemble MaterElettrica

*Trumpet Boulevard* – per elettronica – 2013

Composition published on the CD Nuove musiche per tromba per la collana curata da Ivano Ascarì

*So Far\* So Good* – for sextet – 2014

Commissioned by Sentieri Selvaggi Ensemble

Premiere: Milano, Sentieri Selvaggi Festival, Teatro Elfo Puccini - Sentieri Selvaggi Ensemble  
Carlo Boccadoro, conductor

*Parties diverses* – for wind quintet – 2014

Commissioned by Ferrara Musica

Premiere: Ferrara, Stagione FerraraMusica, Teatro Comunale Claudio Abbado – Les Vents Français

The piece has been reprised at the Festival Musique à l'Emperi under the artistic direction of Emmanuel Pahud, Paul Meyer and Eric Le Sage and broadcast live at France Musique.

*E intanto un sorso* – for soprano, baritone and piano – 2015

Commissioned by Teatro Grande for Festa dell'Opera 2015

Premiere: Brescia, Teatro Grande

*Zaira tra le misure del suo spazio* (after Calvino) – for orchestra - 2015

Commissioned by I Pomeriggi Musicali Orchestra (Milan)

Premiere: I Pomeriggi Musicali Orchestra – Conductor, Aldo Ceccato

*Through the porthole* – for ensemble (13 performers) – 2016

*Une vague peut en cacher une autre* – for trio (violin, cello and piano) – 2016

Commissioned by Rive Gauche Concerti (Turin)

Premiere: Accademia Albertina di Belle Arti (Turin) – FontanaMIX Ensemble

*Not in my name (cadenza)* – for sax alto – 2016

Premiere: Eastman School of Music at University of Rochester (USA)

*Sul tasto* – for piano – 2016

Premiere: New York City, Spectrum – Virginia Guastella

*Anatomy of an american dream* - for string quartet – 2017

Commissioned by MITO Settembre Musica Festival – Novus String Quartet

Premiere: Turin, Tempio Valdese

*The House of Sleep* - for violin and piano

Commissioned by Classix Festival - Kempten (Germany)

Premiere: Kempten Theater

Yura Lee, violin

Virginia Guastella, piano

## **SOUNDTRACKS**

### **Silent movies**

*Il Fuoco*— Original soundtrack for piano to the silent movie *Il Fuoco* by Giovanni Pastrone (1916)  
Première: Barcelona (Spain), Filmoteca de Catalunya – November 2014 – V. Guastella, piano

*Cenere* - Original soundtrack for piano to the silent movie *Cenere* by Febo Mari (1917)  
Première : Barcelona (Spain), Filmoteca de Catalunya – November 2014 – V. Guastella, piano

*Lulù* - Original soundtrack for piano to the silent movie *Lulù* by Segundo de Chómon (1923)  
Première : National Gallery of Arts, Washington, DC – September 2016 - – V. Guastella, piano

*Le Spectre Rouge* - Original soundtrack for piano to the silent movie *Le Spectre Rouge* by Segundo de Chómon (1907)  
Première : National Gallery of Arts, Washington, DC – September 2016 – V. Guastella, piano

*The war and the dream of Momi* - Original soundtrack for piano to the silent movie *The war and the dream of Momi* by Segundo de Chómon (1917)  
Première : National Gallery of Arts, Washington, DC – September 2016 – V. Guastella, piano

*Modern Garrick* - Original soundtrack for ten piece ensemble to the silent movie *Modern Garrick* based on works by William Shakespeare – (Pathéplay, 1913)  
Première : National Gallery of Arts, Washington, DC – September 2016 - Cinemusica Viva Ensemble  
Conductor, Gillian B. Anderson

*Taming of a Shrew* - Original soundtrack for ten piece ensemble to the silent movie *Taming of a Shrew* based on works by William Shakespeare – (La Mègère Apprivoisée; Eclipse, France, 1911)  
Première : National Gallery of Arts, Washington, DC – September 2016 - Cinemusica Viva Ensemble  
Conductor, Gillian B. Anderson

### **Documentary TV series**

LA GRANDE STORIA - Original soundtracks to the episodes of the documentary series "La Grande Storia" (Rai Tre - Rai Com Musical Edition)

CORREVA L'ANNO - Original soundtracks to the episodes of the documentary series "Correva l'anno" (Rai Tre - Rai Com Musical Edition)