

PRESS RELEASE

Great classical music explained and performed live online

Pappano in Web

an initiative of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and Telecom Italia

How does a concert come into being? What goes on behind the scenes? How far do the artistic choices depend on the conductor, soloists and musicians? What does “performance” really mean? To answer these and many other questions, the **Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia** and **Telecom Italia** have joined forces to create **Pappano in Web**.

The main protagonist behind the initiative – the first of its kind in Italy – is **Antonio Pappano** in the dual role of conductor and pianist.

Pappano in Web is a cycle of three concerts designed to guide music lovers through the various stages of preparation as they take place right through to the final performance. By visiting www.telecomitalia.com/pappanoinweb from **10 March**, you will be able to view exclusive daily videos and backstage interviews with the conductor and soloists, from rehearsals to final performance of two symphonic concerts conducted by Pappano (**Monday 14 March** and **Friday 16 September**) and a recital of chamber music in which the pianist will be joined by **Luigi Piovano** on cello (**Wednesday 16 March**).

The three concerts will also be streamed live free of charge, during which you will be able to interact with the Accademia di Santa Cecilia and pose questions about the music or the performance in real time on a live blog manned for the occasion by a young music expert. The concerts will also be available via *streaming on demand* through the whole of 2011.

The concert to be broadcast online on 14 March (Symphonic Season 2010-2011, Sala Santa Cecilia 9 pm – first performance on 12 March, with replicas on the 14th and 15th) combines two major anniversaries in musical history to be celebrated by the **Orchestra Nazionale di Santa Cecilia** under the baton of **Antonio Pappano**: 100 years since the death of **Mahler** and 200 since the birth of **Liszt**.

By Gustav Mahler Pappano will be conducting the **Symphony No. 1 in D major "Titan"** and by Franz Liszt the **Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major** with the Russian virtuoso **Boris Berezovsky**, who will be performing for the first time at Santa Cecilia.

The evening will open with a rare performance of *Verdi's Aida Overture*. Verdi composed *Aida* for the opening of the Cairo Opera House to coincide with the inauguration of the Suez Canal. A year later, in 1872, the opera was to see its Italian premiere at La Scala in Milan and Verdi decided to replace the brief orchestral prelude with a completely new overture. However after listening to the rehearsal he was not convinced and chose to stick with the original prelude. The overture was given its first public performance in 1940 by Arturo Toscanini who was very fond of it.

Inspired by the novel *Titan* by German author Jean Paul, Mahler initially conceived his **Symphony No. 1** as a tone poem in five movements, revising the form over the next 10 years to produce the final four movement work which was published in 1899.

The Orchestra di Santa Cecilia boasts a special link with Mahler dating back to the composer's appearance on the podium of the Sala Accademica on 25 March 1907. Mahler appeared at the Academy a second time, conducting the Augusteo Orchestra, on 28 April 1910. These performances are of considerable significance, given that Mahler very rarely conducted outside the Hapsburg Empire preferring to work mainly in Austria, Germany, Hungary and the Netherlands. The Santa Cecilia Orchestra had only recently been formed so the presence of the man considered to be the greatest conductor of his time was a historic event of great importance.

Franz Liszt meanwhile took 26 years to compose his **Piano Concerto No. 1**, mainly due to repeated adaptations of the solo part to keep pace with his increasingly sophisticated keyboard virtuosity.

Following the Rome concerts, Pappano and the Orchestra di Santa Cecilia will set off for a major tour featuring the same programme, with dates in the United Kingdom at Basingstoke, Manchester and Birmingham before going on to Athens, Luxembourg, Baden-Baden, Essen and Bruxelles.

Antonio Pappano is also well known as an outstanding pianist and among his great passions is a love for chamber music, in particular accompanying voice in refined lieder recitals or celebrated instrumentalists. For the 16 March concert to be streamed live **Pappano** will be accompanying **Luigi Piovano**, first cello of the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. Together with "his" conductor, he will perform a series of pieces ranging from the 18th century *Sonata Op. 7 No. 6* by **Giovanni Battista Cirri**, the classical **Beethoven** *Sonata Op. 5 No. 2*, the late romantic **Martucci** (*Two Romances Op. 72*) and closing with the very romantic **Brahms'** *Sonata No. 1 Op. 38*.

The *Preludio Sinfonico*, an early work by **Giacomo Puccini**, partially reused by the Lucca composer in *Bohème*, will open the final concert in the PappanoWeb series. On **16 September** Antonio Pappano will be on the podium of the Orchestra di Santa Cecilia – following the Puccini – to conduct one of **Rachmaninoff's** best loved works, his **Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18** played by the extraordinary Russian virtuoso **Denis**

Matsuev. The concert will end with the majestic **Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74 "Pathétique"** by **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**.

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Online appointments

Monday 14 March - 9 pm

Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia

Antonio Pappano **conductor** | Boris Berezovsky **pianoforte**

Verdi Aida Overture | **Liszt** Piano Concerto No. 1 | **Mahler** Symphony No. 1 "Titan"

Wednesday 16 March - 8.30 pm

Antonio Pappano **pianoforte** | Luigi Piovano **cello**

Music by **Cirri** | **Beethoven** | **Martucci** | **Brahms**

Friday 16 September - 9 pm

Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia

Antonio Pappano **conductor** | Denis Matsuev **pianoforte**

Puccini Capriccio Sinfonico | **Rachmaninoff** Piano Concerto No. 2

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 6 "Pathétique"

All the concerts and commentary will be available free of charge at

www.telecomitalia.com/pappanoinweb

Further info at www.santacecilia.it/pappanoinweb

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