

Stefano Greco

Piano

"A musician of great talent...such passion provokes my unconditional praise"

Aldo Ciccolini

An artist who combines a robust tone and elegant technique with profound intellectual and emotional understanding, Stefano Greco is fast building a reputation as one of the finest Italian pianists of his generation. He became a Steinway Artist in 2007, and gave his first recital in this capacity during the 2007 World Sacred Music Week in Florence, performing Bach's *The Art of Fugue* at the Chiesa di S. Stefano al Ponte Vecchio. Since then, Stefano has performed Bach's unfinished masterpiece in numerous cities around the world, including Verona, for the Accademia Filarmonica, in Cagliari, for the Mozart Italy Association, in Los Angeles, for the Bach Festival, and New York, for the Italian Academy Foundation and the Keyboard Trust.

His debut at New York's Carnegie Hall (Zankel) in December 2007 was met by a lengthy standing ovation, and widely acclaimed by both the public and critics. He "demonstrated an absolute control of his art [...] with a total fidelity to music and with a master's touch; from lightly caressing the keys to a raging storm, from a barely perceptible whispering to a thunderous, devilish racing up and down the obliging keys [...] and many times, in this hall with perfect acoustics, everyone leapt up at once: from the numbered seats, from the parterre and the balcony, applauding and screaming 'bravo!'" (*America Oggi*).

Stefano gave his Wigmore Hall debut in November 2005, where he presented an ingenious programme entitled 'The Later Art of the Fugue'. This collaboration with writer, Robert Temple, brought to light masterpieces of contrapuntal music – many of them rarely heard in concert – including the world premieres of fugues by Puccini, transcribed for the piano by Greco, and Dinu Lipatti, also edited by Greco.

Other notable recital appearances include a tour of seven cities in Central and South America (Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile) under the aegis of the Comitato Nazionale Italiano Musica (CIDIM), an evening concert as part of the Carnegie Hall Notables series at The Mark Hotel, New York, lunchtime performances in the well-know London churches St James's, Piccadilly and St Martin-in-the-Fields, and recitals in St. John's, Smith Square and the Steinway Halls of London, Munich and New York.

In 2001, Stefano toured the United States, Canada and Japan, making his début at numerous prestigious venues such as New York's Lincoln Center and the Opera City Concert Hall in Tokyo.

Stefano's frequent broadcasts for radio and TV have included appearances on CNN, RAI International, Radio Vatican, Radio Beethoven (the main classical music radio station in Chile), Opus 94 (the main classical music radio station in Mexico), and as a guest on the well-known programme 'Reflections from the keyboard', directed by David Dubal in New York.

Stefano is an exclusive recording artist with Brancusi Classics (www.brancusiclassics.com). His recordings for Brancusi to date include 'The Later Art of the Fugue', the first world complete series of Handel's Keyboard Suites, Bach's *The Art of Fugue* and, most recently, a disc featuring music by Brahms, Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Bruckner and Liszt.

Stefano Greco studied initially at the Conservatory Tito Schipa in Lecce, Italy with Antonio Serrano. He graduated with full marks, and went on to win prizes in several Italian competitions before continuing his studies with Hector Pell at the Accademia Superiore G. Curci in Barletta then, from 1995 to 1998, with Aldo Ciccolini at the Accademia A. Ciccolini in Trinitapoli. During this period, Stefano gave lectures on 'The Mechanics of Piano Technique', 'The Golden Section', 'Mathematical Proportions in Music' and 'Bach's Polyphony'. He graduated from the Accademia A. Ciccolini with full marks, Summa Cum Laude and Honorable Mention, and in 2000, was Top Winner in the Ibla Grand Prize International Piano Competition, where he also won the Bach Special Mention Award and the Città di Pozzallo Prize.

Stefano's profound passion for music in general and for J. S. Bach in particular has prompted him to undertake intensive study and research, and next year his first book about Bach will be published and distributed in Italy, the UK, USA and Germany. Over the years, Stefano has also made many realizations and editions of Bach's music, including transcribing *14 Canons on the First 8 Fundamental Notes of the Aria from Bach's Goldberg-Variationen* for solo piano, and creating two-piano versions of the *Musikalisches Opfer* and "Erbarme dich, mein Gott" from the *Matthäus-Passion*.

Stefano is increasingly in demand for his teaching, and in spare moments away from the platform and recording studio enjoys giving international masterclasses and lectures at institutions such as New York Bard College, the California State University and New York University, working with students on repertoire ranging from keyboard pieces by William Byrd to contemporary works for piano.

For further information, please visit www.stefanogreco.com

Status: November 2010

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Short biography

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His debut at New York's Carnegie Hall (Zankel) was met by a lengthy standing ovation, and widely acclaimed by both the public and critics. Stefano gave his Wigmore Hall debut, where he presented an ingenious programme which brought to light masterpieces of contrapuntal music, including the world premieres of fugues by Puccini and Dinu Lipatti. Other notable recital appearances include a tour of seven cities in Central and South America (Mexico, Brasil, Argentina and Chile), a concert tour of United States, Canada and Japan, during which Stefano gave his début at numerous prestigious venues such as New York's Lincoln Center and the Opera City Concert Hall in Tokyo. As well as frequent recital, chamber music and concerto appearances in Italy, Stefano has also performed in Amsterdam, The Hague, Prague, Hamburg, Aleppo and Damascus.

Stefano's frequent broadcasts for radio and TV have included appearances on CNN, RAI etc. Stefano is an exclusive recording artist with Brancusi Classics. His recordings for Brancusi to date include the first world complete series of Händel's Keyboard Suites, Bach's The Art of Fugue and Goldberg Variations.

Stefano studied initially at the Conservatory Tito Schipa in Lecce, Italy with Antonio Serrano, with Hector Pell at the Accademia Superiore in Barletta and with Aldo Ciccolini, in Rome and Trinitapoli. Stefano's profound passion for music in general and for J. S. Bach in particular has prompted him to undertake intensive study and research, and next year his first book about Bach will be published and distributed in Italy, the UK, USA and Germany.

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