

APA Artists' Management



MANLIO BENZI – Conductor

Italian conductor, Manlio Benzi was born in Rimini and studied music at the Arrigo Boito Academy of Music in Parma, where he graduated in both composition and orchestral conducting, going on to obtain a first class honours degree in Musicology at the University of Arts, Parma. He then specialised in Orchestral Conducting at the Academia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, studying under Daniele Gatti and reached the final in the

International Competition: *L. V. Maticic* in Zagreb, where he was awarded the prize for Best Conductor in the Operatic Repertoire.

He then founded the Erlebnis Chamber Orchestra to perform 20th Century Music, Contemporary Music and to give first performances of new compositions; meanwhile commencing his career as opera and symphonic conductor. He has since conducted orchestras throughout Italy and abroad, including the following: Teatro la Fenice di Venezia, Orchestra Pomeriggi Musicale di Milano, Teatro Regio di Torino, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Orchestra Santa Cecilia di Roma, Orchestra Haydn di Bolzano, Orchestra Sinfonica Toscanini di Parma, Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo, Orchestra Sinfonica Abruzzese, Orchestra B. Cantelli di Milano, Orchestra Stabile di Como and Orchestra Filarmonica Veneta.

He became assistant to Carlo Felice Cillario and then made his debut conducting **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** at the National Theatre of Estonia in Tallinn, going on to take up the position of permanent conductor at the Serbian National Theatre in Novi Sad. Among the operas that he conducted were: **CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA**, **PAGLIACCI**, **TOSCA**, **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** and **NABUCCO** and many symphonic concerts. He joined the Orchestra Sinfonica Giuseppe Verdi di Milano as Associate Conductor and worked alongside many renowned conductors, including Riccardo Muti, Alun Francis, Riccardo Chailly, Aldo Ceccato and Daniele Gatti. During this time he continued to conduct symphony concerts and made a CD of Rossini Arias for *Agora*.

In the operatic field he conducted **LA SERVA PADRONA** in the Milan Festival and also a new production of **DON PASQUALE** at the Teatro Municipale di Como. He was invited to conduct **LA TRAVIATA** at the Villa Pallavicino at Verdi's birthplace of Busseto for the Fondazione Arturo Toscanini and also conducted a programme included in La Settimana per la Cultura, promoted by the Ministero per le Attività Culturali. At the Festival of Valle d'Itria in Martina Franca, he conducted the Bach Mattheus Passion with considerable success which led to his being invited the following year to conduct **LA REGINA SABA** by Gounod, which was also recorded live by *Dynamic*.

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He toured Austria with the Italian singer Milva and the Haydn Symphony Orchestra of Trento and Bolzano and also performed at the Musikverein of Vienna. He conducted a new production of **L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI** in Osimo and returned to the Festival della Valle d'Itria, Martina Franca for **LA SIBERIA** by Giordano, which was recorded live by *Dynamic*. He then conducted Rota's **IL PRINCIPE PORCARO** at Teatro la Fenice di Venezia and returned to the National Theatre of Estonia for **LA TRAVIATA**.

Since 2000 he has been the Artistic Director of the Notti Malatestiane Festival in Rimini and with them has conducted new productions of Benda's **MEDEA**, Malipiero's **ECUBA**, Dalayrac's **NINA OSSIA LA PAZZA PER AMORE**, Pizzetti's **LA PISANELLA** and most recently, Sibelius's **THE TEMPEST** and Berlioz's **SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE** and **LELIO**.

New productions he has conducted include: **MESE MARIANO** by Giordano and **IL SIGNOR BRUSCHINO** by Rossini in Osimo, returned to the Festival of Valle d'Itria, Martina Franca for **POLYEUCTE** by Gounod and to Teatro La Fenice for **LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR**. He conducted **DON CARLO** at the Macerata Opera Festival, **IL TROVATORE** in Rimini, **LA TRAVIATA** at the inauguration of the Teatro Guglielmi di Massa and went to Georgia to conduct **UN BALLO IN MASCHERA** at the National Theatre of Tblisi. He also made his La Scala debut, conducting the singers of Accademia della Scala and most recently conducted **ANDROMEDA** by Zingarelli at Teatro Litta in Milan.

He conducted the first ever performances of **I PURITANI** in Tallinn Estonia and a symphonic programme of Sibelius in Milan. He returned to the Summer Festival della Valle d'Itria at Martina Franca, to conduct **AMICA** by Mascagni and **MARCELLA** by Giordano and returned to La Scala Milan to conduct the singers of the Accademia della Scala for their final presentation. He also conducted **LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR** for Teatro Sociale di Como, which was repeated in the theatres of Pavia, Brescia and Cremona in a production by Dieter Kaegi. He made a very successful debut at Théâtre Royal de Wallonie, Liège with a new production of **TOSCA** and conducted concert performances of **LA GIOCONDA** for Theater Erfurt. He conducted Verdi's **MACBETH** at the Semper Opera Dresden and made his UK debut conducting **I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI** for Opera North. He returned to Erfurt to conduct their New Year's concert of **BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO. 9**, a great honour for a non-German conductor.

Most recently he made his debut at the Hamburgische Staatsoper conducting **MADAMA BUTTERFLY** and at the Volksoper Wien conducting **RIGOLETTO**. He has also been invited to conduct **I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI** again for Opera Ireland and will return to the Volksoper Wien next season for **TOSCA**. Manlio Benzi combines his conducting career with holding a professorship in Orchestral Conducting at the Rossini Academy of Music in Pesaro, he is a composer of chamber music and theatre music and contributes regular reviews for Ricordi Milano and for the Istituto di Studi Verdiani di Parma.

<http://www.manliobenzi.it>

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