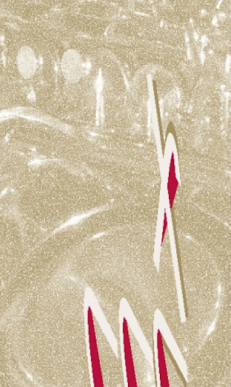


thomas fortmann





I don't consider myself a follower of any particular musical school. Instead, I developed a personal composition style, which often unites a wide variety of twentieth century techniques, even with their opposing impulses. Composition techniques catch my interest as a means of movement and creative play, rather than a source of inspiration, because even highly inventive structures are not in and of themselves sufficient to create a musical language. Therefore I draw considerably on the influences of Rock and Jazz, as well. Still, I am fascinated by what I consider to be the foundation of Modern music, namely the idea of a composing with twelve tones. But I do approach this core idea from a very individual angle. (See my essay on www.patos.com) Generally, I try to find a specific dimension for every composition and it is important to me that I reach both the listeners' sensual ear as well as their intellectual faculties.

As the pieces on this CD originate from different periods (e.g. Eben, eben written in 1984 and the Sonatina in 2008) they are underpinned by varying techniques. This divergence reflects my development as a composer on one hand, but also points out the common roots, which lie in my musical personality, on the other. Nowadays, some of the tunes are no longer used only for concerts, but are also studied in schools for educational and didactic purposes. For example, the study and performance of the Sonata is a diploma and graduation requirement at some Italian music conservatories.

I am deeply indebted to all the participating musicians, especially to Marco Falaschi. His friendship has allowed me to discover the beauty of the saxophone. I am very grateful for his appearance alongside Roberto Frati and some of their former master students, like Davide Vallini, Francesca Corsi and Alessio Tavernini.



thomas fortmann

was born in Switzerland and became a successful songwriter during the 70s. He wrote his first 'hit' at the age of 16, which was followed by over a hundred titles released in more than 27 countries. Famous German rock stars such as Udo Lindenberg, Love Generation, Jürgen Drews and others, as well as British artists such as Alexis Korner or Italian singer Daniela Davoli recorded his songs. He composed the music for the musical Tell (1977), which created a scandal in Switzerland. The record made it onto all German-speaking charts.

At the age of 26, Thomas abandoned his career as a rock musician and dedicated himself to further studies in composition and instrumentation.

This period laid the foundation for various chamber works, such as:

Tango Catolico (*1st string quartet*)

Requiem for an Unborn Child

Ladyboy (*string trio*)

Bachcab and the Sonata (*for saxophone and piano*)

Sonkran and A Little American Night Music (*sax quartet*)

Three Piggies in Clover and Blues Catolico (*for two saxophones and piano*)

The Warriors of the Night (*for two pianos and drums*)

Prolitheus (*for marimba, two pianos and percussion*)

2nd String Quartet

the orchestral works:

Oratorio Francescano

1st Symphony "Pythagoras"

2nd Symphony "Etruria"

music-plays:

Sommerfrau & Winterwolf

Aion

The Cross and the Rooster

Collodis Pinocchio

He received scholarships and commissions from the towns of Zurich and Bern, the Swiss government, the European Union, the Opera of Zurich, Open Opera St.Gallen, Mozart Festival Trento, amongst others.

In the mid- 80s Thomas and his family moved to Tuscany where he founded the Accademia Amiata and its Festival 'Toscana delle Culture'.

in order of appearance

marco falaschi

graduated *summa cum laude* with a degree in clarinet (Conservatory of Florence, 1985) and saxophone (Conservatory of Perugia, 1987). As a winner of orchestra competitions for leading roles at the 'Teatro alla Scala', Milan, and the 'RAI Orchestra', Naples, he has regularly performed as a soloist at the most renowned music festivals and concert halls and has been invited to recordings at Radio/TV networks such as RAI (Italy), ZDF (Germany), ORF and RSI (Switzerland). His CD productions have been released by Pentaphone, Amiata Media, Phoenix, Klick and Forrest Hill records.

In 1992 Marco Falaschi was appointed Chair Professor at the conservatory of Mantua and in 1999 at the conservatory of La Spezia.

He also developed a classical didactic method: 'The Saxophone', which is used all over Italy. (Available at www.patots.ch)

roberto frati

graduated with top grades from the conservatory of Perugia. As a member of the Italian Saxophone Ensemble he won several competitions and awards. He is a permanent member of the Cantiere di Montepulciano, the Rai Turin symphony orchestra, the Orchestra Regionale Toscana, the Orchestra of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and the Chamber Orchestra of Siena. As a soloist he won - among many international competitions - the A. Piazzolla award in 1997 and performed at the Biennale of Venezia. He is a member of the quartet 'the Saxophones', the quintet 'Steel Wind', the 'Accademia Amiata' and the 'Kammerrock Quintet'. His recordings have been released by Nuova Era, Amiata Media, Pentaphone, VideoRadio, Rain, ONK Music and Forrest Hill records.

Roberto Frati is the appointed Chair Professor at the conservatory of Florence.

steve potts

was born in Ohio, comes from a musical family. At a very early age he was fascinated by the saxophone after having heard his cousin, Buddy Tate, play sax in Count Basie's orchestra. While simultaneously studying architecture in Los Angeles, he also studied music with Charles Lloyd. But he dedicated himself to music after that by moving to New York to study with Eric Dolphy. He became friends with Ron Carter and frequented Coltrane, Tony Williams, Jimmy Garrison, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Larry Coryell and Wayne Shorter. He played with Roy Ayers, Richard Davis, Joe Henderson, Reggie Workman and Chico Hamilton.

1970 Steve moved to Europe to live in Paris. He performed with Dexter Gordon, Johnny Griffin, Mal Waldron, Ben Webster and Hal Singer. Around 1973 he met Steve Lacy. They travelled the world performing together for over 23 years and recorded over 25 albums.



daide vallini

studied with Maestro Marco Falaschi at the Conservatory of La Spezia, graduated first in clarinet and then in 2007 in saxophone, summa cum laude,

and received the honour award. He became the soloist of the Conservatory Orchestra and performed with various orchestras such as the Regio theatre of Turin, the Orchestra of Grosseto, the Arcadia Wind Orchestra and the Radio Orchestra of the Conservatory of Florence. During the last few years he has won many national and international competitions and European awards.

francesca corsi

studied with Maestro Marco Falaschi and graduated *summa cum laude* at the Conservatory of La Spezia. She held concerts with important orchestras such as the Italian Youth Orchestra, the Galilei Orchestra of Fiesole, l'Orchestra del Giglio, the Puccini Festival Orchestra and in 2005/6 she became a member of the Accademia Amiata Ensemble, performing the musical 'Collodis Pinocchio' by T. Fortmann in Switzerland. In the 'I. Albeniz Quartet' she plays the tenor sax. Francesca has taken part in recordings for Klick and Forrest Hill records.



berlioz quartet

The 'H. Berlioz' Saxophone Quartet was formed in 1996 and is made up of Alessio Tavernini (soprano), Luca Malesardi (alto), Ruben Marani (tenor), and Matteo Comai (baritone saxophone). The ensemble has won numerous international competitions and has given concerts at many important venues, including performances at the Bibiena Theatre in Mantua, the international festivals Toscana delle Culture, Accademia Amiata, Santa Fiora in Musica, Soroptimist International, ARTICO and the Mozart Festival.

While the quartet enjoys bringing new life to the traditional compositions for four saxophones, it has also given several world premieres of new repertoires and presented many works of considerable musical merit by contemporary composers.

miło vanelli

studied with Maestro Roberto Frati and graduated *summa cum laude* in saxophone at the conservatory of Florence in 2001. He was a member of the Florence Saxophone Quartet with which he won a lot of national and international competitions. He performed with the RAI Orchestra, the Regio theatre of Turin, the Toscana Jazz Orchestra and as soloist at important Festivals such as the Cantiere di Montepuciano, Amici della Musica di Firenze, Toscana delle Culture, Junge Kultur (Germany), Agimus, Teatro Comunale di Firenze. He is currently a member of 'Steel Wind'.

ruber marani

studied with Maestro Marco Falaschi and graduated *summa cum laude* at the age of 17 from the Mantua Conservatory in saxophone. He studied violin simultaneously and graduated in 2002. He collaborated with the symphonic orchestras: 'Antonio Salieri' of 'Brescia', the 'Mantua Chamber Orchestra' and 'Camerata Franz Schubert'. As one of the founding members of the 'Hector Berlioz Saxophone Quartet', he won many competitions, appeared in several television shows, radio programs and CD recordings. His performances include many world premieres, amongst others the 'Pythagoras Symphony' by T. Fortmann.

davis tarolli

attended drum classes with Valerio Abeni and Massimo Duraccio and gained his first concert experience performing with several rock bands. In 1997, he completed his musical education studying at the 'Los Angeles Music Academy', where he was chosen to participate at the 'Pasadena International Drumming Festival'. Following graduation, he returned to Italy. Fascinated by classical music he has also attended percussion classes at the 'Brescia State Conservatory'.

marco podestà

after winning several national and international prizes has given many concerts all over Europe and South America and is regularly invited as a piano soloist by important orchestras, such as the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic. He has made radio recordings in Italy (RAI and Radio Vatican), Ukraine, Rumania and Malta. Several of his CD-recordings are available. Among them is the complete discography of Chopin-waltzes.

ettore candela

an excellent pianist, organist and composer from Grosseto. He was a member of the Accademia Amiata Ensemble and participated in their tours and recordings for many years. CD appearances include recordings for Pentaphone, Amiata Media, Phoenix and Divine Art.

carlo alessandro lapegna

studied piano with Maestro Vincenzo Vitale, the leading piano Professor at the 'Santa Cecilia Music Academy' in Rome, and composition with Bruno Mazzotta, Dean of the Conservatory in Naples. Before graduating summa cum laude from the Naples Conservatory (1976), he was - due to his outstanding recital and didactic activity - already chosen as assistant to Maestro Vitale and so became the youngest professor in Italy at that time. In 1978, he was appointed Chair Professor of Piano at the 'Domenico Cimarosa' State Conservatory.

He has given hundreds of recitals and guest appearances with various orchestras and has been regularly invited for recordings by the Italian Radio/TV networks. In 1979 he founded the 'Duo Pianistico' with Francesco Martucci which, since its debut at the 'Two Worlds Festival' of Spoleto, has toured all over Europe and North America.

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METIER

Recorded at: Studio Montevarchi (Italy)
Recording engineer: Walter Neri
except:

**Tango Catolico*

Teatro degli Unanimi, Arcidosso (Italy)

Recording engineer: Walter Neri

***Sonata*

Recorded at: il poderino della Gioiosa
Casale Marittimo (Pi) (Italy)

Recording engineer: Francesco Menconi

Graphic design: Pia Loertscher

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**DIVINE ART
RECORDINGS
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<https://divineartrecords.com>

- Sonata for Saxophone and Piano**
- 01 *Andante* 3:20
- 02 *Adagio* 3:50
- 03 *Rondo* 3:05
marco falaschi (ca) marco podestà (pno)
- 04 **Catholic Blues** 6:07
marco falaschi (ca) roberto frati (b)
steve potts (solo s) ettore candela (pno)
- 05 **BacH cab** 6:50
davide vallini (s) carlo a. lapegna (pno)
- 06 **Eben, eben** 3:08
marco falaschi (ca) carlo a. lapegna (pno)
- 07 **Three Piggies in Clover** 4:41
marco falaschi (s) francesca corsi (ca)
carlo a. lapegna (pno)
- 08 **Sonkran** 4:31
berlioz quartet
- 09 **PopOhKakapitl** 2:45
berlioz quartet
- 10 **Sonatina (The Goretto Thing)** 4:58
davide vallini (s) milo vanelli (t)
- 11 **A Little American Night Music** 6:30
berlioz quartet
- 12 **A Whale in the Circus** 1:50
(from 'Collodis Pinocchio')
ruber marani (s) marco falaschi (ca)
francesca corsi (b) carlo a. lapegna (pno)
dev's tarolli (drm)