



PIANO RENAISSANCE

Umberto Jacopo Laureti

- **Music:** Frescobaldi, Respighi, Casella, Busoni
- **Label:** Master Chord Records
- **Sound engineer:** Andrea Lambertucci
- **Total duration:** 1:10:11
- **Barcode:** 191924633327
- **Catalogue number:** MC 1023

“I invite you to listen to this recording as if you were embarking on a journey of discovery of Italian piano music, enjoying its developments at the beginning of the 20th century while realising its connections with the early repertoire”. (U. Laureti)

“The title comes on the one hand from the late Renaissance music by Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643), on the other hand from the music written during the so called Italian instrumental Renaissance (early 20th century) by composers like Busoni, Respighi and Casella who felt the need to go back to the instrumental genres after a century dominated by opera. It is a double musical Renaissance illustrated at the piano, therefore the title *Piano Renaissance*”. (U. Laureti)

The focus on the piano is important as the Toccatas and the dances by Girolamo Frescobaldi are played on this instrument, a rare and unusual choice that allows a new approach to timbre, colour and phrasing.

The album’s journey into the Italian instrumental Renaissance starts with a rare jewel of the piano literature, Busoni’s early *Macchiette Medioevali* (Medieval Sketches): a fresh set of miniatures that provides a magical evocation of the past. It continues with Respighi’s transcriptions of Frescobaldi and of other treasures of the ancient repertoire (*Antiche arie e danze* in their original piano version): they are grand and virtuoso works that follow the model of Busoni’s famous Bach transcriptions. A final step is represented by Casella and the late Busoni, who combined influences from the ancient Italian repertoire together with the most exciting European avant-gardes.

Recorded in Italy in the tiny opera theatre of Montegiorgio (a neoclassical jewel of just 300 seats located in Marche Region, Italy), this CD has been produced thanks to the support of the Italian Cultural Institute of London.

G. Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

- 1 Balletto III (F 2.26) 0:45
- 2 Corrente del Balletto (F 2.27) 0:36
- 3 Passacagli (F 2.28) 2:31

G. Frescobaldi (1583-1643) – O. Respighi (1879-1936)

- 4 Passacaglia (P111) 7:58

F. Busoni (1866-1924): Macchiette medioevali op. 33

- 5 1. Dama 1:51
- 6 2. Cavaliere 1:22
- 7 3. Paggio 1:28
- 8 4. Guerriero 1:41
- 9 5. Astrologo 2:54
- 10 6. Trovatore 3:08

O. Respighi (1879-1936): Antiche arie e danze (P114)

- 11 1. Balletto detto "Il conte Orlando" 2:55
- 12 2. Villanella 4:41
- 13 3. Gagliarda 3:37

- 14 4. Italiana 2:57
- 15 5. Siciliana 3:17
- 16 6. Passacaglia 3:16

G. Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

- 17 Toccata ottava, “di durezze e ligature” 2:35

A. Casella (1883-1947)

- 18 Toccata op. 6 6:22

G. Frescobaldi (1583-1643)

- 19 Toccata nona, “non senza fatica si giunge al fin” 5:32

F. Busoni (1866-1924): Toccata (BV287)

- 20 Preludio 1:29
- 21 Fantasia 6:05
- 22 Ciaccona 3:29