

Varna Master Class Series

Varna, Bulgaria
August 31 – September 5

One of the gems of the Black Sea, Varna, Bulgaria, is known for its beautiful golden beaches, enormous sea-side garden park, diverse restaurants, and exciting night life. It is also home to the beautiful Varna State Opera House. Recently renovated and restored, the glorious red building now dominates Varna's central square and is a major cultural center in Eastern Europe. The Varna State Opera House is a perfect location for a new master class series that offers serious students of voice, piano, and conducting the opportunity to rehearse and perform in this beautiful space.

Presented as a collaboration of:

Three Bridges Music International, Samuel Martin, director

Schubertiade of Los Angeles International, Gustavo Jiménez, director

Mo-Mus (Modena Musica), Stefano Seghedoni, director

Theatre & Music Production Centre Varna (Varna State Opera Theater), Daniela Dimova, director

London Piano Masters, Stefania Passamonte, director

Master Classes and performances for Voice, Piano, and Conducting

with

Bruna Baglioni, mezzo-soprano (Italy)

Gustavo Jiménez, baritone (USA)

Stefania Passamonte, piano (Italy/UK)

Maestro Stefano Seghedoni, conductor (Italy)

Répétiteurs:

Dimitar Fournadjev (Bulgaria)

Mikhail Berlin (Germany/Russia)

Federica Cipolli (Italy)

Voice and Opera Conducting for Italian *belcanto* opera

Open to singers and conductors 18 years and older

Pianists will study solo and concerto repertoire with no age restriction

Locations:

Varna State Opera House

Dobi Hristov Music Academy

All students will receive lessons and/or master classes every day (singers with their selected teacher). Singers will work on arias and ensembles of the Italian *belcanto* repertoire and Verdi. All singers and conductors will perform with the Varna State Opera Orchestra at a final concert in the Varna State Opera House on Saturday, September 5. This will include three days of rehearsal with orchestra with a final dress rehearsal on the day of the performance.

Conductors will work with Maestro Seghedoni and a répétiteur every day on either all of *La Traviata* or *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. They will also work on a selection of *belcanto* arias for performance during the final concert with the vocal program.

Pianists will have the opportunity to compete for an chance to play with orchestra during the final concert (only one winner). Students wishing to play with orchestra must audition on September 3rd for a panel that includes Ms. Passamonte, Maestro Seghedoni, and Ms. Dimova. They must choose a first movement from one of the following concertos:

- F. J. Haydn, Piano Concerto in D Major
- W. A. Mozart, K. 415, K. 466, K. 467, K. 488, or K. 525
- L. van Beethoven, Piano Concertos 1, 2, or 3

Accommodations are included in the tuition. They include a double hotel room in a 3-star boutique hotel with breakfast, lunch, and dinner included. The hotel is located in the city center, only minutes walking from both rehearsal locations. Travel to and from Varna must be arranged by the students and is NOT included in the tuition fee.

The tuition (which includes room and board) is €1,350 if paid via Paypal, or €1,300 if paid via bank wire transfer. Payment must be made in full with the application. Applications and proof of payment must be sent to Samuel Martin at martin@threebridges.org

Payments via bank wire have to be made at:

Mo-Mus (Modena Musica a.p.s.) -

Banca Popolare dell'Emilia Romagna di Modena Ag. 3

BIC: BPMOIT22XXX

IBAN:

IT82R0538712903000001860887

Full Name (as it should appear in a program): _____

Birth Date: _____

Nationality: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number (indicate mobile or home): _____

(optional) Link to a video or audio file of your work: _____

Select one: conductor piano voice

If voice, please indicate voice type (*fach*): _____
and select desired teacher: Bruna Baglioni Gustavo Jiménez

Vocalists, please list four arias and one ensemble piece from the *belcanto* or Verdi repertoire you would like to have the opportunity to sing with orchestra. Your teacher will select which piece will be performed.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) (ensemble) _____

Pianists, if you wish to enter the competition to play with orchestra, please indicate which concerto first movement you'd like to perform from the list above: _____

Conductors, please indicate which opera you will prepare from the two listed above: _____

The teachers:

Bruna Baglioni: Brunna Baglioni made her stage debut at the Festival dei Due Mondi of Spoleto in Boris Goudunov, soon afterwards she was in Bologna in a big production of *La Favorita* starring with Luciano Pavarotti. This Opera introduced her in the most important Opera Houses Worldwide, including La Scala of Milan, where she sang successfully the most important mezzo-soprano roles like: *La Favorita*, *Ulrica* in Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera", *Adalgisa* in Bellini's "Norma", *Santuzza* in Mascagni's "Cavalleria rusticana".

Teatro Alla Scala impressed the beginning of her brilliant career in Italian Theaters like: The Opera of Rome, the Fenice of Venice, the San Carlo of Naples, the Regio of Turin, the Arena of Verona etc.; and in International Theaters like: the one of Paris, the Metropolitan Opera of New York, the Covent Garden of London, Wiener StaatsOper, Bayerische StaatsOper in Munich, Deutsche Oper Berlin etc. Brunna Baglioni is particularly identified with the role of Amneris in the *Aida* of Verdi, a role she has sung in virtually every important Theatre across the globe. Her portrayls of the Verdi, of the "Verismo", of the Bel canto heroines are equally acclaimed. She has been conducted by such world famous conductors as: Gui, Gavazzeni, Patanè, Abbado, Molinari-Pradelli, Levine, Santi, Sinopoli, Metha, Oren, Fourniller, Luisi, Haithink, Conlon and Luisotti etc. The artist has participated in many Tourneès: The Tourneè of *Norma* in Moscow with La Scala, for that occasion a CD was recorded; The important American Tour of the Metropolitan in the protagonist role of *Dalila*, in *Samson et Dalila*, the same role she performed in Corea and Japan in the Covent Garden Tourneè.

She recorded a DVD of *Don Carlo* for the Covent Garden; a DVD of *Nabucco* and *Aida* for the Arena of Verona; a CD of *La Gioconda* for the Metropolitan Opera. She took part in several Recitals. Mainly Today the artist dedicates herself to the teaching of vocal technique, scores and scenic interpretation for students and young singers with private teaching, in Academies and with professional Master Classes in Italy and all over the world, in U.S.A., Brazil, Germany, Bulgaria, Corea, Japan, China, Turkey. She partecipates as main teacher at Cantiere Lirico on Pietro Mascagni at Teatro Goldoni of Livorno december 2013. She is involved in a masterclass for "La Festa dell'Opera", organized by Teatro Grande di Brescia (September 2015). She is often in jury of international Competition: Maria Callas international Competition of Sao Paulo and Jacarei in Brazil (april 2013), Martinelli Pertile of Montagnana, Padova (June 2013), Elena Nicolai Competition in Bulgaria (november 2013), casting at Rosetum in Milano (december 2013 and December 2014), for casting of *Aida* of G. Verdi for l'Istituto Internazionale dell'Opera e la Poesia and Fondazione Arena di Verona (dicember 2011). The artist keeps on showing that her good technique and her serious and constant study contribute to the growth and preservation of a rare and precious instrument like the voice.

Stefano Seghedoni: Born in Modena in 1970, he got his Composition Diploma at Modena Conservatory in 1997 and his Conducting Diploma in Bologna Conservatory in 1999.

Teachers: Giancarlo Andretta, Cristina Landuzzi, Maurizio Ferrari, Paolo Arrivabeni, G. Indulti, G. Petrassi, A. Solbiati, A. Guarneri, F. Donatoni, E. Morricone, C. F. Cillario.

As a Conductor he has performed in many theaters in Italy and abroad:

SEOUL (Concert Hall of "Seoul Arts Center", and Opera House), Moscow (Tchaikovsky Concert Hall), Novosibirsk (Opera House), Krasnojarsk (Philharmonic Concert Hall), Varna [Bulgaria] (Opera House), Amsterdam (De la Mar Theater), Leuven (Opera House), Rotterdam (Opera House), Brest [Belarus] (Music and Drama Theatre), Kharkov [Ukraine] (Philharmonic Hall), Novi Sad [Serbia and Montenegro] (Serbian National Theatre), Marseille [France] (National Theatre), Dublin [Ireland] (The O2), Belfast [North Ireland] (Odyssey Arena), Muenchen (Innenhof der Residenz), Fuessen (Festspielhaus), Duedingen [CH] (Podium Theatre), Landshut (Innenhof der Residenz), Modena (Teatro Comunale di Modena "Luciano Pavarotti"), Festival delle Nazioni di Città di Castello, , Ferrara (Teatro Nuovo), Milano (Teatro Carcano), Orvieto (Teatro Mancinelli), Parma (Auditorium Paganini), Firenze (Palazzo Pitti), Bologna (Teatro Manzoni), Bozen (Auditorium Monteverdi), Brixen (Forum), San Marino Republic (Teatro Titano), Torino (Teatro "Piccolo Regio"). He has conducted the following orchestras: Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Mostly Philharmonic Orchestra (Seoul), Prime Philharmonic Orchestra (Seoul), Brest Regional Philharmonic Orchestra (Belarus), Vojvodina Symphonic Orchestra (Serbia), Orchestra and Chorus of Serbian National Theater (Novi Sad), Orchestra of Kharkov Opera Theater (Ukraine), Kharkov Philharmonic Orchestra (Ukraine), Orchestra da Camera del Teatro Comunale di Modena, Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Emilia Romagna "Arturo Toscanini", Orchestra Sinfonica "G. Rossini" di Pesaro, Orchestra Sinfonica Regionale della Valle d'Aosta, I Solisti di Perugia, I Musici di Parma, Nice Philharmonic Orchestra (Principauté de Monaco),

He has collaborated with world famous singers in many concerts and recitals (Luciana Serra, Brunna Baglioni, Katia Ricciarelli, Leo Nucci, Chiara Taigi and m.a.).

In 2003 he has made his debut during the 2003-04 opera season of Modena Town Hall Theater "Luciano Pavarotti" conducting the world premiere of "La famosa invasione degli orsi in Sicilia" by Marco Biscarini. After those performances he was newly invited to conduct Verdi's "Nabucco", Britten's "The little sweep" and an important symphonic concert.

In 2005 he was invited by "Festival delle Nazioni" (Perugia), to conduct the Italian premiere of Szymanowski's "Mandradora" in a new production by Michael Zaniecki. In June 2006 he has been invited by "Arturo Toscanini" Foundation to conduct its own Symphonic Orchestra. After that he has conducted 11 performances of "Il barbiere di Siviglia" in many theaters in Italy. In 2007 he conducted a new production of "La traviata" during the Accademia Opera Festival in Cagliari (PU), leading the "Orchestra Sinfonica di Pesaro". In July 2007 he has been invited again by "Arturo Toscanini Orchestra", to conduct G. Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle" (orchestral version) during Bologna Musica festival 2007. In the same year he has made his debut during the "Festival dei Presidi di Orbetello" in Tuscany, conducting Rigoletto, Traviata and Il Trovatore by G. Verdi.

In May 2008 he has conducted for the first time in South Korea in the Concert Hall of "Seoul's arts Center". Since summer 2008 he has become musical director of "Compagnia d'opera italiana", conducting productions of Aida, Nabucco, Carmen and Rigoletto in many German towns.

In 2009 he has conducted Aida in an important production in Ireland and Great Britain and in 2010 he has been invited by Seoul Gloria Opera Company to conduct at Seoul Opera House a new production of Rigoletto. After that he has been invited to conduct, in summer 2011, a new production of Vincenzo Bellini's "I Puritani". In October he has conducted the "Europa Musica Symphonic Orchestra" and "Coro Lirico Italiano" during a Russian tour in Krasnojarsk, Novosibirsk (Opera House) and Moscow (Tchaikovsky Concert Hall). In 2012 he has conducted a new production of Rossini's Il barbiere di Siviglia in Benelux and after that he has conducted a new production of the same opera at the Seoul Opera House.

In January 2013 he has been invited to conduct Pergolesi's "La morte di San Giuseppe" by the "Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra" of Budapest at the concert hall of the Italian Institute of Culture and, in the same month, he has conducted for the first time Beethoven's 9th symphony at Seoul Concert Hall.

From April 2013 Maestro Seghedoni is invited regularly by Varna Opera House (Bulgaria), and from 2014 he is "Permanent Guest Conductor" of Varna Opera House, where he has conducted successfully operas as Rossini's Barbiere di Siviglia, Verdi's Rigoletto, Otello and Falstaff, and symphonic concerts.

As Composer he got acknowledgements in important festivals and competitions. He has composed operas: "La corista" (1990 – Marseille National Theater), Una Storia da raccontare (2001 – Teatro Sperimentale, Ancona), Alice (2005 – Teatro Piccolo Regio, Torino). In 2005 he was committed by Regional Orchestra of Val d'Aosta to compose a "Gloria" for baritone, Choir and Orchestra to celebrate the 60th region anniversary.

The Serbian string quartet TAJJ requested him a piece to be performed in their 2006 Italian tour. This piece has been released in Autumn 2006 on the live CD recorded by TAJJ during the tour.

In 2010 opera "Gelsomino nel paese dei bugiardi", has won the first prize at "Fedora competition" based in Verbania (Italy) and has been performed by Marco Boni conducting the "Orchestra del Teatro Regio di Parma". In 2011 the Korean "Bravura Concert Society" has requested him to write a new composition to be performed by "Prime Philharmonic Orchestra" during a concert broadcasted by "Arte Television".

Recently he has been invited to write new arrangements for an entire show about the life and music of Edith Piaf, to be performed at the end of April in Teatro Giacosa in Aosta.

His arrangements of Mozart's Piano sonata nr. 16 and Mendelssohn's Trio in D minor have been commissioned for the soundtrack of Lee Daniel's movie "The Butler", and in 2014 he arranged and conducted the "Andante cantabile" from Tchaikovsky 5th Symphony for the movie "Birdman". In December 2014 his new work "The gardener" is going to be performed under his baton in Teatro Comunale Luciano Pavarotti of Modena.

Stefania Passamonte: Stefania Passamonte is an international concert pianist, recording artist and entrepreneur from Italy, now based in London. Founder and owner of the International Music Academy "London Piano Masters" as well as the classical record label Master Chords Records, Stefania is a voting member of the Recording Academy for the Grammy's Awards in the USA and member of the Classical Committee of the BPI for the Classic BRITs Awards in the UK.

Since September 2013 Stefania is also Artistic Director of the Concert Seasons at the Italian Cultural Institute in London and was featured by the British Council 2014 global University Campaign as a successful UK University Graduate and Entrepreneur (Stefania Passamonte for StudyInTheUK Campaign).

After earning the Concert Recital Diploma with famous music critic Piero Rattalino at the "Santa Cecilia" International Academy in Portogruaro, Stefania gained the Postgraduate Diploma in Piano Performance at the Royal Academy of Music of London with Ian Fountain and Christopher Elton. She then completed her studies with Jacques Lagarde at the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris

“Alfred Cortot”.

Stefania has given solo recitals in the major concert halls worldwide, some of which were televised broadcasts, including “St Martin in The Fields” in London, National Philharmonic of Ukraine in Kiev, “Sala Puccini” in Milan, Palau da Musica in Valencia, Sibelius Hall in Finland, “Salle Munch” in Paris, Varna Opera Theatre in Bulgaria, Casa da Musica in Porto. Solo Concertos include the Lathi Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Ville Matjaeff, and the Varna Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor Stefano Seghedoni. Selected to perform on the stage of the most famous International Piano Competitions as the Chopin Competition of Warsaw, the “Vladimir Horowitz” of Kiev, the “Maria Canals” of Barcelona and the “Jose' Iturbi” of Valencia in Spain, the Porto Competition in Portugal and Beethoven Klavierwettbewerb of Wien, Stefania won several awards and acknowledgements, among which the prestigious “Premio Ghirlandina” given by Modena to an artist “distinguished in the international panorama for special merits and success”.

Her recordings include major works by Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, the complete “Transcendental Studies” by Liszt and “Beethoven's Dramatic Sonatas” released by Master Chord Records with great success of critics and public. Since 2010 her new releases annually compete at the prestigious Grammy's Awards in Los Angeles as best soloist and best album of the Classic fields, while since 2012 she is regularly invited to the red carpet of the Classic BRIT Awards in London.

Stefania teaches fluently in the languages of English, French, Spanish and Italian and is devoted to research in the different styles and traditions of the Russian, French, Spanish, English, German and Italian piano techniques and interpretations. She has given masterclasses at some of the most prestigious music institutions in England, Spain, Italy and France, including Royal College of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, and the Conservatorio Moreno Torreba in Madrid, with students enrolling from France, Belgium, Japan, Italy, USA, Spain, Germany, Russia, China, Korea, Venezuela, Egypt, Bahrain, Dubai, New Zealand and Israel.