



COMUNICATO STAMPA

Silvia Colasanti is the new Artistic Director of the Festival della Valle d'Itria for the 2025-2027 triennium

The Board of Directors of the Paolo Grassi Foundation in Martina Franca has appointed composer **Silvia Colasanti** as the Artistic Director of the Festival della Valle d'Itria and the Director of the Rodolfo Celletti Belcanto Academy for the 2025-2027 triennium.

"We have just concluded a complex three-year period, which was also marked by great success and significant growth for the Festival della Valle d'Itria; results for which the Paolo Grassi Foundation must thank Maestro Sebastian F. Schwarz, who, with great human and professional qualities, carried out an artistic project that allowed the Festival to achieve an increasingly international vision," said **Michele Punzi**, President of the Paolo Grassi Foundation.

He continued: "For the future, the Board of Directors, unanimously and after careful and considered evaluations, identified Maestro Silvia Colasanti as the best personality to enable the Festival to continue its cultural development, respecting the roots that characterize our event, while paying special attention to the new audience and to the ever-evolving needs and expectations of the spectators. We are confident that Maestro Colasanti's experience as a musician, composer, and leading figure in the Italian cultural world will allow her to fully fulfill the role of Artistic Director, and of the Rodolfo Celletti Academy entrusted to her, and that she will courageously lead us towards the challenges the future will hold for the Festival della Valle d'Itria. With her, and thanks to her contagious enthusiasm, we are ready to begin a new chapter in our history."

The Board of Directors is composed of Michele Punzi (Centro Artistico Musicale "Paolo Grassi"), Gianfranco Palmisano (Municipality of Martina Franca), Roberto Venneri (Puglia Region), Stefano Semeraro (Province of Taranto), Piermassimo Chirulli (Municipality of Cisternino).

Upon learning the news, Silvia Colasanti commented: "I take on the artistic direction of the Festival della Valle d'Itria in Martina Franca and the Rodolfo Celletti Belcanto Academy with the awareness of receiving an important and precious legacy, constantly nurtured by the passion and intelligence of those who preceded me and by the numerous skills of those who, year after year, contributed to the realization of the performances. Exploring new territories, reviving rarely performed works on stage, rediscovering neglected compositional paths, engaging with the local area, and enhancing young artists: this is the essence of the Festival in which I would also like to bring the powerful lesson of the 20th century, the evolution of musical theater, the promotion of creativity and contemporary languages, and the possibility of expressing the complexity of the present with authentic expressive energy, with the aim of provoking historical reflections and highlighting how today's aesthetic diversity stems from different ways of reinterpreting and reading tradition, in a continuity and dialogue with the past." The composer concluded, already working on the programming for the next year, which will be announced soon: "Opera has always spoken about us, sung the present, and through time, it is capable of deeply narrating both humanity and today's society."

Silvia Colasanti's compositions are featured in major Italian and international music institutions. She trained in Rome under Maestro Luciano Pelosi and Maestro Azio Corghi, and her artistic collaborations with internationally renowned artists such as Vladimir Jurowski, Yuri Bashmet, Salvatore Accardo, David Geringas, Nathalie Dessay, and Roberto Abbado have been of fundamental importance in shaping her poetics.

Among her most notable recent works are: *Oltre l'azzurro*, a musical drama based on a text by Maria Grazia Calandrone with a narration by Massimo Popolizio, commissioned by the Florence Opera House for the 600th anniversary of the construction of Brunelleschi's Dome; *Esercizi per non dire addio* for soloist and orchestra, and a version for two violins and string orchestra, written for Massimo and Alessandro Quarta and performed at the opening of the Stradivari Festival in Cremona and later on tour; collaborations with Raffaele Pe, Mariangela Gualtieri, and Elio De Capitani. Her long-standing collaboration with the Spoleto Festival has produced works such as *Tre risvegli*, based on a text by Patrizia Cavalli, directed by Mario Martone with Alba Rohrwacher; *Requiem. Stringeranno nei pugni una cometa*, in memory of the victims of the Central Italy earthquake; the operas *Minotauro* (based on a text by René De Ceccatty and Giorgio Ferrara, from Dürrenmatt's homonymous story) and *Proserpine*,

based on a drama by Mary Shelley, both directed by Giorgio Ferrara; and *Arianna, Fedra, Didone*, three monodramas for narrator, female choir, and orchestra based on texts by Ovid. For the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, she wrote the opera *La Metamorfosi*, based on Kafka's story and directed by Pier Luigi Pier'Alli.

She recently completed her residencies at La Toscanini in Parma and the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano. The Paganini Competition in Genoa and the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition in Sion commissioned her obligatory pieces for the 2023 editions. She also composed the music for the *Prologue of Medea* by Euripides, directed by Federico Tiezzi and performed at the Greek Theater in Syracuse for the Inda Foundation.

In 2013, she won the European Composer Award (Berlin). In 2017, she was appointed Officer of the Republic by President Mattarella. In 2021, she received the Franco Buitoni Award, established by BBTrust founder Ilaria Borletti Buitoni.

Her music theater projects for 2024-2025 include *L'ultimo viaggio di Sindbad* based on a text by Erri De Luca, commissioned by the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, and *Anna A.* with a libretto by Paolo Nori, an opera dedicated to Anna Akhmatova, written for Teatro alla Scala. In February 2025, the Cleveland Orchestra, conducted by Fabio Luisi, will perform *Time's cruel hand*, three sonnets by Shakespeare for countertenor and orchestra.

She currently teaches at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory of Music in Rome. Her works are published by Casa Ricordi.

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