

School of Music
Faculty of Fine Arts
University of Victoria

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MUSIC



SCHOOL OF MUSIC • UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

ORION SERIES IN FINE ARTS

MADE IN ITALY

Featuring

MARCO VITALE

HARPSICHORD

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 • 12:30 p.m.

Phillip T. Young Recital Hall
MacLaurin Building, University of Victoria
Free admission

PROGRAM

Intavolatura di balli d'arpicordo (Venice, 1621)

Giovanni Picchi

Ballo alla Polacha e il suo Saltarello

Primo libro di Toccate (Rome, 1615)

Girolamo Frescobaldi

Cento Partite sopra Passacagli

**Selva di varie compositionid'intavolatura
per cimbalo ed organo** (Venice, 1664)

Bernardo Storace

Lo Ballo dell'Intorcia

Antonio Valente

**Follia
Ciaccona**

Bernardo Storace

O come sei gentile

Claudio Monteverdi

Natasha Gosling, Laura Giffen

Dolcissimo uscignolo

Abby Schuliger, Holly Melville,
Carson Moore, Taylor Fawcett, Ian Culling

BIOGRAPHY

Marco Vitale was born in Palermo, Italy. After finishing studies in his hometown, he attended the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague where he studied harpsichord with Ton Koopman and organ with Jos van der Kooy, graduating with a master's degree in Early Music. Throughout his career Marco has performed at the most prestigious venues and festivals in Europe, the USA, Canada, South America, the Middle East and Asia, such as Château de Versailles, Oude Muziek Utrecht, Styriarte Festival in Graz, Misteria Paschalia Kraków, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York and Seoul Arts Center.

From 2008-2011, Mr. Vitale worked at the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus, Syria, where he taught early music performance practice and performed concerts together with Syrian musicians. He is the co-founder and musical director of Contrasto Armonico, an ensemble specializing in Baroque operas and the performance of music in the Italian style using period instruments and historically informed performance practices. In 2012 he founded his own record label *ayros*, which features recordings by Contrasto Armonico and other artists. In a collaboration with *ayros*, Marco is currently involved in recording the Complete Italian Cantatas by Handel, a thrilling project that will bring to light many undiscovered jewels of Handel's which have yet to be either edited or recorded. Marco has appeared on several radio and TV broadcasts, including the specialized music channel Mezzo.tv. In addition to *ayros*, he has recorded for Alia Vox, Naïve, and Brilliant Classics.

Mr. Vitale appeared as a guest conductor of the Warsaw Chamber Opera between 2015 and 2017, performing a variety of repertoire from Monteverdi madrigals to Mozart symphonies. In 2016-2017 he revived the opera *Semiramide riconosciuta* by Leonardo Vinci, conducting from the harpsichord at the Baroque Opera festival in Warsaw. This was the first time in three centuries that this opera had been performed. In 2018 he composed *Il ratto di Helena*, an opera in 17th century style based on a libretto written by Virgilio Puccitelli (1636). The opera was commissioned by The Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, and performed in Vilnius in celebration of 100 years of Lithuanian independence.

Marco gives masterclasses in harpsichord and early music performance practice. He is the artistic director of the Arcadia Early Music Academy workshop in Poland and teaches at La Pellegrina summer school in the Czech Republic. He gives masterclasses, lectures and workshops at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw, Fondazione Paolo Grassi in Martina Franca (Italy), ESMUC in Barcelona, the Higher Institute of Music in Damascus, and the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Since 2017 Marco has been the music director of the Denman Baroque Workshop & Festival organized by Andrew Fyson and Robert Newton, which takes place every spring on Denman Island, British Columbia.

Marco performs regularly with Jordi Savall's ensembles Le Concert des Nations & Hespèrion XXI.