

ACCADEMIA BIZANTINA

Accademia Bizantina was founded in Ravenna in 1983, with the programmatic intention of making music like a large quartet. Today, as then, the group is independently managed by its own members, who guard and guarantee the chamber interpretative approach that has always distinguished the ensemble.

This philosophy, combined with a profound collective study, has allowed the ensemble to specialize in the performance of the musical repertoire of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries on original instruments.

Over the years Accademia Bizantina succeeded in distinguishing itself and gaining a prominent place in the preferences of the public and critics, adopting its own interpretative style that draws its *raison d'être* from the research and appropriation of a common and shared performance practice and language that requires a careful reading of the score and favours stylistic accuracy for the performance, as in the noblest Italian chamber music tradition.

Ottavio Dantone became a permanent member of the group in 1989 as harpsichordist, and in 1996 he was appointed conductor and artistic director, becoming the guarantor of the prestige and artistic quality of the ensemble.

Under his expert guidance and in full harmony with first violin Alessandro Tampieri, Accademia Bizantina carries on its artistic journey focusing on and specializing in early music, aiming to combine philological research and the study of the Baroque interpretative and performing practice and its aesthetics.

As in a Byzantine mosaic, Dantone's skill, imagination and refinement merged with the enthusiasm and artistic complicity of every single instrumentalist in the group, giving body and substance to interpretations that saw the orchestra being credited as one of the most prestigious ensembles on the international music scene.

Since 1999, when the first opera in stage form was performed - the "Giulio Sabino" by G. Sarti - Accademia Bizantina has specialized in the rediscovery and performance of both the opera repertoire and the Baroque Oratorio, offering, in addition to the most important program titles, titles never performed before in modern times.

The ensemble performs in the most prestigious concert halls and international festivals. Its numerous recordings for Decca, Harmonia Mundi and Naïve, as well as a prestigious nomination for the Grammy Music Award, have won prizes and awards such as the Diapason d'Or, the Midem, Prix Classica and the Gramophone Award.