



VENERANDA FABBRICA DEL DUOMO DI MILANO
1387

Mass in B minor (BWV 232) by Johann Sebastian Bach

21st may 2026, 7.30 p.m.
Duomo Cathedral

Ensemble laBarocca Officium
Musicum
Schola Cantorum Venerandae Fabricae
and a group of Pueri Cantores of the Veneranda Fabbrica

Conducted by Ruben Jais

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

LABAROCCA INSTRUMENTAL AND VOCAL ENSEMBLE

The laBarocca Instrumental and Vocal Ensemble boasts an exceptionally rich repertoire, ranging from late Renaissance compositions to works of 18th-century Classicism. Great Baroque masterpieces such as Handel's Messiah, Bach's Christmas Oratorio and Easter Oratorio, which are performed annually for the public, have now become traditional events for the city of Milan during the respective festive seasons. The instrumental and vocal ensemble laBarocca regularly collaborates with internationally renowned artists such as Stefano Montanari, Karina Gauvin, Roberta Invernizzi, Sonya Yoncheva, Deborah York, Maria Grazia Schiavo, Celine Scheen, Lenneke Ruiten, Stefanie Iranyi, José Maria Lo Monaco, Sonia Prina, Filippo Mineccia, David Hansen, Paolo Lopez, Cyril Auvity, Makoto Sakurada, Clemens Loeschmann, Randall Bolls, Christian Senn, Benoit Arnould, Klaus Kuttler, Carlo Vincenzo Allemano and Ugo Guagliardo.



CULTURAL OFFICIUM MUSICUM ASSOCIATION

The Officium Musicum instrumental ensemble, which is part of the cultural association of the same name, specialises in performing and interpreting works primarily from the Renaissance and Baroque periods, though it does not exclude later periods. Indeed, the individual musicians possess diverse and rich academic and professional backgrounds, having successfully completed or currently pursuing their training primarily at the 'Giuseppe Verdi' Conservatory of Music and the 'Claudio Abbado' Municipal School of Music in Milan, which are the two most important academic institutions in the Lombard capital. Alongside the advantage of their youth, some of them already boast significant experience on their CVs, having taken part in important projects both in Italy and abroad, with ensembles and musical groups of international renown.

SCHOLA CANTORUM VENERANDAE FABRICAE

Established by the Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano with the aim of promoting and supporting young professionals on an international level, this ensemble is dedicated specifically to concert performances grounded in scholarship and research; it is recognised for its methodological rigour and the quality of its research, with a specialisation in the Renaissance repertoire.

RUBEN JAIS

Born in Milan, he undertook his musical studies at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory of Music alongside his university studies, graduating with first-class honours in Choral Music and Choral Conducting and in Polyphonic Vocal Composition. He also obtained a diploma in Composition from the same Conservatory, where he also studied Orchestral Conducting, subsequently honing his skills through masterclasses abroad. He served as Choirmaster of the Milan Symphony Choir from its foundation in 1998 until 2007. In this role, he collaborated with, amongst others, R. Gandolfi, R. Chailly, C. Abbado, L. Berio, O. Caetani, C. P. Flor, C. Hogwood, V. Jurowski and H. Rilling. From June 2016 to July 2019, he served as Artistic Director and Executive Director of the Giuseppe Verdi Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Choir Foundation of Milan, where he held the roles of General Manager and Artistic Director. His repertoire ranges from the great masterpieces of Baroque music to those of classical music (symphonies and sacred music by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven), as well as the rediscovery of lesser-known works by composers from the 16th to the 19th centuries (Zelenka, Scarlatti, Durante, Sammartini, etc.).

He conducts contemporary music, particularly by Italian composers, ranging from Castiglioni to Zanolini, Anzaghi to Nova, Ligeti to Messiaen, and Califano to Vacchi.

In 2008, he founded the laBarocca Instrumental and Vocal Ensemble, a group specialising in the performance of music from this historical period, with which he tackles the major masterpieces of both the instrumental and operatic repertoires: since 2009, the laBarocca Instrumental and Vocal Ensemble has complemented the Foundation's seasons with a series of concerts dedicated to masterpieces from the 16th to 18th centuries, both at the Foundation's venues and elsewhere. He has conducted instrumental, choral and symphonic music at various Italian and international institutions, including the Venice Biennale, the Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Milano Musica, La Scala, RTSI Lugano, the St. Moritz Festival, the Teatro Real in Madrid, the National Orchestra of Chile and UiS Stavanger in Norway. He served as Music Director of the Mailänder Kantorei, an ensemble linked to the German community in Milan, with which he focused primarily on the German repertoire, from the Baroque to the Romantic period, and undertook the complete performance of J.S. Bach's sacred cantatas. Of particular note are several significant events in which he featured alongside the ensemble laBarocca.

In 2016, he made his debut at the prestigious Wigmore Hall in London, where he has been invited back on several occasions. He regularly takes part in the MITO Festival with concerts in Milan and Turin, performed at the inauguration of the restored Teatro Gerolamo—whose season he has participated in annually—and has appeared at other major international festivals such as the Enescu Festival (Bucharest) and the Gluck



Festival (Nuremberg). He will shortly take part in a second Italian tour organized by CIDIM, involving several cities across Italy from north to south. Since November 2023, he has held the position of Superintendent of the Fondazione Toscanini.

LUCA SCACCABAROZZI

Born in 1983, he has been awarded Best Conductor in several national and international choral competitions, including first prize at the “Romano Gandolfi” International Choral Conducting Competition in Parma in 2021. He has also received numerous national and international first prizes conducting choral ensembles such as Ensemble Vocale Mousiké and Torino Vocalensemble.

He collaborates as chorus master with Ensemble LaBarocca in Milan and has worked as chorus master with Il Canto di Orfeo, the Chorus of the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano, and the Ars Cantica Choir. With these ensembles he has performed at major national and international festivals, including the Stresa Festival, the Monreale Early Music Festival, and MITO Settembre Musica, as well as in theatres such as the Opéra de Monte-Carlo and the Teatro Goldoni in Livorno. He is the founder and director of the vocal ensemble Zephyrus Consort and also conducts the chamber choir of the “A. Vivaldi” Conservatory in Alessandria, the Regina del Rosario Choir in Arcore, and the Le Dissonanze Choir in Monza, also collaborating with Orchestra Milano Classica. He has conducted the Romanian National Chamber Choir “Madrigal” in Bucharest and is regularly invited as a guest conductor, working with choral and orchestral ensembles throughout Italy.

He graduated with highest honors in piano from the G. Verdi Conservatory in Milan, studying with Cristina Carini, Paolo Bordoni, and Silvia Rumi, and further refined his studies at the Accademia Musicale di Firenze with Pier Narciso Masi, also attending numerous masterclasses with distinguished teachers. He has won first and second prizes in national and international piano competitions, both as a soloist and chamber musician. He also holds a degree with highest honors in Philosophy from the University of Milan. He trained as a choral conductor at the Milano Choral Academy and earned a Master’s degree in choral conducting from the Scuola Superiore per Direttori di Coro di Arezzo, studying with Nicole Corti, Ragnar Rasmussen, Gary Graden, Peter Broadbent, Javier Busto, Lorenzo Donati, and Luigi Marzola. He also studied Renaissance polyphony at the Scuola Civica di Milano with Diego Fratelli and obtained a second-level academic diploma with top marks in choral conducting and choral composition at the A. Steffani Conservatory in Castelfranco Veneto under Marco Berrini.

He has also attended several courses in singing and vocal technique with Colin Baldy, Marco Scavazza, Lia Serafini, Sara Mingardo, Dan Shen, Fulvio Bettini, Roberta Invernizzi, and Monica Scifo, and has collaborated as a singer with various professional ensembles, including Il Canto di Orfeo, LaBarocca, Ars Cantica Choir, Gesualdo Consort of Gesualdo, Ensemble Vocale UT, La Rosa dei Venti, and Aletheia Consort. With Il Canto di Orfeo he has performed in major European theatres on tour with Cecilia Bartoli and took part for several years in the Salzburg Festival.

He teaches Choral Practice and Choral Conducting at the “A. Vivaldi” Conservatory in Alessandria, Performance Practice and Repertoire for graduate choral conducting programs at PIAMS in Milan, and piano at various music schools. He has also taught choral conducting at prestigious academies, including the Milano Choral Academy, the School for Choral Conductors in Arezzo, and the Accademia Righele, and frequently gives advanced courses and masterclasses for singers and conductors in Italy and abroad, where he has also been invited as a lecturer for Leading Voices 2025 in Estonia. He is also regularly invited to serve as a jury member in national and international choral competitions.

MASSIMO PALOMBELLA

Born in Turin in 1967, he was ordained a priest for the Salesian Congregation in 1996. Founder and Artistic Director of the Rome Interuniversity Choir, he worked in university pastoral ministry for the Diocese of Rome from 1995 to 2010. He served as a lecturer in Sacramental Theology, Eschatology, and “Music and Liturgy” at the Pontifical Salesian University and at the “Guido Cantelli” Conservatory of Novara, within the postgraduate specialization program in Sacred Music, teaching Liturgical Composition, Roman Polyphony, and Legislation of Sacred Music. He also taught Languages of Music at the University of Rome “La Sapienza.” At the Turin Conservatory and at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Urbe, he taught Liturgy.

From 1998 to 2010, he served as Editor-in-Chief of the journal of Music for the Liturgy *Armonia di Voci*, published by ElleDiCi. From 2010 to 2019, he was Maestro Director of the Pontifical Sistine Chapel Choir, appointed by Pope Benedict XVI and reconfirmed in 2015 by Pope Francis. Under his direction, the Pontifical



Sistine Chapel Choir began recording exclusively with the record label Deutsche Grammophon, winning the 2016 Echo Klassik Award in the category “Choral Recording of the Year” for the CD *Cantate Domino*. The Sistine Chapel Choir and the Music of the Popes.

From 2021 until June 2025, he held the position of Maestro Director of the Musical Chapel of Milan Cathedral. Under his leadership, in addition to ensuring the full performance of the proper Ambrosian Chant at all liturgical celebrations, the Choir became a regular presence in concert series and was invited to perform at Teatro alla Scala, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, for the performance of the *Missa Papae Marcelli*.

Since June 2025, he has served as Superintendent of the Musical Heritage of the Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano.

ISABELLA BASILE

She is a specialist in vocal pedagogy and music education. She obtained a Master’s degree in Singing, specializing in artistic vocology, at the “Giuseppe Verdi” Conservatory of Milan, a Magisterium in Gregorian and Ambrosian Chant at the Pontifical Ambrosian Institute of Sacred Music (PIAMS) in Milan, and an Academic Diploma in Choral Conducting at the Guido d’Arezzo Foundation. She holds a degree in Education Sciences and is currently completing her Master’s degree in Musicology at the University of Pavia.

She has gained significant experience in music education and as a vocal coach. She is currently a music teacher for the Pueri Cantores of the Musical Chapel of Milan Cathedral. She also pursues artistic activity as a chorister, collaborating in particular with the Orchestra and Symphonic Choir of Milan and, previously, with the female Gregorian Schola Cantorum “*In dulci jubilo*” of Verona, directed by Monsignor Alberto Turco. She is frequently invited as a speaker and trainer in educational programs focused on children’s vocal development.

LUCA GRANZIERA

Graduated in Singing with highest honors from the G. Verdi Conservatory of Milan, since 2006 he has performed on prestigious national and international stages, also under the direction of Riccardo Muti, Philippe Auguin, Giovanni Antonini, Gustav Kuhn, and Ottavio Dantone, taking part in events broadcast live on national RAI television and in live recordings. Since 2011, he has been a Cantor of the Musical Chapel of Milan Cathedral and is jointly responsible for the selection of the Pueri Cantores, for whom he has served as vocal coach since 2024. In 2025, he joined the Schola Cantorum Venerandae Fabricae.