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G.A.P. Ensemble

Giovanni Antonio Piani Ensemble

Emilio Percan, baroque violin and direction

Oriol Aymat Fusté, baroque violoncello

Luca Quintavalle, harpsichord

An Italian violin virtuoso of the 18th century, Giovanni Antonio Piani, is the inspiration behind the group bearing his initials, the G.A.P. Ensemble, founded in 2011. Its three members are united in their shared interest in the works of this composer who is almost unknown today.

Working with artists like Viktoria Mullova, Daniel Hope, Cecilia Bartoli, Christophe Rousset, Maurice Steger, Dorothee Miels, Valer Sabadus, Julia Lezhneva and Hille Perl as well as performances at some of the most renowned concert halls in the world, for example Berliner Philharmonie, Teatro Colon Buenos Aires, Tokyo Opera City Center Hall and Palau de la Musica Barcelona, are only one part of the experiences that the members bring to the joint work. For the performance of larger repertoire such as operas, oratorios, cantatas and instrumental works, the ensemble takes the form of a chamber orchestra.

In April 2019 the G.A.P. Ensemble performed together with recorder player Maurice Steger on various important concert podiums in Germany. In June 2019, string and wind concerts by Vivaldi, Bach and Telemann were performed in an expanded instrumentation at the Brühler Schlosskonzerte. As part of the Handel Day, organized by the Händel-Festspiele Halle in 2020, a concert of the G.A.P. Ensemble with Valer Sabadus was broadcast in a live stream.

In 2020/21 the G.A.P. Ensemble will perform at Tage Alter Musik in Herne (WDR), at the Bach Festival in Leipzig and at the Mosel Music Festival. Furthermore, the ensemble is invited to numerous festivals with a special Bach Shostakovich program with the soprano Dorothee Miels until 2023.

The three CD productions “Affettuoso”, “I musicisti del imperatore” and “Vivaldi per Pisendel” received unanimous praise from the press (Diapason, Strad, Gramophone, Fanfare, Web music international, etc.). Since 2013 the G.A.P. Ensemble works closely with the Italian soprano Raffaella Milanese, the successful cooperation was crowned in 2014 with the world premiere recording of the cantatas by Piani, Caldara and Alessandro Scarlatti and was also highly praised by the critics. The recording of Antonio Vivaldi’s violin sonatas dedicated to his friend Johann Georg Pisendel, a known violin virtuoso and concert master of the

Sächsische Hofkapelle in Dresden, received international acclaim and was awarded with the distinction “5 de Diapason” by the Diapason Magazine: “The G.A.P. Ensemble creates jewels of subtlety (...) These long underestimated pieces of Vivaldi’s work have finally met their match.”

Emilio Percan has been performing as concertmaster and soloist with various European orchestras since 2006, collaborating with such artists as Daniel Hope (double concertos), Simone Kermes, Edita Gruberova, Daniel Müller-Schott and Chen Reiss. He has had numerous engagements throughout Europe and in South America (Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires), Japan, China, Israel and the USA. In 2013 he embarked on a European tour with concertos for two violins with the violinist Viktoria Mullova and, in 2014, presented a series of concerts and master courses in the Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Russia at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, the St. Petersburg Conservatory and at the Gnesin Institute in Moscow, amongst other institutions. Emilio Percan was appointed as guest professor for violin and chamber music at the Moscow State University for Art and Culture in 2012. He has been teaching the violin at the University of Music and the Performing Arts Graz since March 2015. He received his first violin instruction at the age of seven in Skopje, Macedonia. A master class of the former Kogan pupil Isabela Golovina impressed him so profoundly that he began studying with her in Moscow in 1999. In 2001 Emilio Percan finally arrived at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen, where he studied violin with Prof. Pieter Daniel (a pupil of Henryk Szeryng and Dorothy Delay), chamber music with Prof. Dirk Mommertz (Fauré Piano Quartet) and baroque violin with Stephan Schardt (Musica Antiqua Cologne).

The Catalan-born cellist **Oriol Aymat Fusté** is active as a baroque cellist in orchestras as l’arte del mondo, Elbipolis Baroque Orchestra and Vespres d’Arnadí. He also performs as a modern cellist with the orchestra Camerata XXI, as a chamber musician and committed interpreter of contemporary music. In the area of entertainment music, he works for such leading personalities of the Catalan popular music scene as Sílvia Pérez Cruz and Lúdia Pujol and is also a member of the band Blaumut. Oriol Aymat Fusté studied with Leonid Gorokhov at the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey before continuing his studies at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen with YoungChang Cho. His musical talent has been honored with stipends from the Pau Casals and Alexander von Humboldt Foundations. He has won prizes at a number of national and international competitions (Germans Claret, Lions Club, European Youth Cello Competition, etc.).

The harpsichordist **Luca Quintavalle** has collaborated with orchestras such as Concerto Köln, Les Talens Lyriques, Harmonie Universelle, Balthasar Neumann Ensemble, Academia Montis Regalis, Divino Sospiro, Gürzenich Orchestra, Cologne Chamber Orchestra and Hamburger Symphoniker. He has performed throughout Europe and in Israel, the USA and Japan and has recorded for the labels Sony-Deutsche Harmonia Mundi, Deutsche Grammophon, Capriccio, Onyx, Hyperion, Hänssler Classics, and TYXart. He was lecturer at the Folkwang

University of the Arts in Essen and gave masterclasses at the Moscow State University for Art and Culture, in St Petersburg and at the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf. Quintavalle studied piano with Ernesto Esposito and harpsichord with Giovanni Togni in Como. As a DAAD stipend-holder, he completed his studies with Christian Rieger at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen with concerto examinations. He also attended courses given by Kristian Bezuidenhout, Jesper Christensen, Andrea Marcon, Stefano Demicheli, Christophe Rousset, Andreas Staier, and Alexei Lubimov. In 2007, he received an award at the G. Gambi basso continuo competition in Pesaro.