

## RAFFAELE LA RAGIONE

Born in Naples in 1986, Raffaele La Ragione took up the mandolin at a very early age. Pursuing his longstanding interest in musicological research and the original repertoire for the instrument, he earned a degree in Drama, Art and Music Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Bologna, with a thesis on the instrument building and musical tradition of the Neapolitan Calace family. He subsequently earned a degree in mandolin at the Milan Conservatory with Ugo Orlandi.

Raffaele regularly performs with various orchestral and chamber ensembles, and has given concerts throughout Italy and Europe (Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Greece, Croatia, Poland, Switzerland, Slovakia, Hungary, Sweden, Turkey), as well as in Asia (China, Japan, South Korea). Ensembles include, among others, the Greek National Opera, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra (Myung-Whun Chung), the OSI Orchestra of Italian Switzerland, Silete Venti, and I Solisti Veneti (Claudio Scimone).

Since 2009, he has performed regularly with the pianist Giacomo Ferrari, in both concerts and recordings dedicated to the original repertoire for mandolin and piano: **Serenata Napoletana** (Brilliant Classics, 2015), and **Margola Music for mandolin and other chamber music** (Brilliant Classics, 2019). In 2015 he founded the Motus Mandolin Quartet with whom he recorded the album **Raffaele Calace Music for Mandolin Quartet** (Brilliant Classics, 2017). Together with Ugo Orlandi, following years of research, he recorded the album **Nicola Calace Je Reviendrais** (2014), dedicated to the figure of Nicola Calace, Raffaele's brother. Together with Ugo Orlandi, he also oversaw the publication of the book **Carlo Munier il poeta del mandolino** (2011).

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven, he recorded the CD **Beethoven and his contemporaries** with the fortepianist Marco Crosetto, which will be released in March 2020 on the Arcana label (Outhere Music).

Since 2018 he has been a permanent member of the Orchestra Italiana of Renzo Arbore, with whom he has toured Italy and appeared in television broadcasts on Rai1, Rai2 and Rai5.

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