

## Francesco Melani

Francesco Melani began his musical studies under the guidance of Francesco Baroni, focusing on the organ and harpsichord. Later, he was admitted to the A. Boito Conservatory in Parma, where he pursued piano studies with Giampaolo Nuti, graduating with top honors. Simultaneously, he studied composition with Luca Tessadrelli, Roberto Sansuini, and Roberto Andreoni, and Jazz piano with Alberto Tacchini.

In 2023, under the guidance of F. Baroni, he graduated with honors in harpsichord and historical keyboards. During this time, he also attended courses by Roberto Loreggian and Frédéric Haas. Melani made his debut as a soloist in 2007, marking the beginning of a career that involved him as both a performer, soloist, and chamber musician, as well as a composer.

He performed at prestigious festivals and musical events such as Bolgheri Melody, Festival Verdi, ParmaFrontiere Jazz Festival, Bologna Festival, presenting his orchestral and recitative voice premieres "Welcome to Americazz..." and "Attent-age." He was part of Rondò 2018, selected by the Divertimento Ensemble with a program entirely dedicated to Ligeti's keyboard music. Other appearances include Serate Musicali di Milano, Misano Piano Festival, Farnese Festival, Festival Marco Scacchi, and FestiVita. Melani also held an entirely improvised concert as a guest of the Labirinto di Franco Maria Ricci.

In 2014, as the first part of the Conservatory Orchestra, he participated in the realization of Luciano Berio's "Rendering" and collaborated with the Contemporary Music Ensemble of the conservatory on productions like "Elio è Frankenstein" and "Frank Zappa, The Yellow Shark." In 2015, he contributed to the rediscovery project of Arrigo Boito and Costantino Palumbo's opera "Pier Luigi Farnese."

Melani won a scholarship from Chiesi Farmaceutici in 2016 for creating the soundtrack of one of their commercials. His composition "Encore" for accordion and string quartet was selected and performed at the "PIF 2016." In 2017, he achieved first place at the Piove di Sacco and Premio Crescendo di Firenze competitions. His composition "Psalm 122. A song of ascent" was broadcast on RAI2. He was selected for the project "E' il nostro tempo! Integrazione a ritmo di

musica," promoted by SIAE and Fondazione Arturo Toscanini.

Melani gave a masterclass and concert dedicated to "Assassinio nella cattedrale" by Pizzetti at the Italian Cultural Institute in London. He curated the music for the show "My Time is Today," dedicated to George Gershwin, performed at Teatro Due in Parma. In 2021, he was an artist in residence for "Creative Tools," an initiative promoted by the Curci association in Barletta.

Between 2021 and 2022, he was invited to perform at the presentation of the latest volume of Scarlatti's Sonatas edited by Emilia Fadini and the presentation of A. Cappagli's book "Ricordati di Bach." Melani worked as a harpsichordist for the ancient music department of the Conservatory of Parma, gaining significant experience in vocal and instrumental repertoire from the 17th to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Recently, he performed as a harpsichordist and organist with the Par.M.A. Ancient Music Ensemble, presenting programs dedicated to Corelli's Concerti Grossi, "Il lutto dell'Universo" (Oratorio composed by Leopold I), and 18th-century Emilian composers whose music is preserved at the Biblioteca Palatina di Parma.

In 2023, Melani won the international harpsichord competition Wanda Landowska. Currently, he dedicates himself to his deepest passions: the study and performance of ancient music and composition.