



M 6TH MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION 9-17 JULY 2011
 APPLICATION DEADLINE / 31 AUGUST 2010
 Visit www.chambermusicaustralia.com.au to apply

Search GO

New Artist of the Month



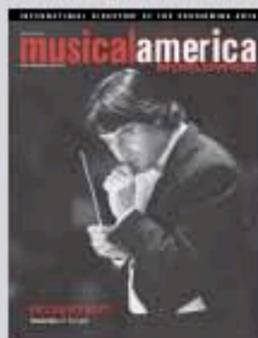
Soprano
 Marina Bartoli
[Read Profile](#)

[Read about previous Artists of the Month](#)

2010 Honorees

Musician of the Year
 Riccardo Muti

[Awards Ceremony Video](#)
[Honorees Interviews](#)
[Awards Photo Gallery](#)
[Feature Articles](#)



Find Contacts

Quickly and easily search thousands of international performing arts contacts and artists.

[Artists](#) | [Artist Managers](#) | [Industry Contacts](#)

Buy a List

Promote your artists or update your database by [downloading our contacts and email addresses](#).

Performing Arts News

Last updated Jul 8, 2010 08:56:52 AM

BBC Phil Names New Chief Conductor

Jul 8, 2010
 by Anthony Smith
 Will succeed Gianandrea Noseda in fall 2011...

Nagano Explains His Munich Departure

Jul 8, 2010
 Says he wishes to protect Staatsoper from harm resulting from a "personality debate"...

Pletnev Calls His Arrest a 'Misunderstanding'

Jul 8, 2010
 by Kinan Suchaovanich
 Accused of raping a 14-year-old boy in Thailand...

Lyric Opera GD Mason to Retire

Jul 8, 2010
 by Susan Elliott
 An affiliation that began over 50 years ago comes to an end in 2012...

London's New Arts Chief Takes a Bow

Jul 8, 2010
 by Keith Clarke
 Tells arts groups to hold their nerve...

[More News >>](#)

Annotated Calendar

See our annotated calendar of important events in :

- [Amsterdam](#)
- [Berlin](#)
- [Brussels](#)
- [Central Europe](#)
- [Chicago](#)
- [London](#)
- [Munich](#)
- [New York](#)
- [NYC: New Music](#)
- [NYC: Opera](#)

Press Releases

Post/read press releases from professionals around the world

Cultures in Dialogue: The Mahler Chamber Orchestra at the Athens Festival
 Date: 7/8/10

Latest Roster Changes
 Updates to artist manager rosters

MA Blogs
 Cathy Barbash
Black Cat White Cat
 Updated 27 May 2010

Sedgwick Clark
Why I Left Muncie
 Posted every Wednesday

Editor's Blog Picks
 Peter Dobrin
ArtsWatch

Jessica Duchon's
Classical Music Blog

Lawrence Johnson
Chicago Classical Review

Anne Midgette
The Classical Beat

Alex Ross
Unquiet Thoughts

Steve Smith
Night After Night

Tim Smith: *Clef Notes*

People in the News

[Share your comments](#) on this article with other MusicalAmerica.com subscribers.



[Printer-friendly version](#)

The 'Other Bartoli'

By Carlo Vitali

MusicalAmerica.com

July 1, 2010

BOLOGNA -- At age 12 she wanted to play the cello, but there wasn't one at home -- just a piano, so she studied that instead. Now she is in her early 30s and finally fulfilling her girlhood dreams, studying viola da gamba at the Venice Conservatory.

In the intervening years, Marina Bartoli has been making a name for herself in early-opera circles, appearing on such highly specialized stages as Spoleto in Italy, Vicenza's Teatro Olimpico, the Rokokotheater at Schwetzingen, Germany, and the Opéra de Nice, as well as in festivals across Europe. Both London's Opera Now and Berlin's Opernwelt have listed her among the most promising talents, for both 2008 and 2009.

"People keep asking me whether I'm a relative to Cecilia Bartoli," she says. "I'm not, although I like her very much. Moreover Cecilia is a mezzo, while I am a soprano -- a 'lirico leggero' or 'lyric coloratura,' according to the traditional fach categories." Actually, with a range of two-and-a-half octaves, from middle C up to the high F, Bartoli can tackle the most taxing roles stipulated by Baroque composers for either women or castrati. I was thunderstruck when I first heard her in 2008 at Vicenza's Teatro Olimpico, where she was singing the trouser role of Ostilio in Vivaldi's "Ottone in villa." What makes the difference is her confidence in producing clarion high tones, always at perfect pitch, as her sterling voice expands above the lower octave -- apparently without strain and as if she commanded an inexhaustible reserve of breath. Add to that fiery coloratura, energetic acting and a pair of large green eyes. She doesn't look typically Italian, by the way -- actually, more Scandinavian.

"Far from that," says Bartoli. "I could well have been born in Africa, as my mother was raised in the then Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where my grandfather -- a lawyer who did some of his coursework in Atlanta, GA -- had settled coming from Padua during the 1950s." He ran a prosperous wine farm there, but was forced to leave in the late 1960s during decolonization. He returned to Italy by sea with his family. "It so happened that my mother fell in love with the board physician and married him. So I was born in Mantua, Italy, the city my father was from."

Bartoli's curriculum vitae is impressive. Piano was just an appetizer. At first, she didn't like mainstream opera that much, but she fell suddenly in love with Mozart's "Exsultate jubilate" after hearing Barbara Bonney sing it on the radio.

"From that moment on, I wanted to be a bel canto singer," she says. "I immediately felt at ease with the extreme coloratura of Handel, Vivaldi and sundry composers of the early 18th century."

After earning a diploma in opera at the C. Pollini Conservatory Padua and a degree in humanities at the university of the same town (her dissertation was about the career of Metaura Torricelli, a 19th-century virtuoso violinist), she continued her advanced training in Switzerland, including studies with Gerd Türk at the Schola Cantorum Basel and with Kathrin

Graf at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater of Zürich. She credits Swiss talent-scout Christoph Boller with helping to launch her career during this time.

Scholarships and stellar grades notwithstanding, she doesn't like to be regarded as an egg-head. She's a modern and attractive young woman, deeply interested in an array of performing arts, from mime through hip-hop to music theater, both professionally and for fun. When she had more spare time, she used to participate in amateur choirs, play the piano in night bars or sing folk and country music in duo with her Californian friend Alison Frantz.

Things changed after July 2006, when she made her "real" grand-style debut in Spoleto Italy, singing the role of Ippolita in Vivaldi's "Ercole sul Termidonte." Since then, she has been increasingly in demand among noted conductors of period bands, such as Gustav Leonhardt, Bob Van Asperen, Philippe Herreweghe, Ottavio Dantone and many others. A close partnership recently has been established with the ensemble "La Venexiana" and its leader Claudio Cavina, who is pulling her back over the historical timeline, to such early opera composers as Monteverdi and Cavalli.

Yet Bartoli's commitment to popular music and lighter genres has not diminished. Besides Monteverdi and Bach, Haydn and Vivaldi, her recital repertoire includes unexpected items from musical theater. "One of my favorite pieces is 'Think of Me' from The Phantom of the Opera. I'm really fond of crossover, that way of thinking about music that makes the American scene so vibrant and stimulating." She has also had several songs written for her, including Paolo Agostini's "Heaven forever," part of the soundtrack for Antonello Belluco's short film "[The Knight.](#)"

Given her talent and versatility, "the other Bartoli," as some have started calling her, might well worry La Cecilia some time soon. As to her U.S. debut, she says, "There are proposals, but nothing certain so far -- let me keep the secret for now."

[More People in the News >>](#)

[Share your comments](#) on this article with other MusicalAmerica.com subscribers.

[Search GO](#)

[News](#)

[Find Contacts](#)

[New Artist Spotlight](#)

[Plan & Book Travel](#)

[Buy a List](#)

[Rent a Photo](#)

[MA Blog](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Directory Articles](#)

[Advertise](#)

[Services](#)

[About Musical America](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Newsletter Sign-up

[View Sample Newsletter](#)

your e-mail here

GO

MusicalAmerica

- [Home](#)
- [Subscribe](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Site map](#)
- [Feedback](#)

- [Introduction](#)
- [About Musical America](#)
 - [FAQ](#)
 - [History](#)
 - [Print Edition](#)
 - [Website](#)
 - [Meet the Journalists](#)
 - [E-Newsletter](#)
 - [Honorees](#)
 - [Testimonials](#)
 - [Meet the Staff](#)

- [News](#)
 - [Performing Arts News](#)
 - [People in the News](#)
 - [Contests & Awards](#)
 - [Reviews](#)
 - [Press Releases](#)
 - [Reader Comments](#)
 - [Advanced Search](#)

- [Find Contacts](#)
 - [US & Canada](#)
 - [US Canada Managers](#)
 - [Arts Administration Degree Programs](#)
 - [Choral Groups](#)
 - [Classical Music Radio Stations](#)
 - [Contests, Foundations & Awards](#)
 - [Dance Companies](#)
 - [Facilities](#)
 - [Festivals](#)
 - [Music Magazines](#)
 - [Music Schools & Departments](#)
 - [Newspapers \(Music Critics\)](#)
 - [Opera Companies](#)
 - [Orchestras](#)
 - [Performing Arts Series](#)
 - [Publishers of Music](#)

- [Record Companies](#)
 - [Services & Products \(Commercial\)](#)
 - [Services & Professional Music Organizations \(non-profit\)](#)
 - [Summer Music Camps and Special Programs](#)
- [International](#)
 - [International Artists & Concerts Managers & Facilities](#)
 - [International Choral Groups](#)
 - [International Contests, Foundations & Awards](#)
 - [International Dance Companies](#)
 - [International Festivals](#)
 - [International Music Magazines](#)
 - [International Music Schools & Departments](#)
 - [International Opera Companies](#)
 - [International Orchestras](#)
 - [International Radio & TV Stations](#)
 - [International Record Companies](#)
 - [International Services & Professional Music Organizations](#)
 - [International Summer Music Camps and Special Programs](#)
- [Artists](#)
- [Artist Managers](#)
- [Print Advertisers](#)
- [Advanced Search](#)
- [Advertise](#)
 - [Media Kit-Print](#)
 - [Media Kit-Online](#)
 - [Rates](#)
 - [Print Specifications](#)
 - [Online Specifications](#)
- [Services](#)
 - [New Artist of the Month](#)
 - [Plan & Book Travel](#)
 - [E-Newsletter](#)
 - [Calendar of Events](#)
 - [Post an Event](#)
 - [Press Releases](#)
 - [Post a Press Release](#)
 - [Guidelines for Posting A Release](#)
 - [Buy a List](#)
 - [Archives](#)
 - [Directory Articles](#)
 - [Industry Links](#)
 - [Jobs](#)

Access the Digital Edition



® Copyright Commonwealth Business Media 2010. All Rights Reserved.