

Chamber Orchestra of New York

“Ottorino Respighi”

Salvatore Di Vittorio, *Music Director & Founder*



P R E S S K I T



www.chamberorchestraofnewyork.org

ABOUT THE ORCHESTRA

"Voluptuous...a polished, rich sound...a stirring performance...."
- Vivien Schweitzer, The New York Times

The CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF NEW YORK is a professional orchestra founded by composer/conductor Salvatore Di Vittorio in New York, NY in the year 2006 on the 250th anniversary of the birth of W. A. Mozart.

Following in the footsteps of other European-style young professionals orchestras, the Chamber Orchestra of New York is the first (auditioned) professional orchestra in the history of New York to be entirely devoted to leading young professionals and all five boroughs of New York City. With its mission to help advance the classical music tradition, the Chamber Orchestra provides a regular performance opportunity for young orchestral musicians exiting the music conservatories, and while in the early phases of their careers.

Mission Statement

The Chamber Orchestra of New York, established in honor of Ottorino Respighi, is dedicated to presenting the great orchestral repertoire alongside undiscovered or rarely performed gems which complement and extend the classical tradition, from early Italian legends to contemporary American masters. Serving the global community from the international city of New York, the Chamber Orchestra features young professionals and provides a venue for artistic and cultural exchange.

Objectives

1. To promote the development of young, professional, orchestral musicians exiting the music conservatories, while in the early stages of their careers, in a highly competitive and elite chamber orchestra, with concerts in all five boroughs of New York City.
2. To promote the music of Ottorino Respighi, and the Italian repertoire.
3. To promote the development of young soloists and composers through an international competition, as well as new music commissions and podium exchanges. As part of this initiative, the Music Director will also serve as Composer in Residence to inspire other composer presentations for World or New York premieres.
4. To promote the development of repertoire outside of New York City, in one or more cities in Italy or the US either through the establishment of, or collaboration with, other music festivals, tours, or master class workshops.
5. To promote the development of young artists who are selected through an Orchestral Performance Program Competition, thereby augmenting the orchestra from chamber/full to large in one concert per season.

The Orchestra and Ottorino Respighi

The renowned Italian composer Ottorino Respighi (1879-1936) is perhaps most well known for his Roman Trilogy (Fountains of Rome, Pines of Rome, and Festivals of Rome). His orchestral works are considered without a doubt the culmination of the Italian symphonic repertoire. Equally important, Respighi embraced the continuity of tradition with a love of the ancient world, and thereby promoted a renaissance of musical ideas within the context of late 19th and 20th century elements. The Chamber Orchestra of New York has been established to foster the continuity of tradition, the exchange of culture, and the respect for antiquity.

MUSIC DIRECTOR SALVATORE DI VITTORIO

“His style embraces the values of the old European traditions.”
– **Evan N. Wilson, Vice President (Artistic Affairs)**

Born in Palermo, Italy, Salvatore Di Vittorio studied composition with Ludmila Ulehla and (conducting with) Giampaolo Bracali at the Manhattan School of Music, and aesthetics (and ancient) philosophy at Columbia University in New York City. He then continued conducting studies in Rome with Francesco Carotenuto (Conservatory of Music “S. Cecilia”), in Florence with Piero Bellugi (Conservatory of Music “L. Cherubini”), and in London with John Farrer and Neil Thomson (Royal College of Music).

Of his American symphonic debut with the Danbury Symphony (20 March 2005), James Pegolotti of the Danbury Times wrote: “Di Vittorio’s leadership evidenced a natural and significant talent!”

Salvatore Di Vittorio has attracted considerable attention as Music Director and Founder of the Chamber Orchestra of New York “Ottorino Respighi”. Its triumphant debut was held on 11 October 2007 at Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall. Following the inaugural season finale, Vivien Schweitzer of The New York Times wrote: “The musicians played...producing a polished, rich sound...a stirring performance [of Mahler’s Adagietto and]...a voluptuous rendition of Tchaikovsky’s Souvenir....”

He also serves as Resident Conductor of the Adelphi Symphony Orchestra at Adelphi University. Former positions include Accademia Musicale Siciliana (Palermo), Chamber Ensemble of Rome and Florence Sinfonietta. He has conducted the Vancouver Island Symphony, State Symphony Orchestra of Sofia (Bulgaria), Danbury Symphony, Royal College of Music Symphony (London), and Festival Sinfonietta Umbra di Perugia.

Praised by renowned Italian conductor Piero Bellugi for his elegance on the podium, other European conductors have hailed Di Vittorio a “serious, lyrical, and romantic composer...following in the footsteps of Respighi...and worthy of serious consideration.”

Maestro Di Vittorio has recently completed *Overtura Respighiana* and Respighi’s *Concerto per Violino* (unfinished, first violin concerto) by invitation of Respighi’s heirs and archive director. He has also transcribed/revised Respighi’s *Aria per archi* and *Suite per archi* for publication. All of these works were premiered and recorded for Naxos alongside Di Vittorio’s *Sinfonia No. 2* during the Chamber Orchestra’s third season “...a real fusion between the music of Respighi and our maestro” – Potito Pedarra, Respighi archive curator.

Di Vittorio’s music is inspired by philosophical-programmatic themes and captivates each listener with poignant lyricism and magnificent orchestrations. His compositions have been premiered by such orchestras as Orvieto Musica Festival Orchestra, Accademia Musicale Siciliana, Teatro Massimo Opera (Palermo), Orchestra Filarmonica Franco Ferrara, Carnevale di Venezia Musica, Brussels Chamber Ensemble, Festival Sinfonietta Umbria di Perugia, El Hanager String Orchestra of Cairo, Orchestra da Camera Fiorentina, Chamber Ensemble of Rome, San Jose Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra of New York.

Reviews about the Maestro have been written in The New York Times, America Oggi, New Music Connoisseur of New York, Danbury News Times of Connecticut, La Repubblica of Rome, Il Mediterraneo and Giornale di Sicilia of Palermo, La Nazione of Florence, Arts San Francisco Observer and Classical Voice, including highlights on RAI (Italian National) TV and UN French International Radio.

Salvatore Di Vittorio is a member of the Manhattan School of Music Alumni Board Council. His music is published by Edizioni Panastudio in Italy. Recordings of his music are available on the Naxos and Panastudio Labels.

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For general questions, comments, or further information, please contact us via phone 646-642-8441, email maestro@chamberorchestraofnewyork.org, or write:

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For further information about the Orchestra, visit our website
www.chamberorchestraofnewyork.org

PRESS QUESTIONS

The following questions are intended for print and broadcast journalists in connection with interviews with Maestro Salvatore Di Vittorio and The Chamber Orchestra of New York. These topics are designed to facilitate conversation and will make for a fascinating interview:

1. You were born in Palermo, Sicily. How does the cultural life of Palermo differ from that of New York.
2. Where did the inspiration for the Chamber Orchestra of New York come from? How did the group come together?
3. How do you find repertoire? As a composer yourself, do you like working with new music and living composers?
4. Tell me about the type of repertoire you present. How do you balance a program between the old and the new?
5. Why is the orchestra in honor of Ottorino Respighi?
6. You have a very interesting Honorary and Advisory Board for the Orchestra. Tell me about how these boards developed.
7. Tell me about your work as a composer and your most recent composer residency.
8. How are you and the orchestra responding to the changing face of classical music in the 21st century?
9. What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you onstage?
10. What does the future hold for Salvatore Di Vittorio and the Chamber Orchestra of New York?

The Chamber Orchestra of New York's website is at www.chamberorchestraofnewyork.org.

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