ALESSIOELIA

ALESSIO ELIA — FULL BIOGRAPHY

RECOGNITION

Described as an *unicum* in the compositional landscape of our times (*Il Corriere Musicale*) Alessio Elia is today considered among the most original composers of the new generation (*Repubblica, Universal Music Publishing, Universal Edition, Muzsika, Radio Vaticana, RAI Radio 3, Die Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*).

Elia's music is published by UE - Universal Edition, and Universal Music Publishing - Editio Musica Budapest.

COMMISSIONS

Elia received commissions most importantly from I Solisti del Teatro alla Scala di Milano (*Octet*), piece released in CD by Warner Classics in 2018, conducted by Andrea Vitello and published by Universal Music Publishing - EMB; Radio Bartók (orchestral piece *Trasparenze*) for the ArTRIUM series of the National Hungarian Radio Orchestra; Alter Ego ensemble - Manuel Zurria, Francesco Dillon and Emanuele Torquati (*L'impermanenza della Memoria* - for the Ligeti 100 Festival) for a project including commissions to Peter Eötvös, Toshio Hosokawa, Peter Ablinger, Lukas Ligeti, László Sáry and Howard Skempton; Impronta ensemble (*Traces from Nowhere*) for the Oggimusica Festival in Lugano; UMZE - the historical ensemble founded by Bartók (*Ekpyrotic Suicide*); Wiener Collage, with members of the Wiener Philharmoniker (*Outskirts of matter*); Antal Dorati Conducting Competition (*Distimement* for large orchestra) as a compulsory piece for the final round of the conducting contest; Stuttgart Kammerchor conducted by Frieder Bernius (*Incantesimi di Merseburg*); Festival Nuova Consonanza in Rome (*Il Canto segreto*, im memoriam Giovanni Piazza); Mozartgesellschaft Schwetzingen for Nikolaus Friedrich and the Chaos String Quartet (*Voids of Inequality*); Gesellschaft für Neue Musik Mannheim for Florian Heinisch (*Die Nacht der Eingeweihten*).

POLYSYSTEMISM

Since 2005, his music has explored the integration of eleven different tuning systems through an approach he named Polysystemism, which he has presented and discussed at numerous venues, including the Cité de la Musique in Paris in 2014.

In the search for a definition of music as sensation, Polysystemism integrates psychoacoustic phenomena into the sound texture, moving beyond the conception of musical parameters as separate entities and treating them instead as elements fully integrated into a continuous sonic flux.

Within this flux, conventional interpretative categories of musical material dissolve, giving rise to an auditory experience in which the boundaries between pitched sound, effect, noise, melody, harmony, rhythm, and other musical dimensions become indistinguishable properties of the sonic field.

The most significant works in this direction are *Beyond Perturbative States*, *Conifold transitions*, *Traces from Nowhere*, *Voids of Inequality*, the Clarinet Concerto *Implicate Inklings*, the vocal piece *Celestial keys*, and the orchestral pieces *Dimensioni nascoste* and *Trasparenze*.

Articles and essays on Polysystemism have been published by the University of Strasbourg, the Hungarian Academy of Arts, von Bockel Verlag, and the University of Prague.

Polysystemism has also been the subject of master's theses at the Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana in Lugano and the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien), as well as a doctoral dissertation at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (AMU).

PERFORMANCES & MEDIA

His music has been performed in significant concert halls and festivals worldwide: Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome; Grand Hall of the Liszt Academy in Budapest; Menuhin Festival in Oslo; Festival Mahler in Budapest; Accademia Filarmonica Romana; BMC - Budapest Music Center; Bartók Hall of Palace of Arts – The National Auditorium in Budapest; Levinsalen and Lindemansalen in Oslo; Arnold Schönberg Center in Vienna; LAC - Lugano Arte e Cultura Auditorium; National Hungarian Radio Studios; Forum Neue Musik - Palais Prinz Carl in Heidelberg; Auditorium del Parco by Renzo Piano in L'Aquila; Oggimusica Festival in Lugano; Contemporary Arts Festival Budapest; Yamaha Concert Hall Wien; Festival Nuova Consonanza in Rome; Dresden Kulturpalast, etc.

Elia’s works were broadcast by state radios and TV channels, such as: Radio Bartók (Hungary); Saarländischer Rundfunk (Germany); RAI Radio 3 (Italy); Radio Vaticana; Magyar Televízió and Duna TV (Hungarian State TV).

He has released interviews about his music for: Cité de la musique in Paris, Magyar Televízió and Duna TV, Bartók Radio, Radio Vaticana, *Dal+Szerző* - Magazine of the Hungarian Bureau for the Protection of Authors’ Rights, *Muzsika* - the most important Hungarian journal for classical music, *Musica* +, Budapest Music Centre, RAI Radio 3 Suite, RAI Cultura, and the Peter Eötvös Foundation.

Ten portrait concerts of his music have been organized in Budapest, Oslo and Rome since 2006 (most significant venues: two times at Sala Verdi of the Italian Institute of Culture in Budapest, the first time within the Festival "Contemporanea", dedicated to Alessio Elia, Ivan Fedele and Luciano Berio, organized by the Italian Embassy in Budapest, the second concert for celebrating his ten years of musical activity in Hungary; Lindemansalen, Levinsalen in Oslo; Accademia Filarmonica Romana, for the Festival "She Lives" dedicated to Alessio Elia, Péter Eötvös and Zoltán Jeney).

PRIZES

Elia is the recipient of several prizes, among them the Chigiana Merit Award 2005 for the piece *Luminescences* and the 1st prize for the piece *Rejtett dimenziók* (Dimensioni nascoste) in the orchestral category of UMZF 2013 (Hungarian Forum for New Music) Competition, in the year

dedicated to Ligeti, with Péter Eötvös presiding over the jury.

In 2016 his orchestral piece *Labyrinthum continui* was awarded a "Leibniz's Harmonies Prize" in Hannover.

LIGETI BOOK

On May 28, 2023, on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of György Ligeti, Elia's book *The "Hamburgisches Konzert" by György Ligeti* has been released, the most exhaustive and complete analysis on this work. Published by Edition Impronta, the book includes the complete revision of the score and the correction of the numerous errors (over 300) present in the printed score, including instrumental parts, and in the manuscript. Two unpublished movements of the Concerto, found by Alessio Elia at the Sacher Foundation (Ligeti Collection), together with all the preparatory sketches are published for the first time in the book. On the same date (May, 28, 2023) the first performance of the *Hamburgisches Konzert* based on Alessio Elia's revision took place at the Budapest Music Center, with the Concerto Budapest Ligeti Ensemble conducted by Peter Eötvös.

STUDIES & LIFE

Trained internationally he studied composition in Italy, Hungary and Germany, graduating at the S. Cecilia Academy of Music in Rome under the guidance of Giovanni Piazza. He completed postgraduate courses in Italy at the National Academy of Music S. Cecilia in Rome and at the Chigiana Academy of Music in Siena, and abroad at the Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt with Brian Ferneyhough, Toshio Hosokawa, and Georg Friedrich Haas, as well as at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest with Zoltán Jeney.

Consultations with Norwegian composer Lasse Thoresen also had a significant role in the process of his professional development.

He completed a postgraduate degree in Composition with the highest distinction at the Hochschule für Musik Mannheim, where he studied with Sidney Corbett, a former student of György Ligeti.

Elia earned his PhD cum laude at the University of Rome Tor Vergata with a dissertation about the *Hamburgisches Konzert* by Ligeti (first comprehensive monograph on this topic).

Guest composer and researcher at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, the State University of Debrecen, the Zoltán Kodály Institute in Kecskemét, the Sacher Foundation in Basel, and the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, he was also lecturer in composition in 2010 at the latter.

Born in Rome in 1979, Elia has lived in different cities in Europe (Rome, Budapest, Odense, Oslo, Debrecen and Berlin). Right now he is based in Budapest and Rome. In addition to being an Italian citizen, he also has Hungarian citizenship since 2021.