

CURRICULUM VITAE

Damiano Giuranna - Music and Artistic Director

Since September 15, 2001, when he founded the World Youth Orchestra and shortly after the World Youth Chamber Orchestra, Damiano Giuranna has introduced a new approach to music. This approach combines a profound commitment to the art with a dedication to social causes.

This concept was promptly put into practice through a special initiative for the orchestra. With the Mediterranean Project “World Youth Orchestra Mediterranean Tour - The Euro Mediterranean Brotherhood”, Damiano Giuranna aimed to promote acts of peace through the sounds of the Mediterranean, the heart of the world. This endeavor took the WYO on tours to destinations such as Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Turkey, Slovenia, and significant venues like the Greek Theatre at Taormina Festival, Auditorium La Sapienza in Rome, Neve-Shalom-Wahat al Salam, Main Theatre-Hussein Cultural Centre, Al Qasaba Theatre, Givatayim Theatre, El Jem Amphitheatre - El Jem International Festival, Algerian National Theatre, Ankara Bilkent Auditorium, Bodrum Amphitheatre - Gumusluc International Festival, Istanbul Lufti Kirdar Theatre, and the Slovenian Philharmonic.

The immediate and resounding success responded to a call for renewal and the need to infuse society with more musical culture in the third millennium. Damiano Giuranna decided to dedicate all his artistic and organizational talents to these grand endeavors.

Today, thanks to his efforts, the World Youth Orchestra has become one of the most promising young orchestras internationally. Besides the Mediterranean Project, Damiano Giuranna has taken the WYO and the WYCO on tours in Italy, Germany, Malta, Estonia, Ireland, and the United States. They have performed in prestigious venues such as the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia - Auditorium Parco della Musica in Rome, Berlin Konzerthaus, Manoel Theatre in Malta, Estonian National Opera, and Limerick University Hall, consistently earning acclaim from both the audience and critics.

In June 2005, Damiano Giuranna conducted the WYO in a special concert held at the United Nations in New York, in the General Assembly Hall. This concert was performed under the invitation of UNICEF’s International Board and by the Italian Mission to the United Nations. It was supported by representatives of the most prestigious international institutions including the former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, the President of the European Commission, the Secretary-General of

the Council of Europe, and many others. Thanks to its social commitment, the WYO was designated as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in 2002.

Over a span of more than twenty years, the two ensembles have involved around 2,000 young talents from all five continents, tutors from important musical institutions, and renowned artists such as Alison Balsom, Alessio Boni, Douglas Boyd, Alan Buribayev, William Eddins, Bruno Giuranna, Andrea Griminelli, Viviane Hagner, Francesco Manara, Fabrizio Meloni, Gülsin Onay, Jean-Guihen Queyras, Alexander Rudin, Antonella Ruggiero, Marianna Sirbu, and Daniel Stabrawa among others.

Damiano Giuranna, born into a family of artists, completed his musical studies at the S. Cecilia Conservatory of Music in Rome with top honors. He has been influenced by great conductors such as Carlo Maria Giulini and Bruno Giuranna.

He has led various musical projects, including "Art for Life", a musical journey to the 2000 Jubilee, "Art in the Social Context," "Art in Religion," and "Meetings of the Three Monotheistic Cultures." The latter was considered one of the most important performances in UNESCO's project "Spiritual Convergences and Intercultural Dialogue".

He also led the "International Festival of Young Musicians" (2001-2007), and he was awarded a grant from the European Union's "Culture 2000" Framework Project for five consecutive years, as well as the "Arthmós" Project.

He served as the Project Manager and Music Director of other international projects, including "Giovani all'Opera – Cultural Bridge" (2009/2010), "Musical Journey through Europe - from Regions to Nations" (2009/2010), "Sacred Sounds" (2010), and "Terra Felix" (2010). These projects were supported by the European Union and included partnerships with several European and international academies, conservatories, universities, private sponsors, and public institutions.

In July 2003, he received the Silver Shield and Medal awarded by the President of the Italian Republic to individuals and institutions that have distinguished themselves in the cultural and social realms.

Damiano Giuranna is also a composer. His recent works include pieces for orchestra, "Mediterranean Sounds", "Cantica di Nascite e di Madri" and "Il Ritmo del Remo", as well as the piece "Le due lune" for orchestra, actors, and original instruments.

He currently serves as Music and Artistic Director of the World Youth Orchestra Foundation and has completed two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Music Conservatory of Santa Cecilia in Rome.