

# Guido Rimonda

*soloist and conductor*



Guido Rimonda was born in Saluzzo in 1969. When he was only five years old he attended Professor Igino Bonazzi's school of pronunciation in Turin. He was immediately recognized as a talented pupil and was chosen for some advertising campaigns both on tv and in newspapers (for various brands, such as the famous processed cheese called "Mio", "Alpina", a famous brand of woollen underwear, and "Kinder Ferrero"). Later on he took part in the Zecchino d'Oro international children's song festival and in a variety of competitions and tv programmes, on the occasion of which he was presented by such great presenters and anchor-men as Pippo Baudo, Cino Tortorella and many others.

At the same time, he was the leading actor in various RAI radio plays, where he played a variety of roles. During that phase of his career he worked with important directors and actors. The most significant experiences came from drama and cinema: on the stage he worked with Renato Rascel in "Nel mio piccolo non saprei", whereas as a movie actor he starred in Dario Argento's "Torino Nera", with Bud Spencer, and "Four Flies on Grey Velvet". But the most important experience was the encounter with music, which took place when Guido was chosen to star as Totò in Leoncavallo's "Zazà", directed by Maurizio Arena and played by The Turin RAI National Symphony Orchestra. It was the first time he had performed with a true orchestra and it was on that occasion that Guido showed all his musical talent, to the point that Eros Cassardo suggested that Guido's parents should get the boy to study music. It was as a consequence of that experience that Guido started to study the violin at the "Giuseppe Verdi" State Academy of Music of Turin, under Professor E. Oddone's guidance.



He was fascinated by Giovanni Battista Viotti's work and became more interested in this great composer's artistic content and historical figure.

Back in those years Viotti's work had undeservedly fallen into oblivion (luckily, nowadays he is much more famous than he used to be in the past) so Guido Rimonda devoted himself to rediscovering and exploiting one of the most extraordinary violinists and composers born in Italy during the 18th and 19th centuries.



This interest was to remain a landmark and a reference point in his whole career as a violinist and conductor. As a matter of fact, when he was just eleven years old, Guido started a passionate search for Viotti's manuscripts throughout Europe (at first he was accompanied by his father), which he found.



After many years of uninterrupted work he was able to find the whole of Viotti's musical unpublished output. Some scores were discovered almost by magic, out of a series of incredible coincidences, to the point that Guido has defined his search as a sort of "souls' consciousness". Keeping in mind his urge to spread and popularize Viotti's work, in 1992 Guido founded two orchestras: the Turin Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra Camerata Ducale.

The former he founded with conductor Marcello Viotti, a descendant of Giovan Battista Viotti, who was then "direttore stabile" of the Fenice Theatre in Venice (sadly, he died too soon). The latter he founded with pianist Cristina Canziani, who was born in Trieste and was to become Guido's wife. Besides being helped by Cristina, Guido was also supported by the famous Professor Gian Luigi Marianini, a friend and an adventuring companion.



The two of them were to work side by side for many years and Guido was to be the official music consultant for all Marianini's television programmes dealing with mystery.

It is thanks to the Orchestra Camerata Ducale that Guido achieved his goal: he was able to rediscover and valorize Viotti's work. In 1997 Guido and Cristina, with their Orchestra Camerata Ducale, set up an important link with the city of Vercelli, where they created the Viotti Festival. It was to become one of the most important music festivals in Italy and a world-famous concert season.



In December 2017 Roberto Giacobbo devoted an entire episode of his prime-time programme "Voyager" to Guido Rimonda, his studies and rediscovery of Viotti, the history of violins, and the intriguing adventures of Stradivari's "Jean Marie Leclair".

The Viotti Festival has continued its uninterrupted growth, setting up a permanent link with Florida, where the Orchestra Camerata Ducale has been performing regularly every year, bringing Viotti's music to the USA and creating an American "home" for the Viotti Festival.



His ever-increasing international activity has enabled Guido to give over 1,000 concerts in the most famous European concert halls. Accompanied by the Orchestra Camerata Ducale, he has been on tour in the USA, the former Soviet Union, South Africa, Guatemala, the UAE and Japan.



In 2002 he was awarded the Renato Bruson prize as the best musician of the year in Piemonte and he was conferred the title of World Ambassador for Culture by the Regional Council of Piedmont.

In January 2008 he was given the City of Turin's San Giovanni Prize for his historical research and rediscovery of Viotti's work.

In 2011 he became a Knight of the Italian Republic, on account of his artistic achievements.

In the meantime, Guido has never neglected his role as a teacher.

He works as a violin teacher at the Cantelli Academy of Music in Novara and was Giuliano Carmignola's and Franco Gulli's assistant at the Scuola di Alto Perfezionamento Musicale in Saluzzo.

His recording career has been very intense. In 2012 he signed an exclusive agreement with Decca for the Viotti Project: 15 CDs containing the integral of the compositions for violin and orchestra, with many unpublished compositions and pieces never recorded before.

The project immediately aroused the media's interest.



He also recorded "Le Violon Noir" for Decca, a project dedicated to mystery music, which was acclaimed by the audience, even by non-specialists (2012 and 2017 double CD). Meanwhile other recording projects were released, such as "Voice of Peace" (2015) and "Haydn's Concertos" (2017).

Guido's version of "Schindler's List" has been chosen for the new Deutsche Grammophon Platinum Collection Box Set, which contains 55 soundtracks of famous films performed by the most important artists and the best known orchestras in the world. Guido is represented by Luisa Panarello, on behalf of the Resia Artist Agency.



Since 1998, the Camerata Ducale Orchestra, founded in 1992 as the first musical ensemble dedicated to promoting appreciation of the works of Giovan Battista Viotti, has been the resident orchestra of the Viotti Festival, the concert season of Vercelli that, since its first editions, has been acclaimed as one of the most interesting musical events on the national and international scene.



At the Festival, the orchestra has performed a vast number of works, ranging from 18th century to contemporary composers, with distinguished soloists of the calibre of Viktoria Mullova, Shlomo Mintz, Isabelle Faust, Salvatore Accardo, Angela Hewitt, Louis Lortie, Uto Ughi, Vladimir Spivakov, Misha Maisky, Andrea Lucchesini, Igudesman&Joo, Richard Galliano, Renato Bruson, Giuliano Carmignola, Avi Avital e gli indimenticabili Ruggiero Ricci e Daniela Dessi and many others.

The Camerata Ducale has been invited to perform at the most prestigious Italian concert seasons. Engagements at Italian venues are accompanied by tours abroad, including memorable concerts in France, Japan, Guatemala, United States, Bahrain, Georgia and South Africa.



Guido Rimonda is one of the most fascinating and complete personalities of the Italian violin scene. He plays the 1721 “Le Noir” Stradivari which used to belong to the virtuoso Jean Marie Leclair.



Leclair was stabbed to death in 1764. When he was found, two months later, he was still embracing his violin. His bloody hand had left a permanent black stain on the instrument, and as a result of that the violin has become known as “Le violon noir”.



*The Camerata Ducale is a passionate ensemble led by a soloist combining highest virtuosity with the warmest Italian cantability.*

