

Riccardo Maira - Full Bio

Riccardo Maira is an Award-winning Composer, Artistic Director and Entrepreneur. At a young age he was granted admission at the Conservatoire “Vincenzo Bellini” where he pursued his classical music studies while also studying modern music at “Officine Sonore” Modern Music Academy. Afterwards he pursued an in-depth study of modern music for two years at ICMP London - The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance before beginning his composition studies at the University of Chichester where he also studied theory, analysis and conducting under the guidance of Professor Christopher Slater, student of the world-renowned conductor of the Berliner Philharmoniker Herbert von Karajan.

In 2015 he collaborated as composer with the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama and London College of Fashion. During the same year he also served as the Artistic and Executive Director of The London Experience, actively promoting the values of multicultural artistic exchanges and bringing London-based artists from different countries and backgrounds to discuss and perform together. The one week Festival featuring London-based musicians was held in Italy and included two Masterclasses and two Live Music Concert.

In March 2017 the first movement of "Farewell", one of his virtuosic pieces for solo piano, was successfully premiered in England by the University of Chichester's distinguished faculty Professor and Pianist Terence Allbright, followed by other Premieres of his work and Performances in various Concert Halls and Festivals in New York City.

In 2018 he served as the Artistic and Executive Director of MusicFest Italia, an Italy-based Music Festival featuring International Artists from Germany, Greece, England and Italy. As part of the Festival's program he also performed his own composition for piano "Farewell". During the same year the first Act of Riccardo's Opera “The Fairy Queen” for Chamber Orchestra, Soprano and Mezzo-Soprano and “Fallender Himmel” for String Quartet were performed by the NYC Chamber Orchestra The Curiosity Cabinet and the Random Access Music String Quartet in occasion of various concerts in venues such as the Kupferberg Center for the Arts, LeFrak Concert Hall, the The Secret Theatre and Festivals in New York City such as the Queens New Music Festival and the Queens College Arts Festival. At the same time he was also awarded the City University of New York's “G. Fontrier” Composition Award, a prestigious award conferred by CUNY in recognition of special achievements within the composition field.

In 2019 he served as the Artistic and Executive Director of the Moveo International Festival 2019 and the Moveo International Conference 2019. The Festival was held in the Opera House of the City of Noto, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the extraordinary participation of the Sicilian Lyric Choir and Orchestra as well as a selection of International Artists from Europe and United States. During such occasion the Sicilian Lyric Choir performed the first movement of Riccardo's choral composition "Oceanum Ex Luci, I. O Luna" which features an original text written in Latin by the composer himself. In the same year Riccardo also performed during a

recording session at Abbey Road Studios' iconic Studio One in London (England) which has hosted a number of world-renowned artists including Sergei Prokofiev, Sir Edward William Elgar, The Beatles and more. In May 2019 Riccardo was awarded a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Music and concentration in Composition from the University of Chichester in England.

In 2021 two of his compositions, *Hier ist kein Warum* and *Fallender Himmel for Bass Clarinet* were performed during two virtual concerts in New York City. In June 2021 he was awarded a Master of Arts in Music Composition from the City University of New York, Queens College.

Riccardo has also been active as an independent researcher; his body of publications have been published in multiple languages and include publications such as *Analysis of Bartók: No. 7 from Eight Improvisations on Hungarian Peasant Songs, op. 20* (2020), *Heinrich Schütz (1585–1672), "Wann unsre Augen schlafen ein"* (2020), *Analysis of György Ligeti's "Pour Irina"* (2018) and *Music Theory and its value* (2017).

Presently Riccardo is based in London and is constantly involved in different projects of artistic nature (composing, conducting research, writing and directing) in the British, American and international landscapes.