

**A Marco Mencoboni project
for the Cantar Lontano Festival
2014**

stairs *year 1*

#stairs2014

-c a n
lontano
t a r

The Cantar Lontano Festival 2014 presents

Stairs / Seven notes, seven scales

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach

**One must scale great heights
to see great distances.**

Constantin Brâncuși,
Aphorisms



A staircase is a structure made up of one or more flights of steps, enabling people to walk from one floor of a building to another, or to access different levels of an urban space.

In Italian, a “staircase” is “una scala”, and the same word refers to a musical scale: a stepwise series of ascending or descending notes.

In Western music there are two distinct kinds of scale: the diatonic, made up of seven steps, and the chromatic, made up of twelve.

Stairs / Seven notes, seven scales

A project for the Cantar Lontano Festival 2014

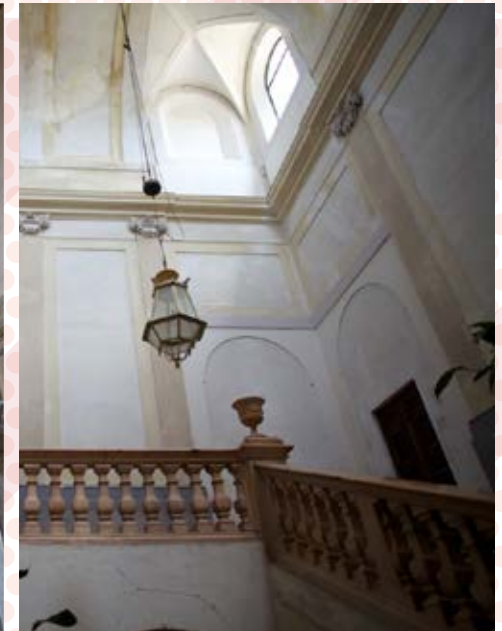
In architecture, the staircase of a grand house was seen as second only to the façade in terms of welcoming visitors; it was a way of introducing the owners and indicating their rank in society.

It is no coincidence that the greatest architects made their names in this field: Borromini's spiral staircases, Bernini's in the Vatican, the open-well examples of Laurana, and then those designed for Federico da Montefeltro by Martini and Bramante, not to mention the wonderful Vanvitelli stairs to be found throughout Italy.

Le Marche boasts many staircases attributed to the school of Luigi Vanvitelli, most of which are unknown to the general public, in some

cases because they are in privately owned buildings. Even those in public use, however, often go unrecognised and unappreciated, because we have a tendency to take everyday beauty for granted and pay it little heed.

Our project stems from an experience we had in **Pesaro, back in 2012, on a Vanvitelli staircase**. With the added benefit of an almost perfect acoustic, we transformed the stairs into a concert hall and invited the audience to sit on the steps. To enhance the listening experience we chose **to split the performance into different sections**, for each of which the musician moved between the seven landings. The results were thrilling, because **the event sparked**



an unexpected level of interest in the venue and its history: people were counting up the number of stairs and landings, trying to find some kind of numerical symbolism.

On the basis of the success of this initiative, repeated in 2013 at the **Palazzo Costa in Macerata**, we decided to create **an itinerary that would enable us to visit and rediscover seven grand and beautiful staircases around Le Marche:** a new project we decided to christen **Stairs**.

Through this project, and through our music, we hope to contribute to a **fresh evaluation of an important aspect of the artistic and architectural legacy of our region**, and in the process to enhance people's appreciation of the beauty in their everyday surroundings, making them more aware of how much it means to live in a region so rich in history and monuments.

Programme

The locations, the music

#stairs2014

The locations

Palazzo Nembrini

Ancona
Vanvitelli Staircase

Palazzo Costa

Macerata
Vanvitelli Staircase

Palazzo Honorati - Carotti

Jesi
Monumental Staircase

Palazzo Nada Vicoli

Morrovalle
Vanvitelli Staircase

Palazzo Giovanelli

Pesaro
Vanvitelli Staircase

Palazzo Montevecchio

Fano
Vanvitelli Staircase

Palazzo Olivieri-Machirelli

Pesaro
Vanvitelli Staircase

Johann Sebastian Bach

Mauro Valli cello

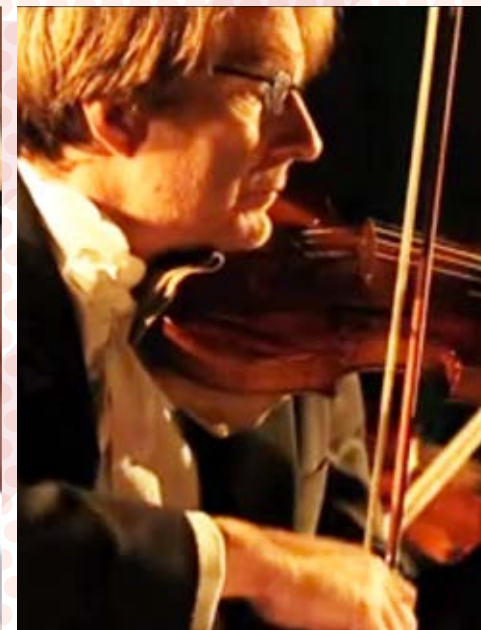
Tuesday 17 June 2014
**Suite no. 1 in G major,
BWV 1007**
**Suite no. 6 in D major,
BWV 1012**

Nika Zlataric cello

Tuesday 15 July 2014
**Suite no. 2 in D minor,
BWV 1008**
**Suite no. 3 in C major,
BWV 1009**

Marco Frezzato cello

Tuesday 29 July 2014
**Suite no. 4 in E flat major,
BWV 1010**
**Suite no. 5 in C minor,
BWV 1011**



Attilio Motzo violin

Thursday 7 August 2014
**Sonata no. 2 in A minor,
BWV 1003**
**Partita no. 1 in B minor,
BWV 1002**

Žiga Faganel violin

Thursday 14 August
**Sonata no. 1 in G minor,
BWV 1001**
**Partita no. 3 in E major,
BWV 1006**

Christoph Timpe violin

Thursday 4 September
**Sonata no. 3 in C major,
BWV 1005**
**Partita no. 2 in D minor,
BWV 1004**

Eduardo Egüez lute

Saturday 20 September
**Partita no. 2 in D minor,
BWV 1004**
**Suite no. 3 in C major,
BWV 1009**

Contatti

E lucevan le stelle sc

via Diaz, 36 - 61121 Pesaro, Italy

t/f +39 0721 69200

stairs@cantarlontano.com

www.cantarlontano.com

supporters of the project



with the collaboration of

