



MARIO BRUNELLO

Violoncello & Violoncello piccolo

“Intense and passionate.” The Strad

“A great spirit.” Gramophone

“The sound of the cello piccolo, which oscillates between violin and cello, is sung out by Mario Brunello with apparent lightness, expressiveness and always highly virtuosic.”

Highresaudio.com

Mario Brunello is one of the most multifaceted and sought-after artists of his generation. A soloist, chamber musician, conductor, and a pioneer of cello piccolo, he is the first European ever to win the Tchaikovsky Competition in 1986.

Brunello is a cellist of extraordinary talent that balances performing a wide-ranging repertoire spanning from early music to contemporary.

Brunello's authentic and passionate performance style allowed him to collaborate with the most renowned conductors of our generation such as Antonio Pappano, Valery Gergiev, Myung-whun Chung, Yuri Temirkanov, Zubin Mehta, Ton Koopman, Manfred Honeck, Riccardo Muti, Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Chailly and Claudio Abbado.

Mario Brunello has collaborated with many of the world's leading ensembles including the London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Liverpool Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, NHK Symphony Tokyo, Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Filarmonica della Scala and Munich Philharmonic, to name just a few.

As a chamber musician, Mario Brunello has shared the stages worldwide with artists such as Gidon Kremer, Martha Argerich, Yuri Bashmet, Andrea Lucchesini, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Giuliano Carmignola, Maurizio Pollini and Borodin Quartet.

Mario Brunello is a passionate admirer of various forms of musical expression and philosophy, science, theatre and literature. His passion for finding new ways of communication and attracting new audiences has prompted him to design performances with notable personalities such as jazz pianist Uri Caine, singer-songwriter Vinicio Capossela, the physicist Carlo Rovelli, the writer Alessandro Baricco and actor Marco Paolini, to name a few.

Highlights of the previous season have included recitals at London Wigmore Hall, Gstaad Festival, Lisbon Gulbenkian, Bachcelona Festival Barcelona, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Kioi Hall Tokyo, Muziekgebouw Eindhoven, Berliner Philharmonie, Vredenburg Utrecht, Istanbul Sanat Concert Hall, Zaryadye hall Moscow, La Chaux de Fonds, Sala Verdi Milan, Lingotto Turin, Parco della Musica in Roma. Along with concerts with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Mariinsky Orchestra St Petersburg, Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra Moscow, NHK Tokyo, Rai Turin Orchestra, Venice Baroque Orchestra. Together with Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica, Brunello has appeared at the Kronberg Festival and has toured South America.

In the recent years Mario Brunello has expanded on his activity as both a soloist and conductor. He has been Artist-in-Residence at the Philharmonie Zuidnederland in Eindhoven, where he actively focused his repertoire to Haydn mixed with classicism and contemporary music. Other notable collaborations include fruitful partnerships with Kremerata Baltica, Moscow Soloists, Teatro la Fenice Orchestra, Tchaikovsky Orchestra Moscow, Kioi Sinfonietta Tokyo and ORT in Florence, to name just a few.



Brunello plays a precious Maggini cello crafted in the early 1600s. However, he has grown increasingly fond of the “cello piccolo” in recent years. This instrument shares the tuning and the technique of the violin but possesses the deep, sonorous voice of a standard cello, which inspired Brunello to explore the masterpieces of the baroque violin repertoire by Bach, Vivaldi and Tartini on this unconventional instrument.

“Harmonies revealed in complete chords, cascades of notes, and fugues in three or four parts, and the monumental chaconne – this is a language and musical architecture which does not exist in the solo cello repertoire. The violoncello piccolo enables me to discover these magnificent works and to extend my own repertoire.”

Mario Brunello for Meet The Artist.

The Sonatas and Partitas of JS Bach has been the first revelatory recording of Mario Brunello, received with praises by the international press. Performances of this cycle are programmed during the season 2020–23 all over Europe.

Mario Brunello has made various recordings in exclusive for Outhere. Critics and listeners alike have been captivated by ‘*Sonar in Ottava*’, a CD released in March 2020 (which BBC Music Magazine rated as among the “best concerto recordings” of 2020), joining his life-long friend Giuliano Carmignola. The highly original programme revisits Bach and Vivaldi Double Concertos performed on this occasion on violin and violoncello piccolo.

“a CD of amazed baroque music, all prepared to dispense happiness.”
Crescendo Magazine

Brunello has exploited the full potential of cello piccolo in a recording released in November 2020, dedicated to Giuseppe Tartini for the 250 anniversary of the death. The CD includes Sonatas and Concertos by Vandini, Meneghini and Tartini performed with the Accademia dell'Annunciata. **(Diapason d'OR)**

Outthere partnered Mario in his life project titled "Brunello Bach Series": a trilogy starting with a first recording dedicated to *JS Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for violin*, played for the first time ever on cello piccolo. The second album is devoted to the "*Six sonatas for concertato harpsichord and solo violin*" (BWV 1014-1019). Conceived in three parts, these famous pieces appear transfigured in a kaleidoscope of colours, in which the violoncello piccolo shares the score with harpsichord and organ, and a continuo played by viola da gamba and cello – an accompaniment specifically suggested by one of the surviving copies of the sonatas.



The trilogy final chapter was published in 2023 with "Bach Transcriptions", an ingenious programme of Bach Concertos for violin, played for the first time on cello piccolo. Mario Brunello will be joined by the Accademia dell' Annunciata.

Mario Brunello continues to communicate with audiences with his richly diverse discography that includes recordings of works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Franck, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Ligeti, Cassado, Shostakovich, Vivaldi, Haydn, Chopin and Janáček, to name just a few.

The celebrated cellist's noteworthy discography also includes the award-winning recording of Bach Cello Suites; Beethoven Triple Concerto under the baton of Claudio Abbado (Deutsche Grammophon); Dvorak Cello Concerto, conducted by Antonio Pappano (EMI), and the fascinating live performance recording

of the poetic Shostakovich Cello Concerto No. 2, under the baton of Valery Gergiev in the Salle Pleyel, Paris.

Brunello's close collaboration with Kremerata Baltica has produced two impressive recordings: Tavener's "*The Protected Veil*" recorded at Lockenhaus Festival a few years ago, and most recently "*Searching for Ludwig*" - a tribute to Beethoven recorded with Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica, pairing Beethoven's quartets in a version for string orchestra with contemporary pieces by Léo Ferré and Giovanni Sollima.

Mario Brunello is Artistic director of Arte Sella and I Suoni delle Dolomiti Festival.

In October 2020 he has been appointed as the new Artistic Director of Stresa Festival, taking over from Gianandrea Noseda.

November 2023



NEW CD January 2023!

After the success of their Tartini disc (Arcana 478, Diapason d'or, 5 stars from Musica), Mario Brunello and the Accademia dell'Annunciata return for an ingenious collection of six concertos, all of which are united in different ways by the art of transcription. Bach Transcriptions is a surprising labyrinth of sound that forms the conclusion of Marco Brunello's trilogy dedicated to Bach's music, works to which we listen afresh thanks to the expressive potential of the piccolo cello, an instrument that Bach himself had particularly appreciated.



'Sei Suonate a cembalo certato e violino solo'

5* review on [BBC Music Magazine](#):

"We have largely to thank Italian cellist Mario Brunello for bringing this neglected but eloquent instrument back into the limelight in recent times."

Conceived in three parts, like sonatas for two treble instruments and continuo, these famous pieces appear transfigured here in a kaleidoscope of colours in which the violoncello piccolo intertwines with the keyboard, alternately harpsichord and organ, and with the bass doubled in turn by viola da gamba and cello – an accompaniment specifically suggested by one of the surviving copies of the sonatas.

Sonata n. 2 in A Major BWV 1015: [Watch here](#)

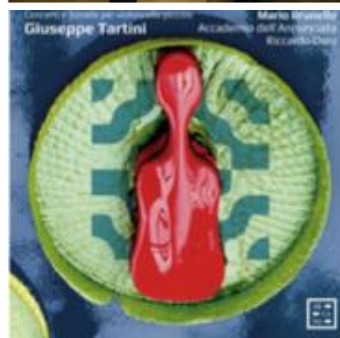


'Bach & Vivaldi: Sonar in Ottava. Double Concertos for violin and violoncello piccolo'

5* Review & Concerto Choice on [BBC Music Magazine](#):

"Superb virtuosity in this set of classics and curios"

Mario Brunello and his long-time friend violinist Giuliano Carmignola accompanied by Accademia dell'Annunciata offer a highly original, experimental programme inspired by the three existing double concertos for violin and cello by Vivaldi. They revisit double concertos by Vivaldi and Bach, transposing the second solo part an octave lower on the violoncello piccolo. The outcome is a delightful opportunity to enjoy famous pieces in a totally different light.



Giuseppe Tartini Concerti e Sonate per violoncello piccolo

Diapason d'OR on Diapason: **"Magnifique !"**

All the full potential of cello piccolo is exploited in this third recording released in November 2020, dedicated to Giuseppe Tartini for the 250 anniversary of the death. The Album includes Sonatas and Concertos by Vandini, Meneghini and Tartini performed with the Accademia dell'Annunciata.



Searching for Ludwig: Beethoven, Sollima & Ferré

The close collaboration with Kremerata Baltica has produced "Searching for Ludwig" a tribute to Beethoven recorded with Gidon Kremer and Kremerata Baltica, pairing Beethoven's quartets in a version for string orchestra with contemporary pieces by Léo Ferré and Giovanni Sollima with Mario Brunello in the double role of conductor and soloist.



Sonatas and Partitas for solo violoncello piccolo

Gramophone: **"A definite first choice among period instrument recordings of these weeks"**

Autumn 2019 has marked the release of the first album dedicated to J.S Bach Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin, but performed on a rare cello piccolo. The expressive and extraordinary performance actively represent Brunello's vision of music.

CHACCONNE from Partita No. 2 in D Minor, BWV 1004: [Listen to here](#)