

MARIO BRUNELLO



“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 who 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, Myung-Whung Chung, Yuri Temirkanov, Zubin Mehta, Ton Koopman, Manfred Honeck, Riccardo Muti, Daniele Gatti, Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Chailly e 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, Venice Baroque orchestra to name just a few.

Mario Brunello's concert activity is very intense both in Italy and abroad. Among his recent commitments are concerts at Wigmore Hall in London, the Gstaad Festival, Fundação Gulbenkian in Lisbon, Bachcelona Festival in Barcelona, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Kioi Hall in Tokyo, Muziekgebouw in Eindhoven, Berliner Philharmonie, Vredenburg in Utrecht, Istanbul Sanat Concert Hall, Salle de musique de La Chaux de Fonds, Sala Verdi in Milan, Auditorium Lingotto in Turin, and Parco della Musica in Rome.

Brunello plays a precious Maggini from the early 17th century, to which he has added in recent years the four-string piccolo cello. This instrument was widely used in the Baroque era, particularly by J.S. Bach, who included it in about ten cantatas. Brunello's instrument, inspired by an Amati model actually housed in Cremona, is tuned in the typical violin tuning (E, A, D, G), but an octave lower, thus retaining the depth and darker shades characteristic of the cello. These particularities have led Brunello to explore the musical masterpieces of the violin repertoire by Bach, Vivaldi, Tartini, and their contemporaries.

The complete recording of J.S. Bach's *Sonatas and Partitas for solo violoncello piccolo* was Mario Brunello's groundbreaking first recording for ARCANA/OUTHERE in 2019, receiving critical acclaim. The potential of the piccolo cello was further highlighted in a second album, *Sonar in Ottava*, featuring Giuliano Carmignola, the Accademia dell'Annunciata, and Riccardo Doni, awarded Best Concert Recording of 2020 by BBC Music Magazine. The third album dedicated to Giuseppe Tartini for the 250th anniversary of his death was honored with the Diapason d'Or.

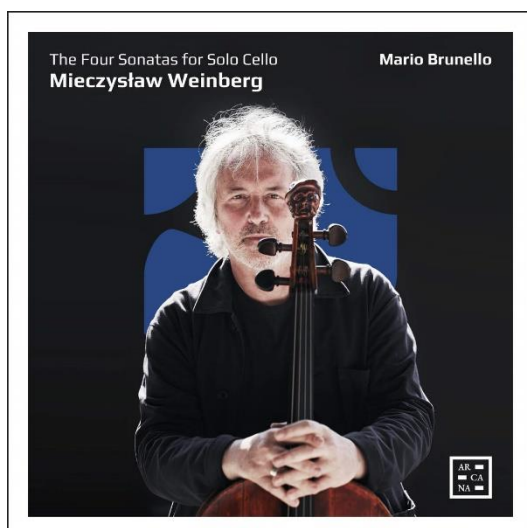
The album featuring J.S. Bach's *Sei Suonate a cembalo certato e violino solo* enriches the BRUNELLO BACH SERIES trilogy for ARCANA/OUTHERE, completed in January 2023 with the final CD titled *Bach Transcriptions*, dedicated to Bach's Concertos transcribed for various instruments, with Mario Brunello on piccolo cello once again accompanied by the Accademia dell'Annunciata and Riccardo Doni.

From a close collaboration with the Kremerata Baltica and Gidon Kremer, two exceptional recordings emerged: *The Protecting Veil* by Tavener, recorded at the Lockenhaus Festival, and *Searching for Ludwig* (November 2020) – a tribute to Beethoven, featuring two Beethoven quartets in versions for string orchestra alongside contemporary pieces inspired by Beethoven from Léo Ferré and Giovanni Sollima.

On 22nd March, ARCANA OUTHHERE released his new Album dedicated to Weinberg Four Sonatas for Solo Cello. This CD received ravishing accolades from the international press, with 5* reviews on Rondò Magazine, Diapason, Musica and prestigious “Amadeus d’Or” on the eponymous Italian periodical and “Exceptional” on Scherzo Magazine.

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.

June 2024



2024 - New recording

[Weinberg: The Four Sonatas for Solo Cello](#)
[Arcana - Outhere](#)

Release date: March 22, 2024

LISTEN HERE: <https://open.spotify.com/intl-it/album/7ceMuZZ1iraMefiunvDXKT>

Previous recordings



[Bach transcriptions : Six concertos for violoncello piccolo](#)

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.



[Johann Sebastian Bach: 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](#)

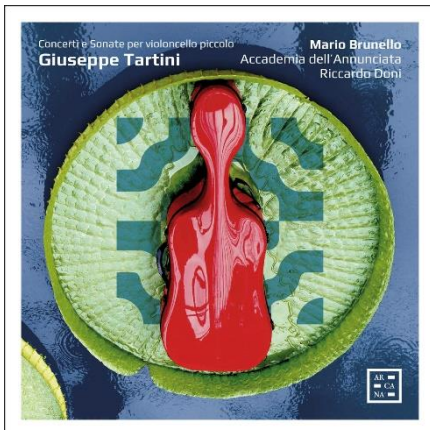


[Bach & Vivaldi: Sonar in Ottava. Double Concertos for violin and violoncello piccolo](#)

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

"Superb virtuosity in this set of classics and curios"

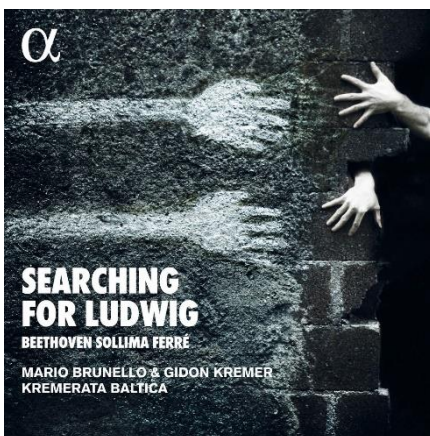
Mario Brunello and his long-time friend violinist Giuliano Carmignola accompanied by Accademia dell'Annunciata offer highly original, experimental programme inspired by the three existing double concertos for violin and cello by Vivaldi. They revisit double concertos by Vivaldi and Bach, transposing 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](#)