

FRANCESCO SIRAGUSA, contrabbasso



Born in 1974, Francesco Siragusa began studying the double bass with his father at the age of ten. He graduated with highest honors from the Istituto Musicale Vincenzo Bellini in Catania under the direction of Nello Nicotra. Subsequently, he became a student of Franco Petracchi and pursued advanced studies with him in courses at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, the Campus Internazionale di Musica in Sermoneta and the Accademia Walter Stauffer in Cremona. While he was still a student in the Conservatory, he won First Prize in the Concorso d'esecuzione per contrabbasso Werther Benzi and he successfully auditioned for the Orchestra del Massimo Vincenzo Bellini in Catania, where he worked for four consecutive seasons. In 1995, he won a competition to enter the Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Accademia Nazionale di S. Cecilia in Rome, where he worked for two symphonic seasons and in 1997, he won a competition to enter the Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala and the Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala in Milan. In 2002, when he was just 27 years old, he won the competition for First Double Bassist of Teatro alla Scala and for the Filarmonica della Scala, a position he currently holds. Between 1998 and 1999, he won

many of the most prestigious international competitions regarding musical performance on the double bass, earning international recognition and esteem: he took Second Prize at the Concorso internazionale di Ginevra and First Prize at the Concorso internazionale per contrabbassisti Giovanni Bottesini. He has performed both as a soloist and in chamber music groups in major concert halls in Italy and abroad and has collaborated with well-known musical groups including, the Solisti della Scala and the Virtuosi della Scala. His performances are enthusiastically acclaimed, thanks to his extraordinary temperament and his sublime cantabile playing of double bass. His repertory covers Baroque authors through to contemporary composers, with particular attention given to works by Bottesini. He recorded a CD of Giovanni Bottesini's music for double bass and piano for Musicmedia's label, Antes Concerto, Edizioni musicali, which given its enormous success was reprinted in 2004. He just recently published the II Volume di musiche di Bottesini per contrabbasso e pianoforte for the music magazine, Amadeus. He teaches yearlong, advanced courses at the Accademia della Scala and the Accademia Perosi in Biella. He holds Master Classes regularly in Italy and abroad.