

| M U S I C | <sup>70</sup>

**Artistic Projects**  
**2024-2025**



# MUSICI 7.0

*“...I am thrilled, I come from Via Asiago, from the Italian Radio, where I have just heard twelve boys, brave, very brave; a perfect chamber orchestra; twelve young people, about eighteen or twenty years old... playing without a conductor. I said to these boys, I applauded them, I thanked them: No, music does not die...”*

**Arturo Toscanini**

Corriere della Sera, 17 June 1952



Few people could have imagined that this group of twelve young musicians performing in Rome on 31 March 1952 for the St. Cecilia concerts would still be active today, after more than 70 years of concerts all over the world.

The story of I Musici actually began a year earlier, in 1951, when a small group of enthusiastic youngsters, well guided and advised by their excellent teachers, found themselves united by the desire to study and enhance the immense and beautiful repertoire of Italian music from the 18th century but not only, with a unique peculiarity, then as now: playing without a conductor. And it was immediately an incredible success. Within a few years, I Musici became the most famous chamber music group in the world, performing numerous concerts and making award-winning recordings. These recordings, made exclusively for Philips for more than 40 years, and more recently for Sony, Epic, Warner, Fonè, Dynamic, Deutsche Grammophon, Decca and Universal, represent a real treasure trove for audiophiles all over the world. There is one piece that represents them above all others: Antonio Vivaldi's Four Seasons, which also, and above all, thanks to I Musici become one of the best-known compositions in the world. And along with Vivaldi's masterpiece also Corelli, Locatelli, Albinoni, Tartini and Marcello. But, as we were saying, the repertoire of I Musici is not only eighteenth-century: soon to come are Rossini's Sonate a Quattro, Respighi's Antiche Arie e Danze, and Mozart's Serenate and Divertimenti, Men-

delssohn's Symphonies for strings, and then Frank Martin, Hindemith, Bartok. Besides the dedication of the Concerto for Strings written for them by Nino Rota, other important composers including Porrino, Sakamoto, Bacalov and Morricone composed for I Musici. In 2022 I Musici celebrated the 70th year of luminous, continuous career. This extraordinary anniversary, in addition to being a source of great pride, was above all, as is the group's tradition, a moment of reflection to once again find new creative life and look forward, as always, towards the future. Naturally, the members of the original line-up have come to the end of their cycle, but other talented and motivated musicians have joined the group, which is still looking ahead, strengthened by the passion that has never been extinguished and the affection of the fans who eagerly await their concerts all over the world, ready to applaud them with the same warmth as always. There are no secrets, only sincere passion for music and the desire to communicate it by travelling through time and languages.

iMUSICI<sup>70</sup>



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**Artistic  
Projects**



**2022 CD recordings**

**The Four Seasons  
LUX 35 70 with Sumi Jo**

**Other Projects**



The DECCA logo is located in the top right corner of the page. It consists of the word "DECCA" in white, uppercase letters on a blue rectangular background, which is positioned above a solid red horizontal bar.

VIVALDI

VERDI

# Le Quattro Stagioni

The Four Seasons

# I Musici

Marco Fiorini *violin*

*‘There are cigars  
and there are Cuban Cohibas.  
There are red wines  
and there is Château Lafite Rothschild. There are  
executions  
of the Four Seasons  
and there are The Four Seasons  
of I Musici.’*

#### **The Palm Beach Post**

*“Antonio Vivaldi and Giuseppe Verdi. Two names so distant chronologically and stylistically, yet happily brought together by I Musici in this their latest recording that pays homage to the 70th anniversary of the ensemble’s historic debut in Rome in 1952. Since that date, I Musici have steadily accompanied the history of world discography with recordings that, by now, set the standard: so it was with Vivaldi and his music, at that time undergoing a fresh rediscovery. The thread that enables the Vivaldi-Verdi seam is precisely The Four Seasons: on the one hand the Concertos from op. 8 of the ‘Red Priest’, the Vivaldi page that made I Musici an icon in the world, and on the other the Ballet from Les vêpres siciliennes in the arrangement for strings and piano.*

*The juxtaposition is, precisely because of the marked distance between the two works, absolutely successful:*

*I Musici can not only boast a consolidated and iron technical expertise in heterogeneous repertoires, but also - and this disc testifies to this - the ability to propose a convincing and attractive musical offering.”*

Mattia Rossi on *ClassicVoice*

*“Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons is ‘a must’ and the name ‘The Four Seasons’ is I Musici. For classical music lover of a certain generation or older, it should be so, and perhaps also for their children and grandchildren. In fact, when I attended a performance of the Ensemble I Musici, I found that there were three generations of music lovers in the audience. There is so much beautiful singing in the polished sound typical of Italian performers, contracting and flowing with vitality. Together, they weave the beauty of the various movements and show us where the lifeblood and charm of the masterpiece lies. Whether it is the sound or the form, it is like looking at the clear and beautiful sky of Italy. This feeling has remained largely unchanged through the many changes of members and repeated recordings. I still think that I Musici’s Quattro Stagioni are indestructible. With Italian DNA in their eyes, they have refined the Four Seasons in their own style, regardless of the trends of the time. It never goes out, it just goes round and round and attracts more and more people”.*

Koji Terahara, *Music and cultural writer*

I Musici turned 70 in 2022, and that anniversary gave them the opportunity to perform over the world the contents of their latest Decca release: I Musici give glory to the beautiful Verdi rarity, in an interesting arrangement specially commissioned to Luigi Pecchia, proposed by I Musici also in an elegant alternative production featuring two classical dancers on stage, Camilla Cerulli and Rinaldo Venuti, both soloists at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan. [Video](#) with dancers.

To listen to the CD, click on this [link](#)

To watch the live performance, click on this [link](#)



**Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)**  
*The Four Seasons*  
Four Concertos for Violin,  
Strings and basso continuo, Op.  
8

*The Spring,*  
Concerto in E major, RV269,  
Op. 8 No. 1

*Summer,*  
Concerto in G minor, RV315,  
Op. 8 No. 2

*Autumn,*  
Concerto in F major, RV293,  
Op. 8 No. 3

*Winter,*  
Concerto in F minor, RV297,  
Op. 8 No. 4

Soloist **Marco Fiorini**

**Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)**  
*The Four Seasons*

Luigi Pecchia's transcription for  
strings and piano of the ballets  
from *I Vespri Siciliani*

Winter - Spring  
Summer - Autumn



DECCA

## LUX 3570

**LUX 3570** is a record release by **Decca Classics** to mark the **thirty-fifth anniversary of the international debut of soprano Sumi Jo**, and the **seventieth anniversary of I Musici**.

Two anniversaries that are intertwined by a double thread, and that, united, well represent the magnificent artistic relationship between I Musici and Sumi Jo, in a friendship born many years ago and that, experience after experience, grows ever stronger.

**LUX 3570** is the musical testimony of a profound friendship, of a lasting and prolific musical fellowship that sees I Musici and the soprano Sumi Jo, an artist with sublime vocal talents, with which the instrumental group embarked on a tour of South Korea in late 2021, performing from the Sejong Arts Center to the Lotte Concert Hall until the great Seoul Arts Center, offering a repertoire of great impact and effectiveness, alternating instrumental pages, part of the Ensemble's chosen repertoire, with baroque arias in which I Musici accompany the great vocal talent of Sumi Jo. All, punctuated by Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, undoubtedly one of the instrumental group's historic warhorses.

To listen to the CD, click on this [link](#)





## Festa Barocca

**Francesco Geminiani** (1687-1762)  
*Concerto Grosso after Corelli n.7*

**Charles Avison** (1709-1770)  
*Concerto Grosso n.6*  
*after Domenico Scarlatti*

**Antonio Vivaldi** (1678-1741)  
*from L'estro armonico Op. 3*  
*Concerto for 2 vl & cello in d min*  
*Concerto for 4 vl & cello in b min*  
*Concerto for strings in g min RV 157*

**Francesco Geminiani** (1687-1762)  
*La Follia after Corelli n.12*

## Legacy of the 20th century

**Castelnuovo-Tedesco** (1885-1968)  
*Suite in b after J.S. Bach* (1945)

**Mario Pilati** (1903-1938)  
*Suite for strings and piano* (1925)

**Dmitri Shostakovich**  
*5 pieces for string orchestra*  
*(trascr. by L. Pecchia)*

**P. Hindemith**  
*5 studies for strings op 44*

**Bèla Bartok** (1881-1945)  
*Rumenian Folk Dances*

## La Danza

**Giuseppe Verdi** (1813-1901)  
*The Four Seasons*

**Johannes Brahms** (1833-1897)  
*Hungarian dances n.1 e n.5*

**Béla Bartok** (1881-1945)  
*Rumenian Folk Dances*

**Astor Piazzolla** (1921-1992)  
*Las Cuatros Estaciones Porteñas*  
*For strings and piano by Bragato\**

*or for bandonéon and strings\**  
Fabio Furia, bandoneon - [web site](#)



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## Jubilee 2025

**Antonio Vivaldi** (1678-1741)  
*Sinfonia al Santo Sepolcro RV169*  
*Concerto in C for vl vc org RV541*  
*Concerto per l'Assunzione RV58?*

**Luigi Boccherini** (1743-1805)  
*Stabat Mater with Soprano*

Or **Vivaldi** *Stabat Mater with Alto*

And/Or other sacred works for voice  
and string orchestra

## Angels & Demons

**L. Boccherini** (1743-1805)  
*Sinfonia La casa del Diavolo*  
*Musica notturna delle strade*  
*di Madrid*  
*Concerto for Cello*  
*Fandango*

**G. B. Pergolesi** (1710-1736)  
*Sinfonia in Fa magg*

**U. W. van Wassenaer** (1692-1766)  
*Concerto Armonico nr 2*  
*(long attributed to Pergolesi)*

**J. S. Bach** (1686-1750)  
*Tilge, Höchster, meine Sünden,*  
*BWV 1083*  
*(after Pergolesi's Stabat Mater)*  
*for strings, organo, Alto, Soprano*

## With Choir

**M. Corrette** (1678-1741)  
*Laudate Dominum*  
*(after The Spring by Vivaldi)*

*Arvo Pärt* (1935)  
*Berliner Messe* (1990)

## Christmas Concerto

The most beautiful and famous Concerti Grossi written for the Christmas Night by Baroque masters of the Roman, Venetian and Neapolitan schools such as:

**Torelli, Corelli, Manfredini, Locatelli, Schiassi, Valentini, Sammartini, Vivaldi**



*“I Musici and Vivaldi: a picture worthy of Canaletto.”*

**Il Venerdì** di Repubblica

*“This group still represents one of the best examples of Italian instrumental civilisation.”*

Veniero Rizzardi, **Nuovo di Venezia**

*“From the first passion-filled attack, the blood boils. The accents, the changes in mood are always organic and never random. A scintillating fugue in Haendel’s Concerto Grosso op.6 Nr.1. I Musici have been making the 18th century repertoire shine for almost 70 years, longer than any other chamber orchestra. A blessed evening.”*

**Der Tagesspiegel**

*“The inimitable sound of those ancient instruments - impossibly soft and warm - in unerringly precise yet free and spontaneous hands, gave the music a special luminosity. I have heard these compositions many times, but never performed with this energy, freshness and lightness.”*

**The Reading Eagle**

At this [link](#) an article dedicated to I Musici signed by Lorenzo Tozzi and published in the March 2022 issue of Rivista Musica.

At this [link](#) an article dedicated to I Musici signed by Luisa Sclocchis and published in the May 2022 issue of Suonare News.

At this [link](#) un servizio della trasmissione Save The Date di Rai 5 dedicato a I Musici, in occasione dei 70 anni del gruppo strumentale.

## I MUSICI

violins

Marco Fiorini, *concertmaster*  
*Luditha Hamza*  
*Matteo Pippa*  
*Francesca Vicari*  
Antonio Vicari  
Gianluca Apostoli

Violas

Silvio Di Rocco  
Stefano Morgione

Cellos

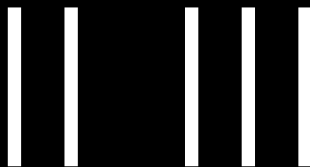
Pietro Bosna  
Luca Signorini

Double Bass

Roberto Gambioli

Cembalo and Piano

Francesco Buccarella



**Photo credits:**

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