**ELEONORA CONTUCCI** Soprano

While still a child, Eleonora Contucci sang in the premiere of Henze's opera *Pollicino* staged at the Cantiere Internazionale d'Arte in Montepulciano. Growing up in the opera world, Contucci had the opportunity to approach different artistic genres under the guidance of figures such as Marcel Marceau, and to take part in numerous productions at the Cantiere, including the Italian premiere of Maxwell Davies’ *Cinderella*, and the world premiere of Ferrero’s *La figlia del Mago*.

Contucci graduated from a conservatory with top marks and honours under the guidance of Nicoletta Panni. She has attended numerous master classes with musicians including Alfredo Kraus, Renata Scotto, Julia Hamari, Regina Resnik, and with Hervé Niquet on baroque vocality. Contucci started an artistic career which has taken her to all the major theatres in Italy and also abroad, including to the Cape Town Opera House.

She has sung in many well-known operas of the international repertoire, incuding *La Bohème* (Mimì and Musetta) and *Madame Butterfly* (Cio Cio San) by Puccini; and *Don Giovanni* (Donna Anna), by Mozart, and in lesser-known works such as *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* by Rimsky-Korsakov, and Haydn's *The Uninhabited Island*, both of which were staged at the *Maggio Musicale Fiorentino*. Highlights from Contucci’s opera career include *La Nozze di Figaro* conducted by Zubin Mehta and directed by Jonathan Miller in Florence; Handel's *Amadigi* with Rinaldo Alessandrini at the San Carlo in Naples; *Parsifal* and *La Favorite* at the Carlo Felice theatre in Genoa; *L'incoronazione di Poppea* conducted by Alessandrini in Salamanca, and at the Beaune Festival; *L'elisir d'amore* at the Maggio Fiorentino conducted by Bruno Campanella; *Orfeo* at La Scala conducted by Alessandrini and directed by Bob Wilson; *Gianni Schicchi* at the Regio di Parma; *L’elisir d'amore* at the Comunale di Modena, and at the Regio di Parma; and Strauss' *Elektra* at the Comunale theatre di Bologna, and in Reggio Emilia. In the years before the pandemic, she returned to the Cantiere Int. d'Arte playing the mother in a new production of Henze's *Pollicino* and playing the title role of the Colonella in Salieri's *Mondo alla Rovescia*.

Eleonora Contucci is also very active as a concert artist. She has sung with conductors such as Latham-Koenig, Albrecht, Bolton, De Bernart, Mazzola, Stenz, Tate, Jurowski, Cilluffo, Ciampa, Böer, and Piovano, and has collaborated with prestigious ensembles and orchestras including *Concerto Italiano*, *Sentieri Selvaggi*, *la Lautten Compagney* of Berlin, the *ORT orchestra* of Tuscany, the *Orchestra Toscanini* of Parma, the *Orchestra di Padova e del Veneto*, the *Sinfonica Abruzzese*, and Milan’s *I Pomeriggi Musicali.* Contucci has performed in well-known works such as Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, and Mozart's *Requiem*, for the most prestigious concert associacions, as well performing unknown and rare works. The year before the COVID-19 pandemic, she gave a Baroque concert with music by Handel for the *Accademia Chigiana* in Siena’s concert series, and she performed Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* under the baton of Luigi Piovano at the *Teatro Bellini* in Catania.

Elena Contucci is also heavily involved with the German Lieder repertoire. On November 30th, 2023, she will sing Brahms' song cycle *Die Schöne Magelone* with orchestra at the *Teatro dei Rinnovati* in Siena. The ‘Brilliant’ label has released two of her CDs, one of Burgmüller's *Lieder,* and one of the world premiere recording of Hugo Staehle's *Lieder*.

Since 2013, Contucci has been teaching opera singing in Italian conservatories. She currently teaches voice at the Conservatorio C. Monteverdi in Bolzano. In 2015, she founded the *Easter Festival* in Montepulciano (www.festivaldipasqua.it), of which she is the artistic director.