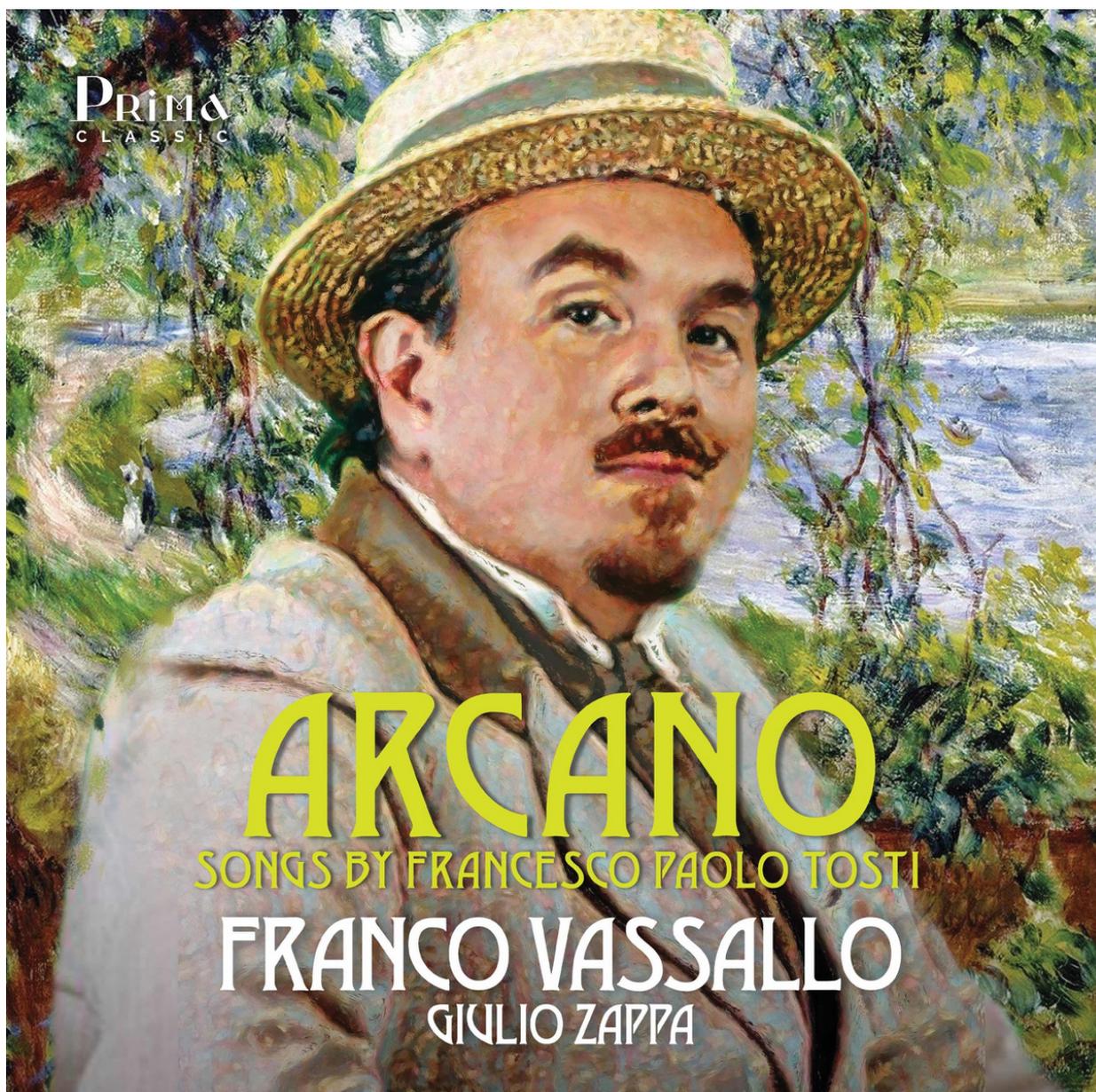


PRIMA CLASSIC PRESENTS



Franco Vassallo's Debut Solo Album
with Giulio Zappa, piano

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ARCANO

SONGS BY FRANCESCO PAOLO TOSTI

FRANCO VASSALLO

GIULIO ZAPPA

- | | |
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| 1 La serenata (1888, Tosti / Cesareo) | Due piccoli notturni (1911, Tosti / D'Annunzio): |
| 2 Ideale (1882, Tosti / Errico) | 13 1. Van li effluvî de le rose da i verzieri |
| 3 Malìa (1887, Tosti / Pagliara) | 14 2. O falce di luna calante |
| 4 L'ultima canzone (1905, Tosti / Cimmino) | 15 Notte bianca (1883, Tosti / D'Annunzio) |
| 5 Rosa (1885, Tosti / Pagliara) | 16 Ninna nanna (1912, Tosti / D'Annunzio) |
| 6 Addio fanciulla... (1893, Tosti / Trad.) | 17 Luna d'estate! (1911, Tosti / Mazzola) |
| 7 Sogno (1886, Tosti / Guerrini) | 18 Tristezza (1908, Tosti / Mazzola) |
| 8 Buon Capo d'Anno (1882, Tosti / D'Annunzio) | 19 Il pescatore canta! (1910, Tosti / Mazzola) |
| 9 Aprile (1882, Tosti / Pagliara) | 20 Good-bye! (1880, Tosti / Whyte-Melville) |
| 10 Arcano (1884, Tosti / D'Annunzio) | 21 Mattinata (1874, Tosti / Panzacchi) |
| 11 È morto Pulcinella! (1881, Tosti / Fontana) | 22 Vuol note o banconote? |
| 12 'A vucchella (1907, Tosti / D'Annunzio) | (1882, Tosti / D'Annunzio) |

An invitation to the magical world of Tosti's Salon Music

High-ceilinged rooms with elaborate chandeliers and exquisite furniture, lavish meals and delicate wines, civilized conversation with the most interesting people of the day, and of course, music. These were the late 19th and early 20th centuries' pleasures the Salons had to offer, and music was not a minor component of this most sophisticated social tradition which thrived in western societies up until 1914.

Francesco Paolo Tosti was no stranger to this world. By putting music to the words of exquisite poets, his fame grew so widely that in 1880 he was appointed the singing master to the British Royal Family, and even Verdi allegedly said that Tosti was the best singing teacher of his time.

On this new recital album, the majestic and accurate baritone of Franco Vassallo along with the accomplished piano playing of Giulio Zappa will take us to that magical time where poetry, beauty, and pleasure were part and parcel of the artistic experience.



FRANCO VASSALLO

Baritone Franco Vassallo is a native of Milan, where at a very early age he discovered his great enthusiasm for opera and classical music.

His unusual singing talent was spotted by a teacher at school who heard him singing in the corridors. The teacher introduced him to his father, the baritone Carlo Meliciani, who had studied singing with the great Carlo Tagliabue and who then became Vassallo's teacher.

Vassallo understood that a developed artist must have broad interests, so he later devoted himself to the study of literature and philosophy at the State University of Milan. He was also aware of how very important the dramatic structure of opera is and how much acting skills can contribute to the intensity of the art form. Accordingly, he devoted much time to the study of the Stanislavski Method.

Vassallo's singing career took off in 1994, when he won the AsLiCo international singing competition in Milan. In 1997, he won the competition to sing Ford in Verdi's *Falstaff* at the Arena di Verona. These performances quickly led to outstanding success in the title role in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. For a number of years, Vassallo was the performer of choice in that role almost everywhere.

In the following years, he specialized in the bel canto roles of Donizetti and Bellini, which took him to La Scala in Milan, the Staatsoper in Vienna, and the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. As he has matured, Vassallo has stayed true to his bel canto roots while developing his career as an interpreter of the great Verdi baritone roles, which include *Simon Boccanegra*, *Attila*, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Don Carlo*, *Rigoletto*, *Macbeth*, *Nabucco*, *Otello*, *Il Trovatore*, and *La Forza del Destino*, with performances in all the great opera houses of the world.



GIULIO ZAPPA

Giulio Zappa was born in Monza. He completed his musical studies under the guidance of Oleg Marshev, graduating in piano performance with the highest distinction. At the same time, he graduated in foreign languages and literature at the State University of Milan with a thesis on Russian opera.

Zappa trained as a repertoire pianist in Milan, in Bianca Maria Casoni's singing class. He then studied with Aldo Ciccolini and Irwin Gage, with the latter in the repertoire of vocal chamber music, which has always been Zappa's greatest passion.

Since 1996, Zappa has actively performed all around the world. He is also frequently invited as a vocal coach and collaborator in theaters and festivals across the globe. Zappa has accompanied and coached hundreds of artists of various generations in Italian and foreign opera.

In recent years, Zappa has successfully dedicated himself to teaching piano accompanists and singers and has been invited to various institutions, including the Bologna Opera School, the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Academy, the Verdi Academy of Parma, the Teatro Real and the Escuela Superior de Canto in Madrid, the Tel Aviv Opera Studio, the Glyndebourne Jerwood Young Artists program, the Academy of the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, and ISACT at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. Since 2012, Zappa has been the artistic director of the Tenerife Opera Studio, a project dedicated to the discovery of young opera talents, whom he also prepares musically.

Zappa has performed in the most important halls in the world, including the Staatsoper in Vienna, Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Opernhaus Zürich, the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro, Teatro Massimo in Palermo, Wigmore Hall in London, the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic, the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, the Rudolfinum in Prague, the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, and others.



CREDITS

Franco Vassallo, voice
Giulio Zappa, piano

Produced by Franco Vassallo and Giulio Zappa
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