

OTTAVIO DANTONE

Ottavio Dantone took his diploma in organ and harpsichord at the “G. Verdi” Conservatoire in Milan, starting his concert career when he was still very young. From the very beginning, he devoted himself to an in-depth study of ancient music, quickly arousing the interest of public and critics alike.

In 1985 he was awarded a prize for basso continuo at the International Competition in Paris, and then in 1986 at the International Competition at Bruges (two of the most important competitions in the world), and was the first Italian to have had such recognition as a harpsichordist at international level.

Since 1996 he has been musical director of Accademia Bizantina in Ravenna.

Since then his usual activity as soloist and musical director of chamber ensemble has intensified with his role as conductor as he enhances his operistic repertoire from the classic to romantic period, performing both well and lesser-known operas, often as world premiers in the latter case. In the spring of 2005 he achieved great success as conductor of *Rinaldo* by G. F. Haendel for Pier Luigi Pizzi’s stage production at La Scala Theatre in Milan.

His regular concert commitments have taken him to the most prestigious opera houses and international festivals.

He can be heard on numerous radio and television recordings in Italy and abroad, as well as on famous recording labels as both soloists and conductor for which he has gained many awards and acclaimed international reviews.

Since 2003 he has been recording for Decca.