

Simone Fermani

Conductor

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1 - Cultural education, prizes and awards

Simone Fermani **obtained his Ph.D. Composition Diploma** at Perugia Conservatory **in only three years (the regular course lasts ten years)** in 1983, and his **Ph.D. Conducting Diploma** at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome afterwards.

He then **embarked on advanced studies** with **Franco Ferrara** in *Rome*, with **Leonard Bernstein**, also as his assistant, in *Vienna* with *Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra*, *Munich* with *Bayerische Rundfunk Orchestra* and *Rome*, and with **Peter Maag** at *Bologna, Padua, Venice and Bern*.

In October 1995, Simone Fermani **was awarded the Perrenoud Prize for conducting** at the *Fifth Vienna International Music Competition in Vienna, Austria*.

In November 2015 Simone Fermani has been **appointed Guest Conductor** at *State Opera and Ballet Theatre "Natalia Sats"* of *Moscow*.

In 1997, Simone Fermani **was enclosed** in the Sixteenth Edition of *Who's Who in Music and Musicians' Directory*, published at Cambridge, UK, and **since 2010 his name is included in the prestigious The International Who's Who**.

2 - Experiences as conductor

Simone Fermani made his **opera debut** conducting *“The barber of Seville”* by *Gioachino Rossini* at *Opéra Marseille*, **giving encore of the “Finale” of Act 2 for all the performances.**

In August 2015 Simone Fermani has been invited to conduct the opera *“Orchestra rehearsal”* at **Birgitta Festival in Tallinn (Estonia)** scoring an **important review** on the **influential and very important web magazine “bachtrack.com”** by the *music critic Simon Rees*.

In May 2014 the *State Opera House “Nathalia Satz” of Moscow* has **invited** Simone Fermani to conduct the **world premiere** of the new opera *“Orchestra Rehearsal”* created by the director Georgij Isaakian with *musics by Giuseppe Verdi, Gioachino Rossini and Gaetano Donizetti*, and based upon the famous homonymous movie by Federico Fellini. The opera **has scored a huge success of audience and reviews**, with also **a great personal success of Simone Fermani as conductor**. The performance *has been replied many times along 2014 season* and **it is still currently performed.**

On September 4 and 5, 2013, Simone Fermani **was invited to open** the *Verdi & Wagner Festival* at **Helikon Opera Theatre of Moscow** for the *Celebration of the Bicentenary of the birth* of the two *famous Composers*; he conducted *“Un ballo in maschera”* by *his ancestor Giuseppe Verdi*, **scoring a huge success of audience, media and reviews**. Here follows a choice of the most important articles and tv programs among the many reports given by the most important Russian TV, newspapers and music magazines which speak about this big success:

Opera News

Itogi Ru- Moscow

RG RU-Moscow Helikon Opera web site

MK RU-Moscow

Radiovesti-Moscow

RG RU Moscow

RIA RU- Moscow

Interview at Radio The Voice of Russia-Moscow

Interview to newspapers Izvestia-Moscow

MN RU-Moscow

Moscow-info

STRF RU-Moscow

Teatral on-line-Moscow

RG RU-Moscow

Interview to newspapers Novaya Gazeta-Moscow

By *Giuseppe Verdi*, Simone Fermani conducted: *“Nabucco”* in *Parma*, *“La Traviata”* at *Belgrade National Opera, Serbia*, and *“Messa di Requiem”* in *Santa Fè, Argentina*.

By *Gioachino Rossini* he also conducted *“L’italiana in Algeri”* at *Teatro Massimo, Palermo*, *“The barber of Seville”* at *Teatro Regio, Parma*, and *“La cambiale di matrimonio”* at *49th International Summer Festival of Ljubljana*. He conducted also **other well-known operas** of *the most famous composers* of **Italian opera repertory**.

As guest conductor, Simone Fermani was invited by: *Youth Orchestra of National Academy “Santa Cecilia” of Rome*; *Haydn Orchester of Bolzano*; *Orchestra of Lyric Theatre of Cagliari*; *Orchestra “Capella Cracoviensis” of Kraków (Poland)*; *Orquesta Sinfonica de Santa Fè (Argentina)*; *Symphony New Brunswick (Canada)*; *Symphony Orchestra of the National Opera Theatre of Maribor (Slovenia)*; *Symphony Orchestra “Gioachino Rossini” of Pesaro (Italy)* .

He also was **invited to conduct** at: *Montreal, Ottawa (Canada)*; *Bangkok (Thailand)*; *Würzburg (Germany)*; *Strasbourg, Belfort (France)*; *Neuchatel (Switzerland)*; *Murcia, Cartagena, Santander - Palacio de Festivales (Spain)*; *Rome - Terme di Caracalla, Florence, Milan (Italy)*; *Belgrade (Serbia)*..

3 - Experiences as artistic and music director

Simone Fermani **obtained** his *Master in artistic management* at *Catholic University of Milan* in 1996.

He was **the founder** of the *Symphony Orchestra of Catholic University of Milan*, where he *covered* also both the positions of **Artistic and Music Director** of the orchestra from 1991 to 2001.

As **artistic director** he *designed, managed and conducted* **9 concert seasons of 55 symphonic and opera performances** done in the *Concert Hall of the University*. *Under his guidance*, the orchestra went on **20 Italian, 8 European (in France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Slovenia)** and **three intercontinental tours: in Thailand (twice) and in Canada**

Guest conductors were **Riccardo Muti** and **Peter Maag** and, among the several soloists, *special prestigious guest soloists of the Orchestra* were: **Susanna Mildonian, Maxence Larrieu, Rocco Filippini, Francesco Manara, Vincenzo Balzani** and others.

The celebrated **Italian composer Niccolò Castiglioni** *composed and dedicated to the orchestra* the score "**Abendlied (Evening song)**", published by Ricordi.

It was **premiered** in November 20, 1995 **under conducting of Simone Fermani, in presence of the Author**.

In June 1997 Simone Fermani **founded the Orchestra Filarmonica Marchigiana**, currently still operating also as Regional orchestra of Marche (Central Italy), where he *covered* also both the positions of **Artistic and Music Director** from 1978 to 1980.

4 - Recordings

Luigi Cherubini: “Requiem in C minor for choir and orchestra”

Choir of the Municipality of Milan

Symphony Orchestra of Catholic University of Milan

Conductor: ***Simone Fermani***

Chorus Master: *Mino Bordignon*

Label: **Recordis – CD 001-2001**

Live recording: *Milan, Church of S. Maria delle Grazie, March 17, 1999*

Season 1999 – *“An evening with Cherubini”*

5 - Rediscovery and reconstruction of the sistrum of Gioachino Rossini

Simone Fermani **discovered** *from the original score* and **rebuilt** the **sistrum**, an instrument designed by *Gioachino Rossini* for the orchestra of “*Il barbiere di Siviglia (The barber of Seville)*”, which was *lost* after the first performances of this opera in Rome on February 1816. He **patented his discovery** and actually **he is the owner of the only specimen of this instrument in the world.**

The **sistrum** was **used for the first time after its rebuilding** in the *performances of “Il Barbiere di Siviglia”* conducted by *Simone Fermani* at *Opera de Marseille* in 1998.

In 2006 Simone Fermani was *appointed by the “Gioachino Rossini” Foundation of Pesaro* to write an article which **describes his rediscovering and reconstruction of the sistrum** and in June 2007 this article **was published** in the *official Bulletin* of the *Foundation*, **recognizing officially the instrument.**

The instrument had **received much attention** also from the **media**: in November 2007 the **sistrum** was **special guest** during the very popular broadcasting of the first channel of the *national Italian television RAI*, named “*Unomattina*”.



GIUSEPPE VERDI

LUIGIA FIANDRINI

GIUSEPPINA STREPPONI

6 - Descent from Giuseppe Verdi and Giuseppina Strepponi

Simone Fermani is the *direct descendant of Giuseppe Verdi and Giuseppina Strepponi*: in fact, *his Great Grandmother Luigia Fiandrini was their sole daughter.*

In March 10th, 2015 the Conservatory of Music “Giuseppe Verdi” of Milan has officially **presented the first publication of the book “Giuseppe Verdi e la trovatella di Ferrara”** written by *Simone and Giovanni Fermani*, which tells the story of the descendance of Simone Fermani and his family from Giuseppe Verdi and Giuseppina Strepponi with also many documents that support this story.

In April 7th, 2015 the first channell of Russian National Television Russia 1 has **broadcasted a film-documentary** titled “*Destiny*” (“Судьба”), which also *tells the story of the descendance of Simone Fermani from Verdi and Strepponi*; the documentary has **scored a huge audience of public both in Russia and worldwide.**

Professor Hiroko Kato, famous Japanese musicologist and music critic whose fields of specializing are *the life and the operas of Verdi*, has recently published a new book on Verdi's operas and has devoted a chapter of it to the history of Giuseppe Verdi's daughter and the book of Simone and Giovanni Fermani that tells it. She also **published an article on the same story** in the official journal of the Verdi Society of Tokyo with even bibliographical references that confirm it and, for the Japanese television “Nikkei TV”, she has recorded a video in which she presents the book of Simone and Giovanni Fermani and the chapter dedicated to the daughter of Verdi inserted in her new book.

7 - Educational experiences

Winner of three competitions listed by the *Italian Ministry of Education* ***to teach at the Italian Conservatories of Music***, in November 2007 Simone Fermani **was appointed Professor of score reading** at ***Conservatory of Music "Giuseppe Verdi" of Milan*** and in 2009 the *Academic Council* of the same Conservatory appointed him **Professor of conducting**.

He has been **invited to hold Master Classes** of *Italian opera* for *conductors and singers* in the following ***European Music Institutions***:

Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, in 2019;
Conservatorio Superior de Musica of La Coruña, Spain, in 2011 and 2015;
Latvian Academy of Music "Jazep Vitols" of Riga, Latvia, in 2011 and 2012;
Conservatorio Superior de Musica of Vigo, Spain, in 2012 where he **conducted a selection of "The Barber of Seville" by G. Rossini**;
Lithuanian Academy of Music of Vilnius, Lithuania, in 2011.

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<https://www.facebook.com/simone.fermani1>
(<https://it-it.facebook.com/pages/La-Trovatella-di-Ferrara/177766042233961>)