



PROGETT *Opera*

# Summary

• The progettOpera	<u>3</u>
• The ensemble	<u>4</u>
• The program	<u>11</u>
• The contacts	<u>12</u>

# PROGETT *Opera*

**ProgettOpera** is an international chamber ensemble that reinterprets Giacomo Puccini's operatic repertoire in a new key through a unique lineup of six saxophonists (soprano, alto, two tenors, two baritones) and a percussionist. Founded by seven musicians from different parts of the world (Italy, France, South Africa, Japan) for the great tradition of Italian opera, the ensemble blends tradition and innovation, making the complex operatic scores accessible to a new generation of listeners.

From international festivals to major concert halls and theaters, the ensemble is ready to offer the great operatic tradition to new audiences, opening the doors of classical music to an ever-widening audience.

At the heart of **ProgettOpera**'s artistic vision is the ambitious challenge of conveying the immensity of Puccini's operas through the encounter between the power and refinement of saxophones and the energy of percussion. The goal is to concentrate the impressive operatic ensemble in a chamber formation, preserving the depth, colors, and nuances that make these compositions so monumental.

Thanks to original arrangements, created specifically for the formation of Maestro Nicola Hansalik Samale, **ProgettOpera** explores new timbres, interpreting masterpieces such as *Tosca*, *Turandot*, and *Madama Butterfly* in a chamber arrangement, capable of giving the works a new look while maintaining their emotional intensity.

**ProgettOpera** explores new artistic languages and forms of expression by integrating music, theater, and visual arts for a production that breaks the boundary between artistic disciplines. Its vision embraces the future of chamber music on a global scale.

The ensemble is constantly evolving and open to collaborations with contemporary composers and artists to expand the repertoire for saxophones and percussion, including new musical commissions and innovative projects.



[Watch here our video promo](#)

# Nicolas Allard

## Soprano Saxophone

Nicolas Allard is a versatile musician and saxophonist, recognized for his ability to navigate various musical genres. Active in both the Quatuor Avena and the Oûz Trio, he is known for his artistic versatility, spanning both classical music and jazz.

Originally from the Hautes-Alpes, Allard began his musical studies at the Conservatory of Gap before continuing at the Conservatory of Lyon. In 2016, he joined the Haute École des Arts du Rhin in Strasbourg, where he earned the Diplôme National Supérieur Professionnel de Musicien (DNSPM) in 2018 and the Diplôme d'État for saxophone teaching in 2020. Since 2016, he has been a member of Quatuor Avena, with whom he earned a Master's degree in chamber music. He also obtained a DNSPM in jazz and subsequently the Diplôme d'État for jazz teaching. Since 2022, he has directed the Big Band of Bischheim, and in October 2024, he released his first album with the Oûz Trio.





# Fabio *Cesare*

## Alto Saxophone

Fabio Cesare, born in 1995, is an Henri Selmer Paris and JLV Paris artist. He graduated with top honors and distinction in saxophone in 2016 from the “Nicola Sala” Conservatory in Benevento under the guidance of Maestro P. Rigliari. In 2018, he continued his studies at the Strasbourg Conservatory (France) with P. Geiss, receiving the distinction “très bien avec félicitations du jury.” He then obtained a Second-Level Master’s degree in chamber music at the Haute École des Arts du Rhin in Strasbourg with the Quatuor Avena. Winner of national and international competitions, he has performed in Italy, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Croatia, and Bulgaria. Fabio has also undertaken international tours in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Japan, and regularly holds masterclasses. Since 2017, he has been a regular guest with the Orchestra of the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, collaborating with renowned conductors of international fame. In 2023, he released *Massar*, the Quatuor Avena's first album, with Indesens Paris, and in 2025, his first solo album *Libellula* will be released, featuring his own compositions in a contemporary style with jazz influences, accompanied by invited guest artists.



# Sumika Tsujimoto

## Tenor Saxophone

Sumika Tsujimoto is a contemporary artist highly active on her YouTube channel, [Sumika] Saxophone, which has surpassed 108,000 subscribers and garnered over 20 million views. Her duo albums with piano, including *Oto-no-jisho*, *Oto-no-Ame*, and *Oto-no-Ginga*, were born from collaborations with young Japanese composers. Born in Nara, Japan, she began playing the saxophone at the age of 13. After attending Takamado Music School, she studied at Soai University of Music in Osaka with professors Suwako Iwata and Masahiro Maeda, earning the university president's award. She won third prize in solo and chamber music at the Osaka International Music Competition in 2012 and 2015, as well as the top saxophone award in Japan's classical music competition. Since 2016, she has studied at the Strasbourg Conservatory, where she earned an advanced diploma with the distinction "très bien avec félicitations du jury." In 2020, she completed a second-level master's in chamber music with the Quatuor Avena. Sumika is also an Henri Selmer Paris artist.





# Pasquale *Cesare*

## Tenor Saxophone

Pasquale Cesare, a saxophonist from Campania, specializes in classical contemporary techniques. He is recognized both nationally and internationally, and from 2014 to 2020, he collaborated with and was a member of the Italian Saxophone Quartet, a prestigious ensemble founded in the 1980s by saxophonist Federico Mondelci. He has performed in renowned concert halls worldwide, supported by major international organizations, in countries such as Italy, Austria, Russia, the United States, and China. In 2014, he graduated with highest honors (110 cum laude) from the G. Rossini State Conservatory of Music in Pesaro, presenting an exceptional thesis titled “The Voice of the Sax.”

Pasquale’s commitment to capturing the magic hidden between each note in music reflects his extensive experiences and the influential people he has met, especially when he began his journey in this wonderful world of music. Noteworthy among his recordings is his album *The Italian Way from Classic to Film Music*, published with the Da Vinci Classics label. A saxophonist for the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, he is also dedicated to teaching. As a tenured teacher in the Italian Ministry of Education, in 2024, he is instructing at the secondary school level. He remains active in his personal quest to make music learning an inspiring experience for his students.



# Adam *Campbell*

## Baritone Saxophone

Adam Campbell was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and moved to France in 2013 in pursuit of new artistic adventures. A graduate of the Conservatory of Besançon and the Haute École des Arts du Rhin in Strasbourg, he studied under the guidance of Cécile Dubois and Philippe Geiss. His musical journey is enriched by unique experiences, such as performing on the stage of the Alexis Grüss Circus, teaching saxophone at a summer camp in Haiti, and performing Glazunov's Concerto with an orchestra in Manila. With the Quatuor Avena, he has won numerous international competitions in Japan, Italy, and France. His album *Le saxophone à la Française*, released in 2023, combines various influences from the French classical repertoire and was met with great acclaim, including performances in South Africa and an invitation from the French ambassador in the Philippines. Since 2020, Adam has been teaching saxophone at the CRR in Nancy and regularly holds masterclasses. His passion for cultural diversity and exchange makes him a key figure in the Quatuor Avena.





# Gianmarco *Compare*

## **Baritone Saxophone**

Gianmarco Compare, saxophonist and educator, graduated with top honors in saxophone in 2012 from the “Nicola Sala” Conservatory in Benevento under the guidance of Maestro Paolo Rigliari. In 2014, he earned a degree in Music Education, followed by a second-level degree in Music Production from the Benevento Conservatory in 2018. From a young age, he has participated in various music competitions, achieving significant results both as a soloist and in chamber ensembles. He has collaborated with numerous ensembles and symphonic orchestras, performing at national and international festivals. In 2022, he founded the Almach Duo, a versatile ensemble engaged in extensive musical research. He currently teaches saxophone at a secondary school with a music program. His interest and curiosity lead him to explore various musical styles and genres, and he regularly collaborates with jazz and street bands.

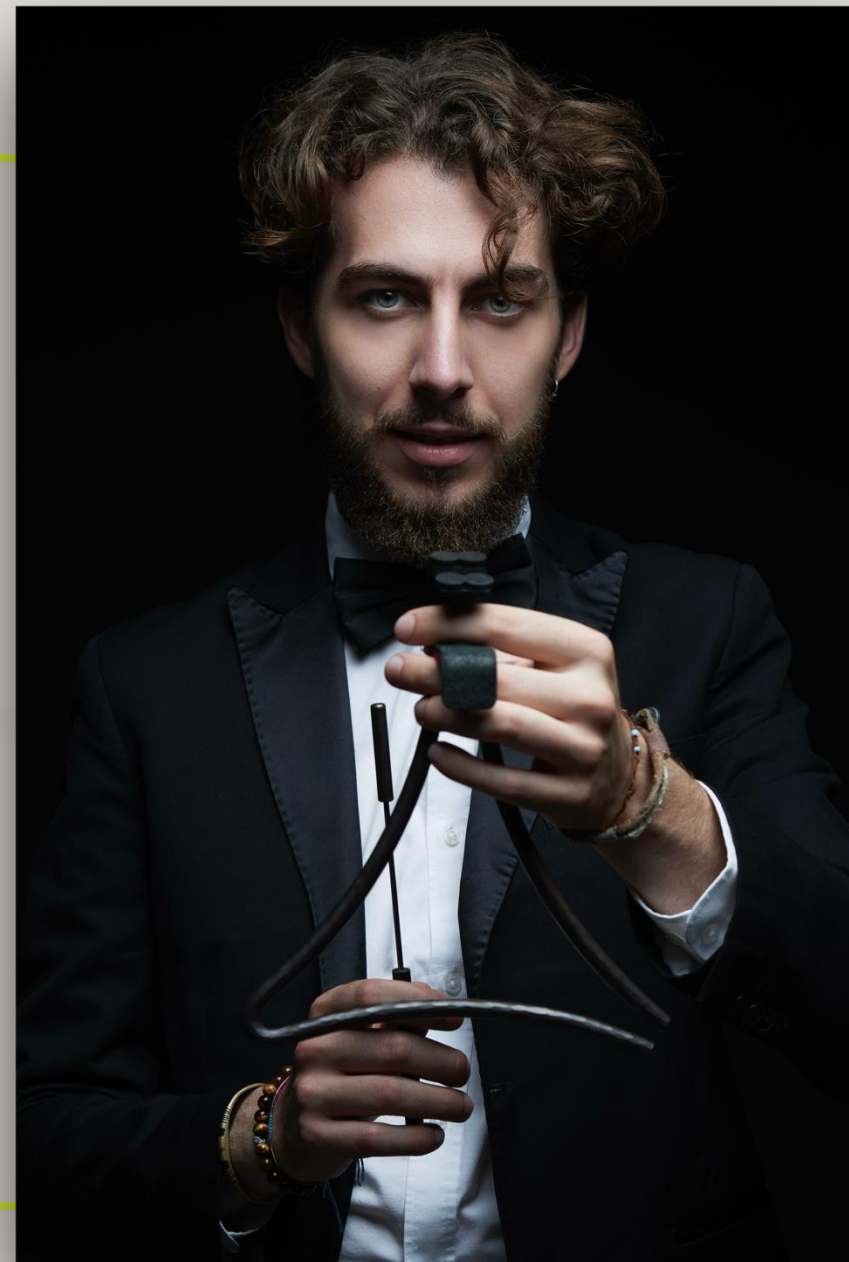


# Christian *Di Meola*

## Percussion instruments

Christian Di Meola is a percussionist and timpanist who graduated with top honors from the “Nicola Sala” Conservatory in Benevento. He continued his studies by obtaining the Advanced Diploma in Timpani with Maestro Antonio Catone at the National Academy of Santa Cecilia and a Diploma in Advanced Studies in Timpani and Orchestral Percussion with Masters Gregory Lecoœur and Raymond Curfs at the School of Music of Fiesole. He furthered his training in Berlin with the percussionists of the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin.

Throughout his career, he has won auditions and collaborated with some of Italy's most prestigious orchestras, including the Orchestra of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the Orchestra of the Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari, the Orchestra of the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, the Puccini Festival Orchestra in Torre del Lago, the Orchestra of the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, and the Camerata Strumentale Città di Prato. He has also participated in international tours in Finland, Spain, the Netherlands, Denmark, Tunisia, China, and Nicaragua. Alongside his performing career, he is deeply committed to teaching and is currently a percussion instructor at the Conservatory “Giuseppe Verdi” High School in Milan, where he shares his expertise and passion with the next generation of musicians.



# Concert program



Giacomo Puccini, *Tosca* 48 min

*Concert program*



Giacomo Puccini, *Madame Butterfly* 50 min

*Concert program*



Giacomo Puccini, *Turandot* 52 min

*Concert program*



# Contacts



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