



Composer, conductor, **SIMONE FONTANELLI** is lecturer in Contemporary Instrumental Music at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg and Director of the Institut für Neue Musik at the same University. Winner of the prestigious Salzburg Mozart Prize (1995) for Composition. Guest, as conductor and composer, at international festivals in Italy, USA, Austria, England, Spain, Russia, Hungary, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Israel, Taiwan and Thailand.

He is considered one of the most brilliant musical minds: “I really appreciate his talent.... I feel his way of making music is very close to mine” (György Kurtág); “Fontanelli's music is poetically beautiful, emotional” (Muzsika, Hungarian Music Magazine); “I had the great fortune to hear one of my compositions conducted by Simone Fontanelli. It is rare that someone's music is prepared with such sensitivity and insight combined with such superb technical skill” (George Crumb).

His compositions are performed by great performers, including Enrico Bronzi, Dorothee Oberlinger, Dmitry Sinkovsky, Robert Oberaigner, Staatskapelle Dresden, and others. His chamber opera ‘Es war einmal ein Stück Holz’, based on C. Collodi's Pinocchio, commissioned in 2011 by the Gürzenich-Orchester Köln and the Kinderoper Cologne, was a great success in Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Austria, as well as a CD production in the English version.

Simone Fontanelli was born in 1961 in Milan. Classically trained guitarist. Diploma in Composition at the Milan Conservatory, pupil of Davide Anzaghi and Umberto Rotondi. He also studied Philosophy at the University of Milan. He has given masterclasses and guest seminars at Academies and Universities in Europe, Asia and the USA, including the Juilliard School in New York; the Royal College of Music, the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London; the ‘F. Liszt’ Academy in Budapest, the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow and many others.

From 2003 to 2009, he was Artistic and Musical Director of the Gamper Festival of Contemporary Music (Brunswick-Maine, USA) and among the teachers of the prestigious Bowdoin International Music Festival. Since 2023 he has been among the professors of the prestigious Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena.