

***Sing aloud harmonious spheres:  
Music, Philosophy and the  
Order of the Universe in the Renaissance***

**Palazzo Papafava, University of Warwick, Venice, 13 May 2011, 4.30-5.30pm**



**Conference Recital**

**HARPSICHORD MUSIC IN 16TH CENTURY ITALY**

**Francesco Cera - harpsichord<sup>1</sup>**

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| Anonimi<br>(16th cent.)           | - Tre Gagliarde<br>from “Intabolatura nova di varie sorte de balli” Venezia 1551 |
| Giulio Segni<br>(16th cent.)      | - Ricercare VI<br>- Ricercare IX<br>from “Musica Nova” Venezia 1540              |
| Claudio Merulo<br>(1533-1604)     | - Toccata del duodecimo tuono<br>- Canzon La Bovia                               |
| Andrea Gabrieli<br>(1533-1585)    | - Canzon Qui la dira<br>- Ricercare arioso terzo                                 |
| Antonio Valente<br>(16th cent.)   | - Gagliarda alla napoletana (Napoli 1567)<br>- Recercata del quinto tono         |
| Luzzasco Luzzaschi<br>(1545-1607) | - Ricercare terzo  |
| Carlo Gesualdo<br>(1566-1613)     | - Canzon franzese  |

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<sup>1</sup> The harpsichord Mr. Cera plays was built in 2001 by Roberto Livi, harpsichord maker from Pesaro, after an original of Alessandro Trasuntino built in Venice in 1535, now in the collection of the Royal College of Music in London.

**Francesco Cera** was born in Bologna, Italy, and studied organ and harpsichord in Bologna and Amsterdam, specializing under Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini and Gustav Leonhardt. Regarded as one of Italy's leading early music specialists, Francesco Cera applies his distinctive interpretative approach also to Baroque vocal and instrumental music. After being member of the ensemble *Il Giardino Armonico* and collaborating with renowned specialists, he founded the *Ensemble Arte Musica* in 1997, with whom he performs early Italian vocal repertoire. He is also an expert in ancient Italian organ and organ music, giving master classes and working as a consultant for organ restorations.

Francesco Cera has recorded for Tactus, Dynamic and Tempéraments the complete keyboard works of major 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italian composers (Rossi, Merula, Storace, Valente, Pasquini) recorded on historical Italian organs, and three CD's of Domenico Scarlatti's harpsichord sonatas, praised by international music magazines. Label Arts has recently issued his recordings of Bach's French Suites and four harpsichord concertos and ORF Alte Musik is due to issue *Luzzaschi's madrigals for Il Concerto delle Dame* with *Ensemble Arte Musica*.

Since 1991 he has performed as a soloist and leader of the Ensemble Arte Musica in international festivals such as Festival Resonanzen in Vienna, Festival of Flanders in Bruges and Gent, Festival of Saint-Michel-en-Thiérache, Musica e poesia a San Maurizio in Milano, Villa Medici in Roma, Bologna Festival, Arte Organica e Castilla y Leon, Donau Festwochen.

He is regularly invited to give master classes in Europe (Smarano Academy, Piccola Accademia Montisi, Academie d'orgue de Fribourg) and the United States (Oberlin College, Arizona State University, Cornell University).

Since 2001 he has been living in Rome and he is appointed Honorary Inspector of historical organs. Website: [www.francescocera.it](http://www.francescocera.it)