

The Conservatory of Music "Niccolò Paganini" of Genoa - today acknowledged as Institute of High Education for Music and Arts - was founded in 1830. At first it was a civic Music Institute, but later it became a state-run school in 1967, included in the AFAM department. Since 1972 its seat has been established in the prestigious Villa Bombrini. Today the institute enrolls about 600 students with one of the highest rate of foreign students (5.5%) among all the Institutes of High Education in Italy (also among Universities, Conservatories and Academies).

For fifteen years the Conservatory has been working in close artistic and research collaboration with the University of Genoa, the "Ligustica" Academy of Fine Arts of Genoa, Carlo Felice Opera House Foundation, the local and central administrations, the main Italian and foreign concert and music associations, as well as artistic and scientific associations.

For many years the interest in the cultural and artistic exchange has been proudly marking the Conservatory in the whole Italian panorama. Since the 1980s the Conservatory has been developing several artistic and cultural projects with foreign institutions above all with countries of the Mediterranean area. In 1994 it carried out a project about the innovative teaching method in film scoring with the financial support of CEE. Since 1997 it has been a member of ECUME (Echanges Culturels en Méditerranée), a network of more than 30 high level institutes of music education which organizes exchanges, concert reviews, projects of collaboration and cooperation in order to spread the Mediterranean culture.

Since 2006 it has been a member of AEC (European Association of Conservatories - [www.aecinfo.org](http://www.aecinfo.org)), a European cultural and educational network with more than 238 member institutions for professional music training in 55 countries.

From 2001 to 2011 the Conservatory published the quarterly "Il Cantiere Musicale" for the sake of documentation and cultural spread. In addition to education programs every year it organizes about 150 cultural events and since 1998 it has produced more than 20 CD-cased editions with a selection of the best opera, chamber and symphonic music productions played by the main groups of the Institute: Orchestra of Conservatory, Orchestra Giovanissima, Coro Polifonico (Polyphonic Chorus), Coro di Voci Bianche (Children's Choir), Ensemble Vox Antiqua, Ensemble for Ancient Music, Big Band Jazz, Ensemble di Ottoni (brass), Paganini Chorus Clarinet, Ensemble Noos (contemporary music).

In 2006 several projects were carried out in order to preserve its heritage:

- computerisation of the library paper catalogue (about 32.000 volumes);
- digitization of the Ancient Heritage (about 6.000 manuscripts and printed scores);
- audio transfer to CD of LP heritage (about 4.000 LPs) and opening of a new CD section in the library itself;
- collection of organ releases and a new area for setting historical valuable instruments, as well as Paganini's ones.

Furthermore, several European and international projects have been carried out between 2007 and 2013 as to let students study and work abroad such as Erasmus and Leonardo projects, Cultura, Meda.

Moreover, the Conservatory works in close collaboration with the conservatories of Nice and Lyon within the festivals "Suona francese" and "Suona italiano" promoted by the Institut Français in Italy and the French and Italian governments.

In the last year (2013) the conservatory can proudly count the following important events:

- B. Britten, *Noye's Fludde* (in collaboration with the "Ligustica" Academy of Fine Arts of Genoa Palazzo Ducale Foundation, Carlo Felice Opera House ), December 2012.
- *Tra i vivi non posso più stare*, performance from *The investigation* by Peter Weiss (a co-production with Cargo Theatre of Genova), February 2013.
- H. Purcell, *Dido and Aeneas* (in collaboration with the Carrara Academy of Fine Arts ), April, May, October 2013.
- *Compasso da navigare*, concerts included in the three-year project IP Erasmus "GEO, Galata Electroacoustic Orchestra" (with Istanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi, Istanbul Teknik Üniversitesi, Universitat Pompeu Fabra di Barcelona, Conservatory G. P. da Palestrina of Cagliari).
- *Berio e le sue due case*, concerts for the tenth anniversary of Luigi Berio's death (in collaboration with Conservatory Luigi Cherubini of Florence), May 2013.