

Composer, double bassist,
author, visual artist

**Valentina
Ciardelli**



**BBC Music
Magazine Rising
Star July 2020**

**Apple Music
classical
contemporary
playlist 2021**

Ciardelli is budding virtuoso,
with captivating stage presence
and also an excellent composer.
Leon Bosch - conductor and double bassist

Ciardelli is expanding the boundaries of her instrument.
A bet she has already won.
Luciano Fioramonti - Ansa.it

Considering the contours of growth in Ciardelli's remarkable range of talents,
I think that her early immersion in Zappa's music enabled her to thrive on all it
has to offer.
Dan Ursini - Escape to life

With her incredible virtuosity on the double bass, Ciardelli plays
her Puccini's fantasies like the most virtuoso opera singer.
Frano Eco - Musical News



Biography

Valentina was born in Pietrasanta (Lucca - Italy), to a German mother and Italian father. Initially a pianist, she started to play double bass in late 2009, graduating with Honours from the "Istituto Musicale L. Boccherini" in Lucca in October 2014. She then gained her Master of Performance (Honours) at the Royal College of Music in July 2016 and continued further studies under the guidance of Leon Bosch and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, where she was the recipient scholarships from Trinity College London and the Leverhulme Trust. In 2018/19, she was awarded Trinity Laban's Carne Trust Junior Fellowship for an Individual.

Valentina also focused her attention on composition, graduating in March 2014 with Honours. Valentina has won several awards and prizes including first prize in the RCM Double Bass Competition 2016, the Vernon Elliot Double bass Competition 2018, the Vivian Joseph Classical Concerto Competition 2018, String Category and the De Simone and Partners prize in the Chamber Music Festival in Rome. Valentina also won a place with a scholarship in the Accademia Chigiana for summer 2018 with Maestro Giuseppe Ettore. She was finalist in important national and international competitions such as the "Migliori Diplomati D'Italia" (best young Italian music graduate) 2015 and "Double bass international competition Galicia Garcia Graves. She was selected with other 16 young double bass players around the world to perform in the live final rounds at the worldwide double bass solo competition granted by "Bradetich Foundation" in Denton, Texas, at the end of August 2017. Valentina also won several orchestral auditions such as Gustav Mahler Academy 2016 and BBC SO training scheme. She recently won the Artist in Residence at the BANFF, Alberta (Canada) that has hosted her from 15th till 28th September 2019. She gave solo performance with "I solisti veneti" with Maestro Claudio Scimone and she won the prestigious scholarship granted by this Academy (Proliber). She has performed as a soloist in the prestigious London concert halls Wigmore Hall and St. Martin in the Field and has been invited to the pre-opening of the Zappanale 2018 in St. Katharinen Kirche (Hamburg) with her Trio featuring the Worldwide saxophone virtuoso Napoleon Murphy Brock.

Currently, Valentina is Double bass professor at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance (London, UK) and she has been invited as panelist for many international solo competitions such as Virtuoso & Belcanto 2022 and the International Society of Bassists 2023. She won a scholarship from associazione Animando in Lucca for a research project investigating the music of Giacomo Puccini's ancestors and her work has been published for the Japanese Press da Vinci. She has debuted her first solo album, Music from the Sphinx, (silver medal in the Global Music Award) in November 2019 with a brand-new repertoire. Valentina's work is focused to expand the double bass solo repertoire composing new virtuoso pieces, transcribing mostly Frank Zappa's Repertoire and playing new composition written for her from many contemporary composers. Three of her new double bass solo releases with the British label Ulysses arts has been selected for Apple classical and Contemporary Classical music playlists. Her second album Ruutsu has been released on April 24th 2022 and will be world premiere in Teatro la Fenice in Venice. Valentina also has a wide Jazz experience playing in important Jazz Festival such as Dusseldorf Jazz Marathon, Villa Celimontana Jazz Festival, Tuscia Jazz, Umbria Jazz Clinics and she got to final in competition such as Tuscia Jazz as Best double bass and electric bass player and Nicola Tiberio Awards in 2012. She plays a 2014 Scipioni Bass made in Mantua.

Solo

A. Martin

- Elegia para contrabajo solo

J. S. Bach

- Sonata N.1 in G major for cello solo
- Seconda sonata in re maggiore per viola da gamba e continuo

L. Van Beethoven

- Piano Sonata N.8, Op.13, "Pathétique": II. Adagio cantabile for solo double bass

G. Bottesini

- Variazioni sui temi de " La Sonnambula" di V. Bellini per contrabbasso e pianoforte
- Variazioni sul tema " Nel cor piu' non mi sento" di V. Bellini per contrabbasso e

pianoforte

- Elegia e Tarantella

- Grande Allegro di Concerto all Mendelssohn per contrabbasso e pianoforte

- il fantasma

V. S. Ciardelli

- 4 Portraits:

I Leonard

II Igor

III Frank

IV Giacomo

- Zen Meditation: I - II - III

- The great derp in the sky

- Ciak-ona

- Lower Larynx

- Studio N.1 - Che Shatzu vuoi?

- Studio N.2 - Questi Cazzi di Bicordo

- Studio N.3 - Harmonia Contrabbassundi

- Studio N.4 - Shift me up

- Studio N.5 - T'ho pizzicato

- A Bunch of...

H. Fryba

- Suite im alten stil for solo double bass

R. Gliere

- For pieces for double bass and piano

E. Granados

- Intermezzo from opera Goyescas

T. Hauta Aho

- Kadenza for double bass

P. Mascagni

- Intermezzo da Cavalleria Rusticana for solo double bass

- Apri la tua finestra da Iris

S. Mazis

- "Antico Inverno, Op. 143 D" per contrabbasso solo dedicato a Valentina Ciardelli

G. Puccini

- Vissi d'arte from Opera Tosca - for solo double bass

- How I met Puccini series:

I. V'e' nella selva oscura una leggenda - fantasia su " Le Villi" per contrabbasso e arpa

II M'attendi Edgar lassù! - fantasia su " Edgar" per contrabbasso e arpa

III Ciarlatani o Speciali? - fantasia su " Manon Lescaut" per contrabbasso e pianoforte

IV Sui cieli Bigi - fantasia sui temi de "La Boheme" per violoncello e contrabbasso

V O scarpia Avanti a Dio! - Fantasia su la "Tosca" per contrabbasso e pianoforte

VI E Soffitto, e Pareti, un viaggio in Madama Butterfly - per contrabbasso e pianoforte

VII Che puoi farmi? Non ti temo - Fantasia su " La fanciulla del West" per

contrabbasso e Pianoforte

VIII Io riprendo il mio volo e la mia pena - fantasia su " La rondine" per due

contrabbassi

IX Fantasia su " Il Trittico per arpa contrabbasso e pianoforte

X Una Femmina con la corona in testa! - Fantasia su " Turandot" per contrabbasso e

pianoforte

S. Rachmaninoff

- Vocalize

- Aleko's Cavatina

G. Rossini

- Eude Asthmatique

- Tutto cangia il ciel s'abbella

- L'orgia

B. Salles

- Toccata per V.S.C. for solo double bass

F. Schubert

- Der Tod und das Mädchen for solo double bass

- Arpeggione Sonata in A minor

- 4 Lieder for double bass and piano:

I Die Forelle

II Erbkönig

III Der Tod und das Mädchen

IV Staendchen

G. Sparano

- "Momento" solo double bass for Valentina Ciardelli

G. Verdi

- Preludio di Traviata

- Fantasia sui temi di " Aida" per contrabbasso e pianoforte

F. V. Zappa

- Cletus Awreetus Awrightus
- Little Umbrellas
- Be Bop Tango
- The Girl in the magnesium dress
- Baby Snakes
- Peaches en Regalia
- Inca Roads
- G Spot tornado
- Igor's Boogie
- Dog Breath Variations
- Son of Mr Green Genes
- What is the Uglier part of your body?
- Echidna's arf (of you)
- Zomby woof
- Blessed Relief
- Florentine Pogen
- Sofa N. 2
- Your Mouth
- Absolutely free
- Misterioso
- Broken Hearts are for Assholes
- Jesus thinks you are a Jerk
- Brown Shoes

Camera

J. Alexander

- Helve and Swipple for double bass and Electric bass

L. Bernstein

- Chichester Psalms (viola double bass transcription)
- West Side story fantasy for soprano, double bass and piano (arr. V.S.Ciardelli)

G. Bottesini

- Gran Duo per violino, contrabbasso e orchestra/ pianoforte
- Gran Duo per clarinetto, contrabbasso e orchestra/ pianoforte
- Gran Quintetto
- Due duetti per soprano, contrabbasso e pianoforte/ orchestra
- Passione Amorosa per due contrabbasso e orchestra/ pianoforte

J. Brahms

- Zwei Gesänge, transcription for viola, double bass and piano

C. D. Von Dittersdorf

- Duo per Viola e Contrabbasso
- Sinfonia concertante per viola e contrabbasso

D. Dragonetti

- Duetto for Cello and Bass

M. Glinka

- Grand Sextet

K. Morgan

- Waveforms for string quintet

G. Rossini

- Duetto per violoncello e contrabbasso
- Sei sonate a quattro per quartetto

J. M .Sperger

- Duetto for viola and double bass

I. Stravinsky

- Histoire du Soldat

F. V. Zappa

- Echidna's arf (of you) for string quintet
- Blessed Relief for piano quintet and string quintet
- Peaches en regalia for string quintet
- Absolutely Free for string quintet
- Brown Shoes for string quintet

Solo with Orchestra

G. Bottesini

- Concerto in si minore per contrabbasso e orchestra
- Variazioni sui temi de " La Sonnambula" di V. Bellini
- Variazioni sul tema " Nel cor piu' non mi sento" di V. Bellini
- Elegia in Re

V. S. Ciardelli

- Concerto Nr. 1 per contrabbasso e orchestra (Sogno di una notte di mezzo

Stravinsky)

- Fantasia per contrabbasso e orchestra sui temi di "Aida" di G. Verdi

- Scherzo concertante per contrabbasso e orchestra

M. de Falla

- Siete Canciones Populares Espanolas per contrabbasso e Orchestra (arr. V.S.Ciardelli)

C. D. Von Dittersdorf

- Concert in D major for Double bass and Orchestra

D. Dragonetti

- Concerto in La Maggiore per Contrabbasso e Orchestra

S. Koussevitzky

- Concerto in F sharp minor for double bass and orchestra

J. M .Sperger

- Concerto Nr. 15

Composer

• Suite per orchestra N.1 (gia' sonata per contrabbasso e pianoforte) (2020)

I Giadamonio

II Opalamonio

III Quarzamonio

• Concerto Nr. 1 per contrabbasso e orchestra (Sogno di una notte di mezzo Stravinsky) (2021)

• Fantasia per contrabbasso e orchestra sui temi di "Aida" di G. Verdi (2015)

• Scherzo concertante per contrabbasso e orchestra (2013)

• Dormi bene...mi raccomando! For flute and double bass (on Messiaen modal shades) (2011)

• Sonata per contrabbasso e pianoforte N.1 (2017)

• Sonata per contrabbasso e pianoforte N.2 (2018)

• Sonata per violino e pianoforte N.1 (2016)

• Septet (Green) (2017)

I La ragazza delle campanule

II Il ragazzo dei trifogli

III le baccanti delle camelie

• Queen of Frogs - for solo Harp (2016)

• octet for woodwinds, percussions and double bass (2017)

• trio for flute, trombone and harp (2019)

• Backwards suite (2020):

Backwards Phase I for solo piano to Alessandro

Backwards Phase II for solo piano to Alessandro

Backwards Phase III for solo voice to Veronica

Backwards Phase IV for solo Harp to Anna

Backwards Phase V for solo violin to Anais

Backwards Phase VI for solo piano to Massimo

Backwards Phase VII for solo voice to Helena

Backwards Phase VIII for solo piano to Gloria

Backwards Phase IX for solo guitar to Francesco

Backwards Phase X for solo double bass to Leon

• Like one and four blue princesses - for Tenor Sax, Soprano sax, piano, double bass

and drums quintet (2012)

• Oh Oui! - for Tenor Sax, Soprano sax, piano, double bass and drums quintet (2014)

• How I met Puccini transcriptions (2016 - 2021) :

I V'e' nella selva oscura una leggenda - fantasia su " Le Villi" per contrabbasso e arpa

II M'attendi Edgar lassù! - fantasia su " Edgar" per contrabbasso e arpa

III Ciarlatani o Speziali? - fantasia su " Manon Lescaut" per contrabbasso e pianoforte

IV Sui cieli Bigi - fantasia sui temi de 'La Boheme" per violoncello e contrabbasso

V O scarpia Avanti a Dio! - Fantasia su la "Tosca" per contrabbasso e pianoforte

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X Una Femmina con la corona in testa! - Fantasia su " Turandot" per contrabbasso e pianoforte

• Concertino per Fagotto e Orchestra d'archi con vibrafono

• Cinque momenti nello specchio per flauto in do, violino, contrabbasso e pianoforte (2020)

• Scherzo per orchestra (2017)

• Serenata per fiati e arpa (2015)

• Parafrasi per orchestra sul V canto dell'inferno di Dante "Vuolsi cosi' cola' dove si puote cio' che si vuole, e piu' non dimandare" (2021)

• Trio per violino, violoncello e pianoforte - 5 common Phrases when you're late - (2023)

• Oro - Trio for double bass, harp and guqin- MAO commission- (2023)

Sample Recitals

Program #1 A journey with solo Double bass

Zen Meditation	V. S. Ciardelli
Minuetti I - II	J.S. Bach
Piano Sonata No.8, Op.13, "Pathétique" II - Adagio Cantabile	L. Van Beethoven
Intermezzo da "Cavalleria Rusticana"	P. Mascagni
Bricks Nr. 1	V. S. Ciardelli
Motiv	E. Tabakov
West side story - Cha- Cha	L. Bernstein
Elegía para Contrabajo solo	A. Martin
Contrabajando	A. Piazzolla
Igor II	V. S. Ciardelli
Aria - What Shall I do ?	H. Purcell
II - Questi cazzi di Bicordo	V. S. Ciardelli

Program #2 Austrian and Italian virtuoso repertoire

Double bass and piano duo

4 Lieder	R. Strauss
Fantasia sui temi della Sonnambula	G. Bottesini
Arpeggione Sonata in A minor	F. Schubert
Grande Allegro di Concerto alla Mendelssohn	G. Bottesini

Program #3 How I met Puccini®

Double bass and piano/harp duo

Una Femmina con la Corona in testa!	
Fantasia sui temi di Turandot	V.Ciardelli/ G.Puccini
Che puoi Farmi? Non Ti Temo	
Fantasia sui temi di Fanciulla del West	V.Ciardelli/ G.Puccini

Program #4 Absolutely free - Frank Zappa & Friends

Double bass and piano or Double bass, violin and soprano trio

Sofa N.2	F.Zappa / Arr. V. Ciardelli
Moggio	F.Zappa/ Arr. A. Drago
Amore Brutto Figghio di Puttana	A. Scarlatti/ Arr. V. Ciardelli
Tengo una Minchia Tanta	F.Zappa/ Arr. A. Drago
Difficile Lectum	W. A. Mozart
The Dangerous Kitchen	F.Zappa/ Drago
Baby Snakes	F.Zappa / Arr. V. Ciardelli
The planet of The Baritone Women Cletus Awreetus	F.Zappa/ Arr. A. Drago
Sonata in F maggiore/ Pulcinella	I. Stravinsky / Pergolesi arr. V.S. Ciardelli
Cletus Awreetus Awrightus	F.Zappa / Arr. V. Ciardelli
Your Mouth	F.Zappa / Arr. V. Ciardelli

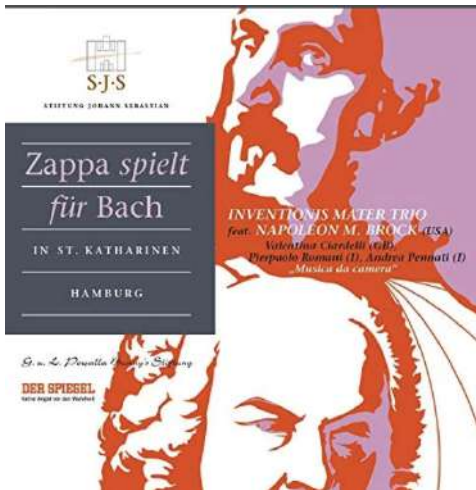
Program #5 Zappa meets Bowie

String quintet

Peaches en Regalia	F. Zappa Arr. V. S. Ciardelli
GlassaG omaggio a Philip Glass	V. Ciardelli
Echidna's arf (of you)	F. Zappa Arr. V. S. Ciardelli
II - Igor portrait for solo double bass	V. Ciardelli
Blessed Relief	F. Zappa Arr. V. S. Ciardelli
What's the ugliest part of your body?	F. Zappa Arr. V. S. Ciardelli
Absolutely Free	
Hope you're happy too -	V. Ciardelli/ D. Bowie
Fantasy on David Bowie's themes	



Discography



Zappa Spielt fuer Bach (2018)

Live recording of St. Katharinen sold out concert

World premiere recording of Igor II and transcription of Gamba Sonata N.2 of J.S. Bach for double bass, clarinet and guitar trio

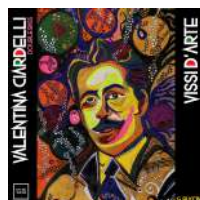
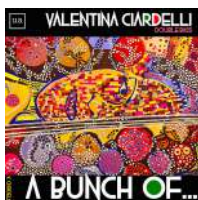


Music from The Sphinx (2019)

“an original, irridescent and outstanding quality project” - Kathodic webzine

“Precious recording in the double bass history” - Tg Music Magazine

Silver Medal in the Global Music awards 2020

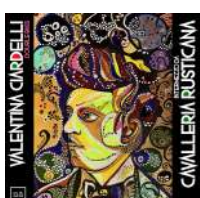


Double bass solo singles (December 2020- July 2021)

Apple Music Playlist choice
Best Contemporary Classical february 2021



Apple Music Playlist choice
Best New in Classical march 2021



Apple Music Playlist choice
Best New in Classical July 2021

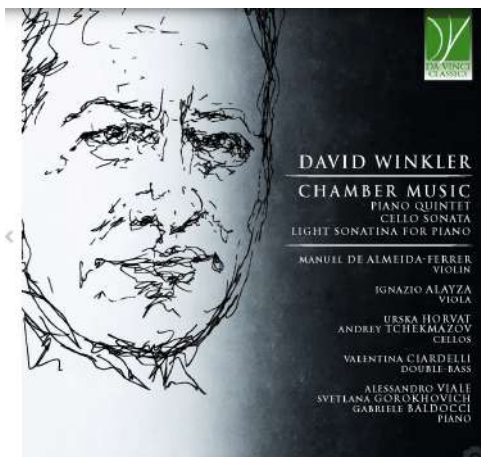
Discography



Ruutsu (2022)

“ Discs of music for double bass and harp are rare enough but this one is interesting because of the contribution of Valentina Ciardelli, the bassist in question, who has arranged several of the pieces and two of whose original works also grace the programme” - Musicweb international

World premiered with a sold out concert at Teatro La Fenice in Venice, may 2022



David Winkler - Chamber Music (2023)

“ The most convincing proof is offered by the performers of the Quintet with double bass with Valentina Ciardelli on double bass, who were able to superbly interpret the remarkable expressive density that permeates this score.” - Music voice.it