

Francesco Lotoro is the president and founder of ILMC Foundation. An Italian pianist born in Barletta in 1964, piano graduated at the Conservatorium of Music *N. Piccinni* in Bari, piano specialization at the Academy of Music Franz Liszt in Budapest with Kornél Zempléni and László Almásy, he also studied with Viktor Merzhanov, Tamas Vasary and Aldo Ciccolini.

He reconstructed music and text of *Weihnachtsoratorium* for Soli, mixed choir and piano by Friedrich Nietzsche, performed and recorded both with Coro della Radio Svizzera Italiana and Ars Cantica Choir, score and parts published by Editrice Rotas.

Involved in the piano literature produced during the dramatic events of the 20th century, in 1998 he performed the complete piano and chamber works written by Alois Piňos, Petr Pokorný, Petr Eben, Miloslav Ištvan, Milan Knížák after the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968 that ended the Prague Spring (recorded in CD *Praha '68*).

In 1989 he started a project of storage, execution, recording and promotion of music written in imprisonment, internment, transit, concentration, extermination and forced labor Camps, jails, Stalag, Oflag, POW Camps and Gulag open from 1933 to 1953 in Europe, colonial Africa, Asia, Australia, U.S.A., Canada, Latin America and created by musicians killed or survived of any national, social and religious background; he recovered 8,000 musical works and 12,000 documents of concentrationary music, which is widely considered the highest authority.

He founded in Barletta with his wife Grazia Tiritiello *The Institute of Concentrationary Music Literature* (today a Foundation).

As a pianist and a conductor, he is the author of the Encyclopedia in 24 CD–volumes *KZ Musik*.

As a pianist of transcendental technique, he is the only one in the world to have performed and recorded the monumental original piano scores of *VIII. Symphonie op.99* by Erwin Schulhoff (written in Ilag Wülzburg XIII), *Don Quixote tanzt Fandango* by Viktor Ullmann (written in Theresienstadt) and *Nonet* by Rudolf Karel (written in Vazební Věznice Prague–Pankrác).

As a composer he wrote the 2–acts opera *Misha e i Lupi*, *Cantata Ebraica* for singer, guitar and orchestra, *Requiem Barletta 12.IX.1943* for soloists, organ, piano and orchestra and *12 Studi su un tema di Paganini* for piano; he arranged J.S. Bach's *Deutsche Messe* and *14 Canons* for 2 pianos.

In 2011 the writer and journalist Thomas Saintourens published the book *Le Maestro* (also in Italian and Czech language) about his life and his research; in 2015 the documentary *The Maestro* directed by Franco–Argentine regisseur Alexandre Valenti (a French–Italian co–production inspired by the homonymous book of Saintourens) was made.

He teaches Piano at the Conservatorium of Music U. Giordano in Foggia.