

Biography

Gianluca Castelli (b.1985) graduated with highest grades in Music Composition from Conservatorio G. Verdi in Torino. From the same institute he obtained the Diploma in Choral Music and Choir Conduction. He pursued his studies with Alberto E. Colla and in 2015 he completed a Post Master Degree (Exzellenzstudiengang) in Composition at the R.Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf with Jose-Maria Sanchèz-Verdù.

He also attended composition and choir direction masterclasses held by Alessandro Solbiati, Andrea Portera, Nicole Corti, Luigi Marzola, Bruno Zanolini, Mia Makaroff. In 2011 he completed the three year course in choir conduction "Il respiro è già canto" held by Dario Tabbia.

The interest in different science fields such as neurology, genetics, anthropology, physics and cosmology influences a great deal the way he creates music. He is fascinated by how memory and perception work, by our understanding of time, consciousness and spirituality. Some of his work has also focused on topics like social justice, human rights, equality.

His compositions have been performed by important musicians, ensembles and orchestras in many festivals such as Bachfest Leipzig, Oslo Grieg Festival, MiTo Settembre Musica, Weimarer Frühjahrstage für zeitgenössische Musik, Silbermann-Tage, VocalEspoo, Solent Music Festival, Toulouse les Orgues in Europe, North and South America, Asia.

He has been awarded prizes and recognitions:

- in 2021 the Lawson-May Award (UK) with the piece "Atemkristall" for cello and piano; Honorable Mention at F.Busoni Composition Competition (Ita) with "avesse il ciel d'un altro sole adorno" for string orchestra
- in 2018 Second Prize at the III VocalEspoo Composition Competition in Espoo (Fin) with the piece "Calix Iste" for SATB Choir;
- in 2017 Second Prize at the III Krzysztof Penderecki Composers' Competition in Radom (Pol) with the piece "Much Madness – Four haunting delusions" for string orchestra;
- in 2017 "Quattro piccoli quadri" for Piano was finalist at the Edvard Grieg Composer Competition in Oslo;
- in 2016 in Montreal, First Prize at Sixième Concours International de composition du Quatuor Molinari with "Mythoi" for string quartet; "Mythoi" was also finalist at the Tesla Quartet Call for Scores 2016 (Pennsylvania, USA);
- in 2016 "avec elle" for 14 instruments was finalist at the Red Note New Music Festival Competition (Illinois USA);
- in 2015 Second Prize ex-aequo (first not assigned) and the Prize of the Audience at the 16th Spring Festival in Weimar with "Fantasia" for orchestra;
- in 2015 Third Prize at Premio Veretti of the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole with "As the song of the lark" for flute, clarinet and orchestra;
- in 2010 Second Prize at the Choir Music Composition Contest "Dolci parole e care", Torino.

In 2005 he graduated from the Cpm of Milano.

Since 2021 he teaches Composition and Musical Theory at Dortmund Musik (Musikschule der Stadt Dortmund).