



Biography

Student of some of the most renowned viola teachers (Fabrizio Merlini, Piero Farulli, Dino Asciolla, Yuri Bashmet) and chamber music instructors (Paolo Borciani and the Trio di Trieste), Danilo Rossi graduated at the age of 19 with the highest honors. Even at the age of 16, he had distinguished himself by winning his first International Competition. Shortly after graduating, he won the competition for Principal Viola of the Orchestra of La Scala in Milan, becoming the youngest musician in the history of the Milanese Theater to hold such a position. From that moment on, Danilo Rossi's career has been marked by a series of engagements, concerts, festivals, and recitals that have taken him around the world, performing in the most prestigious theaters and concert halls.

Among his numerous accolades are the First Prize at the "Vittorio Veneto" Competition, two consecutive years as winner of the Diploma d'Onore from the Accademia Chigiana, membership in the ECYO from the age of 16, and the Second Prize and Special Jury Prize at the "Yuri Bashmet" Competition in Moscow.

As soloist, he has performed the entire viola repertoire under the guidance of Riccardo Muti, Gianandrea Gavazzeni, Riccardo Chailly, Gianandrea Noseda, Ottavio Dantone, Mung-Wung Chung, Seiji Ozawa, Zubin Mehta, Mario Brunello, Anton Nanut, with some of the most prestigious orchestras (La Scala Philharmonic, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Italian String Orchestra, Rai Turin, Tuscany Regional Orchestra, Regio di Torino, Süddeutsches Kammerorchester, Moscow Philharmonic, Budapest Philharmonic, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana of Lugano, Ljubljana Philharmonic, etc.).

For over thirty years, he has been the Principal Viola of the Orchestra of La Scala, a role in which he has collaborated with the greatest conductors: from Claudio Abbado to Daniel Barenboim, from Carlos Kleiber to Wolfgang Sawallisch, from Daniel Harding to Gustavo Dudamel, from Leonard Bernstein to Daniele Gatti and Paavo Järvi.

Danilo Rossi remains highly active as a chamber musician, having been a guest at the most important chamber music festivals (St. Moritz, Cork, Asolo, Ravenna, Vicenza, Joliette, Nizhny Novgorod, etc.), where he has performed with some of the greatest instrumentalists: Paul Tortelier, Yuri Bashmet, Pier Narciso Masi, Bruno Canino, Myung-whun Chung, Mario Brunello, Andrea Lucchesini, Nazzareno Carusi, Thomas Brandis, Franco Gulli, the Arditti Quartet, the Fine Arts Quartet, and the Nuovo Quartetto Italiano.

In 2018, Danilo Rossi celebrated thirty years of artistic partnership with pianist Stefano Bezziccheri, with whom he has performed in the most prestigious venues across Europe and recorded numerous albums encompassing the entire viola and piano repertoire. He has made numerous radio and television recordings, with over 40 CDs to his name. In December 2016, Radio Rai dedicated five episodes of the renowned program RadioTreSuite to Danilo Rossi.

He is passionately dedicated to teaching, having been a professor in numerous Advanced Courses and having conducted masterclasses in the United States, China, Poland, as well as various Italian academies. Many of his students have emerged from his school and hold important positions in prestigious European orchestras or prominent ensembles.



Crossover

Immersed in music like few others, Danilo Rossi has repeatedly explored a wide range of classical and modern musical genres. Numerous collaborations with prominent jazz and pop artists have made Danilo Rossi a unique example of how it is possible to experience music in its entirety, without any barriers. Initially a student of jazz maestro Sante Palumbo, with whom he recorded "Bach in Jazz," he has collaborated with some of the most extraordinary jazz musicians, including Massimo Moriconi, Stefano Bollani, Paolo Fresu, Steve La Spina, Renato Sellani, Aaron Flecher, Drummeria, Jim Hall, Greg Osby, Bobby McFerrin, Tony Hadley, and Raphael Gualazzi. Throughout his career, he has experimented with conducting classical orchestras, working with Ian Anderson (Jethro Tull) and Terence Blanchard, one of the greatest American jazz trumpeters.

Together with Stefano and Gianluca Nanni, Massimo Moriconi, and Luciano Zadro, he founded the Music Train Quintet, with whom he recorded two albums of classical music re-arranged in a jazz style (Hindemith, Stravinsky's "Firebird," Ravel).

Recently, Danilo Rossi and his viola have featured in the latest recordings by Vinicio Capossela ("Le Sirene"), Remo Anzovino ("L'alba dei tram," a tribute to Pier Paolo Pasolini), and Carlo Fava ("Baby").

Teaching

Thanks to the great Masters he has met over the years (Fabrizio Merlini, Dino Asciolla, Piero Farulli for viola, and Paolo Borciani and the Trio di Trieste for chamber music), Danilo Rossi has been teaching for over thirty years, imparting both musical and personal certainties that have consistently led his students to achieve outstanding results. Many of his former students now hold prominent positions in some of the most important European orchestras and ensembles, attaining further notable achievements in major international competitions.

The violist has taught at numerous national and international schools and academies, including the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole, Masterclasses in Città di Castello and Bertinoro, as well as at the University of South Carolina and Michigan State University (USA), the Warsaw Conservatory, the Poznan Academy (Poland), Parma, Cesena, and Tianjin (China). Thanks to these extensive experiences, he has published "Dal violino alla viola," a widely acclaimed pedagogical volume (published by Map).

Since 2009, he has held the position of teacher at the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano. Additionally, he conducts Masterclasses at the advanced courses in Desenzano del Garda (BS) and Castelsangiovanni (PC).

Theater and more

Always open to diverse experiences, Danilo Rossi has encountered numerous opportunities to perform in various settings: from prisons to the forests of Trentino, from the swamps of Sri Lanka to the Off theaters of the suburbs.

Among the many varied experiences with his instrument, Danilo Rossi has worked with Ascanio Celestini, Alessandro Baricco, Licia Maglietta, Angela Finocchiaro, and Marco Paolini. He has had a partnership with Stefano Benni lasting over 10 years, during which the two artists have performed together in four different shows across theaters throughout Italy.

Numerous poets and actors have sought the rich sound of his viola for various soundtracks for documentaries and theatrical prose collaborations, sometimes specifically written for him. Notably, there is the project with Milo de Angelis, one of Italy's greatest living poets, where the viola's sound accentuates the poetry in a documentary dedicated to the poet. Additionally, Danilo Rossi collaborated with poet and writer Davide Rondoni, who composed a monologue dedicated to him titled "Il Corpo del Musicista," presented in several Italian theaters.

Each of these experiences further enriches and personalizes Danilo Rossi's work, transcending cultural barriers and bringing his viola beyond all boundaries.