

Antonio Mascolo – Classical Guitarist

Born in Naples in 1981, Antonio Mascolo began studying classical guitar at a young age. He later refined his skills under the guidance of the esteemed master Aniello Desiderio. In 2001, he graduated with top honors from the Conservatory of Music in Benevento, achieving the highest grade, "cum laude," and earning a special mention. In 2002, the conservatory recognized him as the "Best Graduate of the Year." Throughout his education, he attended masterclasses in musical interpretation with notable guitarists such as Angel Romero, Marco Socias, and David Russell.

Antonio's concert repertoire spans a range of classical music, modern works, and tango, including his own compositions enriched with improvisation. He has been invited to perform at numerous guitar festivals and to lead masterclasses across Italy, Spain, Austria, Liechtenstein, Greece, and Turkey. Noteworthy festivals where he has performed include the "Liechtensteiner Gitarrentage Ligita Festival" in Eschen, the "IV International Klasik Keyifler Ensemble Festival" in Cappadocia, the "IV International Bilkent Guitar Meeting" in Ankara, the "VI Vojvodina Guitar Fest" in Novi Sad, and the "Gitaarsalon" in Enkhuizen.

After his performance at the International Guitar Festival of Mantova in 2002, Antonio had the honor of meeting world-renowned virtuoso Alirio Diaz, who praised his talent. In 2007, he participated in the "International Right Profit Guitar Festival," organized by the Right Profit Association of David and Maria Russell in Città della Pieve, Italy.

In addition to his concert work, Antonio has won several awards at both international and national guitar competitions. His accolades include:

- 1st Prize at the 7th Concorso Pergolesi di Napoli (1992)
- Special Prize at the Concorso Savona in Musica (1994)
- 1st Prize at the 10th Concorso Giovani Musicisti Gargano (1995)
- 1st Prize at the 9th Rassegna Internazionale di Pescara (1996)
- 1st Prize at the 4th Concorso Nazionale di Chitarra Città di Ercolano (1997)
- 1st Prize at the Concorso di Interpretazione Musicale Città di Arenzano (2000)

In 2011, he was honored with the "Creative Excellence in Music" award by the City of Naples.

Antonio released his album *Dune* in 2009, featuring his original compositions. The album was published in the prestigious Italian classical music magazine *GuitArt*. Esteemed guitarist Angel Romero, a member of the Los Romeros Guitar Quartet, expressed admiration for this album. At Romero's request, one of the pieces on the album is dedicated to him.

Antonio is also a composer for film soundtracks and has collaborated with jazz and chamber music groups. In 2016, he was chosen by acclaimed Italian director Marco Tullio Giordana to contribute to a short film on Domenico Scarlatti. The film, *Scarlatti k 259*, was presented at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2017. In 2019, Antonio was invited to Berlin to give a concert and masterclass as part of the "Nordhorn Goes Berlin" classical guitar seminar.

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