

Nilo Caracristi

Born in Trento, he graduated in his hometown under the guidance of Riccardo Izzicupo and Jiri Sedlak, subsequently perfecting his skills with Guido Corti, Dale Clevenger in Chicago and Froydis Ree Wekre in Oslo. He was awarded at the international competition in Porcia and won the international competition in Asti. He was principal horn at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, fourth horn at the Arena di Verona and principal horn at the Teatro Verdi in Trieste. With the Gomalan Brass Quintet, he won first prize at the "Città di Passau" international brass ensemble competition (Germany), considered one of the most important in the world for this category. He holds the chair of horn at the "F. E. Dall'Abaco" Conservatory in Verona.

Massimo Bergamini

He graduated with honours in clarinet in 1983 from the F. E. Dall'Abaco Conservatory in Verona. Over the years, he achieved excellent placements in various competitions, including Stresa (first place in the Trio category in 1981 and first place in the Soloist category in 1982) and the "Premio Manta 1984" (first place). He also passed auditions for symphony orchestras, including the Ente Lirico Arena di Verona, with which he collaborated from 1981 to 1997, and the Orchestra Sinfonica A. Toscanini in Parma, with which he collaborated in several opera and symphony seasons. Since 1996, he has been teaching the Wind Ensemble class at the "Vecchi Tonelli" Conservatory of Music in Modena and Carpi and conducting the Wind Orchestra, founded in the same academic year.

Wind Orchestra of the "Vecchi Tonelli" Conservatory of Music in Modena and Carpi

The Wind Orchestra of what was once the "A. Tonelli" Music Institute in Carpi was founded in March 1997 on the occasion of a performance at the Quirinale in Rome and has always been conducted by Prof. Massimo Bergamini. Initially composed of 15 members, it has gradually expanded to over 80 musicians, also involving professionals, former students and students from the Modena branch when the two institutes merged. The repertoire, which is constantly being renewed, includes original pieces, compositions for soloists and bands, arrangements of soundtracks and light music. The orchestra is a pillar of the Conservatory's educational project, offering students an important formative and motivational experience. There have been many events and musical exchanges at local, national and European level, in collaboration with important institutions, associations, musicians and conductors. Among the awards received: 5th place in the "Flicorno d'Oro" competition (2009), 3rd place in the "La Bacchetta d'Oro" competition (2011), and 1st place in the "Flicorno d'Oro" in 1st category (2014). The Orchestra has collaborated with internationally renowned soloists such as Rex Richardson, Andrea Tofanelli, Marco Pierobon, Corrado Giuffredi and Devid Ceste, recording the CDs "The Maestro" (2016), "Clarinetomania" (2018), "Van der Roost dirige Van der Roost" (2019) and "La Musica delle Stelle" (2023). After the forced break caused by the pandemic, the orchestra resumed its activities in November 2021, participating in important projects with Gomalan Brass (2022) and Maestro Lorenzo Della Fonte (2023). All these initiatives and activities have been made possible thanks to the contribution of Ass. Ist., an association founded in 2010 with the aim of enhancing and promoting culture and art in general, which supports the activities of the orchestra and other musical groups in an integrated and coordinated manner with the musical and educational activities of the Conservatory of Modena and Carpi.



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Vecchi Tonelli
Conservatorio di Musica



16 October 2025 / Teatro Storchi Modena / 9 p.m.

Concert celebrating 850 years of Unimore

Wind Orchestra of the "Vecchi Tonelli" Conservatory of Music
in Modena and Carpi



Solo horn
NILO CARACRISTI



Director
MASSIMO BERGAMINI



PROGRAMME

H. Arlen (1905-1986) / E. Y. Harburg (1896-1981), Arrangement by J. Barnes ***The wizard of Oz, 1939***

Who doesn't know the famous "Over the Rainbow"? This suite, masterfully arranged by James Barnes, brings together the most iconic musical moments from the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz", a masterpiece of cinema history based on one of the most beautiful children's stories ever written. Harold Arlen's music, combined with E.Y. Harburg's lyrics, has inspired entire generations to dream. The arrangement for wind orchestra retains the original magic, offering a nostalgic dip into the enchanted world of Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Lion and the Tin Man.

J. De Meij (1953) ***The Wind in the Willows, 2002***

Based on the novel of the same name by Kenneth Grahame, "The Wind in the Willows" is an orchestral suite that musically portrays the characters in the story: the wise Badger, the vain Toad, the sweet Mole and the loyal Rat. Johan de Meij, a renowned Dutch composer, masterfully blends narration and music, creating a fascinating work for listeners of all ages. Think of each movement as a small soundscape, rich in expressive details that the orchestra recreates with various timbral effects.

O. M. Schwarz (1967) ***Cape Horn, 2008*** **Solo horn: Nilo Caracristi**

This piece for solo horn and wind orchestra takes its name from one of the most dangerous places for navigation, the legendary Cape Horn, at the southernmost tip of the American continent, playing on the fact that "Horn" in Italian is translated as "corno". Austrian composer Otto M. Schwarz is known for his cinematic and narrative compositions, and in "Cape Horn" he takes the listener on a musical journey full of tension, adventure and beauty. Listening to the piece and following the soloist's notes, one can imagine first the raging waves and stormy winds, then the subsequent calm of the sea.

J. Williams (1932), Arrangement by J. Brubaker ***The Complete Harry Potter, 2013***

This piece, arranged for wind orchestra by Jerry Brubaker, brings together the most famous themes composed by John Williams for the renowned film saga. From the unmistakable "Hedwig's Theme" to the more epic and solemn sections, the piece takes the listener on a musical journey through magic, mystery and adventure. The arrangement conveys all the narrative power and enchantment of the world of Hogwarts, transforming the emotions of the big screen into a brilliant symphonic experience for wind orchestra.

A. Reed (1921-2005) ***El Camino Real, 1985***

The title "El Camino Real", in English "The Royal Road", evokes the ancient route that connected the Spanish missions along the California coast in the 18th century. Alfred Reed, one of the most influential American composers for wind orchestra, draws inspiration in this piece from the rhythms and atmospheres of Hispanic music, recreating an imaginary journey through sun-drenched landscapes, lively dances and passionate melodies. The brilliant and varied writing showcases all the rich timbres and sonorities of the wind orchestra.

D. Semeraro (1970) ***Ballad and Salsa, 2024*** **Solo horn: Nilo Caracristi**

A contemporary piece with great impact, "Ballad and Salsa" combines two seemingly distant musical styles: the sweet and melodic ballad and the explosive and danceable salsa. Donato Semeraro is an Italian composer known for his brilliant and communicative style. The piece offers lyrical and intense moments followed by a lively section that tests the rhythmic skills of the orchestra and soloist. The author dedicated this composition, with its South American and Caribbean influences, to the talented horn player Nilo Caracristi on his 50th birthday.