



FRANCO BUITONI AWARD 2021

Silvia Colasanti

Italian composer Silvia Colasanti is the latest recipient of the biennial Franco Buitoni Award (£25,000) and has composed a special work, *Love Song*, dedicated to BBT co-founders Franco Buitoni and Ilaria Borletti Buitoni. Written for piano, percussion and string orchestra, it will be premiered by pianist Beatrice Rana (BBT Fellowship 2016) on 9 October 2021 in Perugia when Colasanti will also be presented with a handmade glass vase specially commissioned from Micheluzzi Glass in Venice, given by Giovanni and Benedetta Buitoni in memory of their uncle.

The Award was created by Ilaria Borletti Buitoni as a tribute to her late husband Franco (1934-2016), and is given to Italian musicians who promote and encourage chamber music at home and throughout the world. Franco especially loved chamber music and was for 30 years the chairman of Amici della Musica di Perugia (founded by his mother), the association that will present the premiere of *Love Song*.

Silvia Colasanti, who has received two of Italy's highest honours for services to music, comments: *"I did not know Franco personally, only through Ilaria and other people dear to him. Love Song is full of powerful and emotive music to express the strong bond between Ilaria and Franco, described to me by so many people. I am deeply honoured to receive this Award."*

Ilaria Borletti Buitoni remarks: *"I first met Silvia Colasanti in 2016 and I have a very high regard for her talent and commitment as well as her warm personality. She has developed a wonderful career and her work is now commissioned and performed by so many important institutions and leading international musicians. I am also very pleased that this work will be performed by Beatrice Rana, another Italian musician that I greatly admire."*

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Notes to Editors

<https://www.silviacolasanti.com>

The **Franco Buitoni Award** honours Franco Buitoni (1934-2016), co-founder of BBT with his wife Ilaria Borletti Buitoni. The Award of £25,000 is given every other year (announced on Franco's birthday, 17 March) and recognises Italian musicians who promote and encourage chamber music at home and throughout the world.