



## CONTEMPORARY MUSIC IN THE MONFERRATO

*Contemporanea Monferrato* is a laboratory to enable singers and composers to explore contemporary creativity together. **Vocal repertoire, extended vocal techniques, improvisation** and **music theater** are the focus of the laboratory. The central event is **Nicholas Isherwood's** master class "Singing Techniques for the Music of Our Time."

Located in the heart of Piedmont's beautiful Monferrato region, *Contemporanea Monferrato* is open to soloists and consorts, from one to eight singers. **Composers** and **composer-performers** can take part as well. Participants should present an **artistic project** that will be more clearly defined and brought to fruition during the residency: solo recitals, the preparation of a music theater piece by a vocal ensemble and the composition of a piece with improvisatory elements are examples of such projects. The laboratory seeks to encourage the collaboration of artists from different areas: singers, extended vocalists, actors, electroacousticians, composers, set designers, dancers, etc.

Organized by association **Innesti di Cultura**, with the collaboration of association **AmbientArti in Europa e nel Mondo**, the laboratory will take place in Rosignano Monferrato (Alessandria) from July 4-12, 2020.

### Nicholas Isherwood Masterclass: "Singing Techniques for the Music of Our Time"



After studying French Literature (B.A. Oberlin College), Singing (B.M. Oberlin Conservatory with Richard Miller) and Musicology (D.E.A. EHESS with Hugues Dufourt), Nicholas Isherwood went on to sing major roles in theaters and festivals on four continents (La Scala, the Rome Opera, the Venice Biennale, Covent Garden, the Salzburger Festspiele, the Moscow Conservatory, the Concertgebouw, Ravinia, Tanglewood, the Théâtre des Champs Élysées, Châtelet, Aix Festival and all three Berlin opera houses, for example). His focus is on early music (Joel Cohen, Paul McCreech, William Christie, Nic McGegan) and the music of our time (Bussotti, Carter, Kagel, Kurtág, Messiaen, Stockhausen, Xenakis but also Dusapin, Francesconi, Gubaidulina, Rihm and Saariaho, as well as Filidei, Franceschini and Montali). He has sung both the Bach and Gubaidulina "Johannespassion" under the baton of Helmuth Rilling. Isherwood's interest in improvised music has led him to work with Steve Lacy, Joëlle Léandre, David Moss and Sainkho Namtchilak. He has

recorded over 60 cds with labels such as Erato, Harmonia Mundi, Naxos and Stockhausen Verlag and published articles for the *Journal of Singing*, *LIM* and *Vox Humana*, as well as a book, "The Techniques of Singing," for Bärenreiter. He has lectured and taught master classes in venues such as Berkeley, the CNSM in Paris, the Cologne Conservatory, the Freie Universität Berlin, Harvard, IRCAM, the Milan Conservatory, Stanford and USC. Isherwood has held professorships in Europe and the United States and is currently professor of singing at the Conservatory of Montbéliard.

"Nicholas Isherwood, il baritono basso che ha saputo intercettare i segreti dell'avanguardia. Il beniamino incontrastato dei musicisti contemporanei. Il seguio dell'attualità. Il complice, l'istigatore di ribaltoni (musicali) dovunque si annidino. Signore e padrone dei grafismi che esulano da ogni notazione convenzionale. Insomma, il divo vocale del nostro tempo-ma anche di quello passato- 'Flauto Magico' e 'Maestri Cantori' inclusi...Isherwood, la bella voce 'posseduta' da una sorta di frenesia evocativa (ora perso nel falsetto, ora recitando sempre ipotonico) seguiva l'itinerario stravagante di Cage. La sua volontà di esplorare il rumore anche a livello 'clownesco'. Anche a livello politico. Rispettando però la sua volontà testamentaria di aggiornamento. Mentre Isherwood declamava invasato 'La miglior forma di governo è nessun governo', il fantasma di tutte le provocazioni musicali del secolo, emergeva trionfante. Era il vero Cage, quello che poco dopo avrebbe sbattuto il coperchio del grancoda per esorcizzare le risonanze armoniche ad uso di accompagnamento al canto. Splendido Cage. Splendido Isherwood." - Mya Tannenbaum, *Il Corriere della Sera*

# A creative laboratory located in the heart of Piedmont

The activities will take place at the Teatro Ideal in Rosignano Monferrato and nearby.



Participants will be accommodated in b&b or in one of the 9 places available in Casa Biglino, an 18th century villa in front of the theater. A large garden, four bathrooms, two kitchens and practice rooms are available. Dinners will be served at a local restaurant.

## *Provisions for COVID-19*

*We will communicate specific information to participants in order to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, also relying on each person's sense of individual responsibility. All activities will be respect a 2 meter distance between participants at all times and will take place outside, or in large, well ventilated rooms. The singers will be required to buy their own anti-pop filter (5-10 euros, details to be provided at registration), to be used on the stage, mounted on a microphone stand provided by the association. For all other activities, masks will be required, especially for access to shops and public places in Rosignano Monferrato. Products to disinfect hands and rooms will be provided. We will all work together to keep the common areas clean and disinfected with a 10% bleach mixture.*

Please fill out the online application form before **June 28, 2020**. You can find it visiting our web site: [www.innestidicultura.com](http://www.innestidicultura.com). Please register as soon as possible to facilitate course organization.

You can get further information at: [innestidicultura@gmail.com](mailto:innestidicultura@gmail.com)

**Online application form**



*AmbientArti in Europa e nel Mondo*