



For Immediate Release

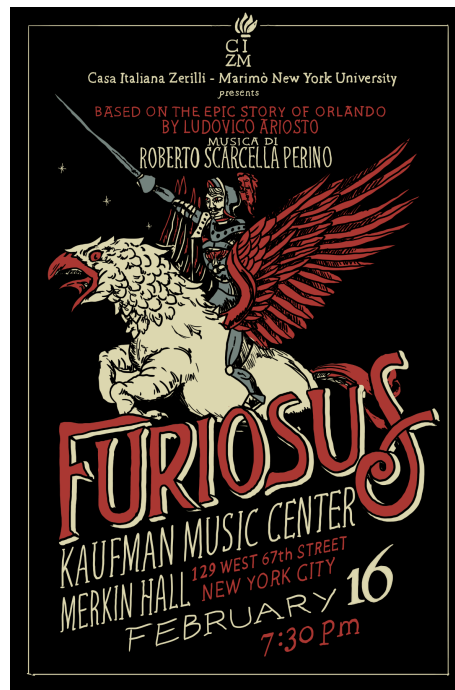
**Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at NYU premieres
Furiosus, an opera by Roberto Scarcella Perino
in Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center, February 16th 2023
Inspired by Ariosto's Orlando Furioso**



For further information and to request press tickets contact:

Chiara Basso | Casa italiana Zerilli-Marimò

cb5081@nyu.edu | (212) 998-8739



"It may seem an impossible feat to transform the most important epic poem of Italian literature into an opera. No one had ever dared to tackle the work in its entirety." Stefano Albertini, Director Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò

New York, NY (02/13/2023) - [Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University](#) is proud to present the North American premiere of *Furiosus*, a bold new opera in two acts inspired by **Orlando Furioso** (1516), the epic poem by **Ludovico Ariosto** (1474-1535) and one of the best-known works in Italian literature.



The concert performance with music by [Roberto Scarcella Perino](#) and libretto by [Flora Gagliardi](#) is [free and open to the public](#) and will take place on **February 16, 2023, at 7:30 pm** at **Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center in New York City**.

Furiosus takes us on a galactic journey from earth to moon, from mythical to human, highlighting the vicissitudes of life, love, sorcery, and seduction while Roberto Scarcella Perino's score provides a warm, whimsical, and thoroughly transportive musical underpinning of the unfolding drama.

The North American premiere of *Furiosus* in concert is made possible by Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University.

"It may seem an impossible feat to transform the most important epic poem of Italian literature into an opera. While many composers successfully adapted certain episodes of the story, no one had ever dared to tackle the work in its entirety. The fruitful collaboration between Scarcella Perino and Gagliardi has brought to us a brand new work that deserves to be presented outside of Italy's national boundaries. While the music bears strong connections to the Italian operatic tradition, it also presents a variety of references to less traditional sounds, such as bossa nova and Sicilian folk tunes. The libretto is able to evoke the elegance and lightness of its source material without the need to imitate the style of Ariosto.

I take this opportunity to wish you a pleasant evening in the company of Orlando, Astolfo and 'la bella' Angelica, and I hope you will visit us at 24 West 12th Street for one of our many upcoming events."

[Stefano Albertini](#), Ph.D.

Director Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University

"My earliest memory of Ludovico Ariosto's Orlando Furioso is connected to Sicilian popular culture. As a child, my father took me to see the "teatro dei pupi", an all-Sicilian theater that tells stories taken from epic-chivalric literature. I was enchanted by the fights between Orlando and Rodomonte, Angelica's love for Medoro, and Astolfo's trip to the moon riding the hippogriff. For Flora Gagliardi's Furiosus I turned into a "puparo" to give life to all the characters by pulling the strings and imitating their voices. I wanted to recreate the magic I experienced as a child by inventing music that tells us about Furiosus and its stories lost in time and space."

Roberto Scarcella Perino

Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò's composer-in-residence

"When the libretto of Furiosus was commissioned to me, I began, a little dismayed, to re-read Ariosto and compulsively study all the literature around Orlando Furioso. I visited exhibitions and consulted scholars, but more and more, I was overwhelmed by the difficulty of this undertaking. Orlando is a story of stories that intertwine with each other but are also autonomous. Each one of them, in its own autonomy, creates situations that identify a symbol,



like in dreams. And it was precisely from dreams that inspiration came. One morning, after a deep sleep, I woke up with a precise perception of what the structure of the Furiosus should be and what poetic atmosphere it should be enveloped in. Furiosus, for me, comes from dreams. Then the words to describe the powerful images that the intensity of Roberto Scarcella Perino's music inspired hinged on each other step by step, once again accompanying us on a journey suspended between heaven and earth."

Flora Gagliardi
Librettist

Originally commissioned by The Opera Theater of Philadelphia, the world premiere of Roberto Scarcella Perino's opera *Furiosus* took place on August 25th, 2017, in Città della Pieve at the Teatro Comunale degli Avvaloranti. It was performed again on June 12th, 2019, in Florence at New York University's Continuum Theater.

About Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University

Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at New York University was founded in 1990 by Baroness Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò (1926-2015) with the goal of promoting Italian culture by offering free events, open to everyone, on all topics related to Italian studies. Thanks to the Baroness's generosity, Casa has been able to further expand its outreach by presenting more ambitious and forward-looking projects beyond the walls of its Greenwich Village brownstone. Such is the case for the North American premiere of *Furiosus* (with music by Casa's composer-in-residence Roberto Scarcella Perino), at Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center, presented entirely free of charge and open to the general public, helping to fulfill Casa's mission of creating physical and virtual spaces for a cultural dialogue between Italy and the United States.

Media Contact for artist interviews and photo-op:

Chiara Basso
Media and Communications Strategist
at Casa italiana Zerilli-Marimò
cb5081@nyu.edu
(212) 998-8739
www.casaitaliananyu.org

This event takes place at
[Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center](#)
(129 W 67th St, New York, NY)
February 16th, 2023
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.



CASA ITALIANA
ZERILLI-MARIMÒ
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Furiosus

Music by [Roberto Scarcella Perino](#)

Libretto by [Flora Gagliardi](#)

Conductor [Robert Tweten](#)

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Cast in order of vocal appearance:

ASTOLFO	Omar Najmi
ANGELICA/FIORDILIGI	Amani Cole-Felder *
MEDORO/ALCINA	Cierra Byrd *
ORLANDO	Daniel Rich *
BRADAMANTE	Siphokazi Molteno *
RUGGIERO/BRANDIMARTE	Brad Walker
RODOMONTE	Le Bu *

A Chorus of Magical Creatures:

[Anna Elder](#)

[Kate Fruchterman](#)

Julie Schoonover

[Demetra Adams](#)

[Candace-Lynn Matthews](#)

[Maria Kolomiets](#)

[Sable Strout](#)

[Silvana Chu](#)

Orchestra:

Violin I, [Doori Na](#)



Violin II, [Caroline Drexler](#)

Viola, [Tia Allen](#)

Cello, [Marta Bagratuni](#)

[New Thread Quartet:](#)

Soprano saxophone, Jonathan Hulting-Cohen

Alto saxophone, Noa Even

Tenor saxophone, Erin Rogers

Baritone saxophone, Zach Herchen

Percussion, [Daniel Matei](#)

Piano, [Juan José Làzaro](#) *

* *Artist appears by kind permission of the [Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program](#).*