

## Biography

Francesca Orlando is a British-Italian pianist who has performed internationally both as soloist and chamber musician across many European cities including London, Copenhagen, Budapest, Malta, Florence and Rome.

Francesca was awarded an Open-Academy Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music, where she completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Solo Piano Performance under the tutelage of Prof. Joanna MacGregor and Diana Ketler respectively. During her undergraduate studies she was a recipient of the Miriam Duncan Scholarship and Constance Bastard Memorial Scholarship. Francesca currently studies with Nicholas Walker and has been a pupil of Prof Lilya Zilberstein at “Accademia Musicale Chigiana” and Elisso Virsaladze at “Scuola di Musica di Fiesole”. She has performed in numerous masterclasses with renowned pianists such as Imogen Cooper, Pascal Devoyon, Martino Tirimo, Ian Fountain, Stephen Hough and Steven Osborne.

Since her debut recital in Florence, at the age of fourteen, Francesca has performed extensively in numerous acclaimed concert venues across England, amongst which, the Wigmore Hall, where she performed chamber music with Nash-Ensemble musicians, St James’ Church Piccadilly, The Duke’s Hall, and the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Following her debut Schumann Piano Concerto in May 2012 in the prestigious concert venue, St George’s Hall, Bristol, Francesca has performed as soloist with various orchestras including the “Orchestra Filharmonica Mediterranea”, Exeter University Symphony Orchestra and the Bristol Symphony Orchestra. She has been invited to perform in numerous music festivals including Petworth Music Festival, Bloomsbury Festival, Farley Festival, Gaulitana Festival, Victoria International Arts Festival and Dartington International Summer School where she performed as duo partner with renowned pianist Steven Osborne. In addition to her solo performances she enjoys playing both as chamber musician and accompanist. In 2015 she founded the Orlando Trio with fellow musicians from the Royal Academy of Music, which she regularly performs with.

Featuring high in numerous competitions, in 2021 Francesca received first prize in ‘Premio Crescendo’, Florence, and ‘Concorso Internazionale “Citta di Massa”’. During her studies she was awarded highly commended, in the Lilian Davies Beethoven Sonata prize alongside the Edna Bralesford prize, William Northam Prize and Mozart Concerto Prize in 2017 at the Royal Academy of Music.

Alongside her performance activity, Francesca is a passionate advocate for quality music education and in making classical music more accessible within the community. Francesca founded a voluntary organization called ‘Musica Vitae’ whose aim is to provide young musicians with performing opportunities by organising concerts in aid of charity. In addition, through her Open-Academy Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music she developed her skills as workshop leader and collaborator, working on various musical outreach projects, ranging from participants living with dementia to children with SEN. She has worked on these projects with leading arts organisations, Wigmore Hall Learning, Resonate Arts, Oxford Lieder Festival and Spitalfields Music.