

# ROMINA

“Emotional and vocally thrilling” is how the San Francisco Bay Times describes Romina Di Gasbarro’s voice. “Affecting, pure-toned...beguiling” says the Contra Costa Times. “Spunky” and “manages to move us to tears” writes the East Bay Press. “A rich soprano voice” reads The Chicago Tribune.

Romina’s music comes out of a career that started with fronting rock, funk and jazz bands to singing some of the most dramatic operatic soprano roles on stages throughout Italy, the United States and Canada. Add to that, music degrees in classical guitar and composition, her eclectic songs are clearly something off the beaten path. A songwriting style that doesn’t easily fall into categories, Romina weaves poetic lyrics into mesmerizing arrangements and lush colours in a way that is truly her own. Romina’s songs push the boundaries of what is popular music today in a way that is both old-world sentimental and new-world and avantgarde.

## SOLO DISCOGRAPHY

Romina’s solo discography includes 2004 EP, *Little Rome* and 2010 debut, *Poema*. On board are JUNO celebrated artists from both the classical and jazz worlds; Andrew Downing (double bass, cello), David Occhipinti (guitar), Jean Martin (drums), Aisslinn Nosky (violin), Karen Moffatt (viola), and Francesco Pellegrino (tenor).

## THE ROMINA SHOW

Romina performs regularly in Toronto venues including Glenn Gould Studio, Hugh’s Room, Supermarket, The Free Times Café, The Painted Lady, Tranzac, 460 Spadina, Czechoski, The Spoke Club, Wychwood Barns Theatre, Lula Lounge, The Music Gallery and many more. Music festivals include Luminato Festival, TD Downtown Jazz Festival, International Festival at the CNE, Young Centre Global Cabaret Festival, NXNE, and Indie Music Week.

## COLLABORATIONS

Romina has made music with some of Canada’s most celebrated musicians from the pop, jazz, classical and world music spheres including Roberto Occhipinti, Stephan Moccio, Rick Lazar, Anthony Michelli, Davide Di Renzo, Barry Romberg, Patricia O’Callaghan, Eve Egoyan, Liz Upchurch, Quinsin Nachoff, Amanda Marshall, Francesco Milioto, Clarence Ford, Julia Wedman, John Mark Sherlock, Nicolas Hernandez, Peter Lutek and many more.

## RADIO, TV & FILM

*Poema* receives radio play from the CBC, university campus radio across Canada, and Internet stations like Women of Substance Radio out of Los Angeles, California. Romina’s performances have been broadcast on CTV, OMNI TV and RAI TV in Italy. Romina has composed for short-film soundtrack, *Stranieri in Città* by Italian film director Nico Monteleone featured at the Toronto Italian Film Festival.

## OPERA

Romina pursued voice studies in Milan, Italy where she studied with opera legends like Victoria de los Angeles at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena. She continued her studies in Berkeley, California where she began her professional opera career debuting in roles such as Desdemona in Verdi’s *Otello*, Mimì in Puccini’s *La Bohème*, Micaëla in Bizet’s *Carmen* and Sharon in McNally’s *Master Class*. She has been a featured performer with Festival Opera, Berkeley Opera, North Bay Opera, The Willows Theatre, The New Music Theatre Collective, Vacaville Arts Society, American Opera Group and The Royal Canadian Opera. In 2012 Romina will be debuting the role of the Sorceress in Henry Purcell’s opera, *Dido and Aeneas* with Opera York.

## SONGWRITING & COMPOSITION

As a composer Romina's music has been featured on platforms such as the Electro-Acoustic Symposium at U of T, Array Music and Earshot. She has attended composition classes with Franco Donatoni, Luciano Berio and Ennio Morricone at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. Currently, Romina is completing a Master's degree in Music Composition from York University under the supervision of David Mott. Romina has also newly embarking on licensing her songs for various artists including pop-opera group, Naria.

## PRESS

Romina's performances have been singled-out with high praise by The Chicago Tribune, The Contra Costa Times, The Berkeley Daily Planet, San Francisco Classical Voice and The East Bay Press.

## AWARDS

*York University Department of Languages, Literature and Linguistics, Book Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Modern Italian Culture.* October 2011. Toronto, Canada.

*Accademia Musicale Chigiana Award for Voice* (by Victoria de los Angeles). August 1997. Siena, Italy.

*The Dean Goodman Choice Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre for Supporting Performance in Master Class* (by Dean Goodman). October 2000. San Francisco, USA.

*Arca Nuova Accademia di Canto Lirico Award.* May 1996. Turin, Italy.

*Onlus Euridice per la Musica e Melodramma Award.* July 1998. Viterbo, Italy.

*Array Music Young Composers Workshop.* June 1995. Toronto, Canada.

## EDUCATION

*Master in Fine Arts (Music Composition).* Spring 2013. York University. (Toronto, Canada)

*Diploma in Voice.* July 1998. Onlus Euridice per la Musica e Melodramma. (Viterbo, Italy)

*Diploma in Voice.* August 1997. Accademia Musicale Chigiana di Siena. (Siena, Italy)

*Diploma in Voice.* May 1996. Arca Nuova Accademia di Canto Lirico di Torino. (Turin and Milan, Italy)

*Artist Diploma in Voice Performance.* Fall 1994. The University of Western Ontario. (London, Canada)

*Bachelor of Musical Arts (Classical Guitar and Music Education).* Spring 1993. U.W.O.

*Diplomas in Classical Guitar, Theory.* The Royal Conservatory of Music. 1985-1989. (Toronto, Canada)

## TEACHING & WORKSHOPS

Romina has been teaching voice and classical guitar in her private studio since 2004. She has lead master classes on Italian art song and opera and has worked as a coach with singers on Italian diction and language. She is currently under contract in the Department of Music at York University.

## TODAY & TOMORROW

Romina's debut release *Poema* (2010) is available through iTunes and CD Baby. Her music has received the kind support of the Canada Council for the Arts for both recordings and concert production. A 2012 tour is in the works and a 2013 new record release is bubbling away!