

Marco Santilli studied classical clarinet with Hansjürg Leuthold and Heinz Hofer at the Zurich Music Academy. He expanded his training and consolidated his skills in instrumentation and arranging with the study of wind orchestra conducting under Franco Cesarini. After receiving his diploma in orchestral performance and teaching, he became adjunct clarinetist for the orchestra of the Zurich Opera House. Marco earned his soloist diploma with a "First Prize for Virtuosity" from the Lausanne Music Academy, where he had studied clarinet under Frédéric Ropin.

He took lessons with George Robert, participated in various Jazz workshops with Gary Burton/Makoto Ozone, George Gruntz and Ken Peplowski (NY). He has also taken part in "Berklee at Umbria Jazz".

He played chamber music and concerts with the Philharmonia Zurich, the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, the Musikkollegium Winterthur, the Schweizer Philharmonie, Collegium Musicum St. Gallen and the "Soli Wind Ensemble" (Italy). As jazz musician he performed at the "Montreux Jazz Festival", "Estival Jazz Lugano", "Tonhalle Late", "Internationales Musikfestival Alpentöne", "Label Suisse", "Stanser Musiktage", "Stubete am See" and "Blues to Bop". Several concerts in Europe, Kazakhstan and in the United States with, among others, the Michael Rabinowitz quartet (Mingus Orchestra).

Marco leans markedly towards jazz, although improvisation and performance technique are not the only things that matter to him. So he himself became a skilled composer and arranger. As a clarinetist he is comfortable in a very wide range of styles, with a particular fondness for songs he has composed and arranged, since he can imbue these with his ideal sound, bringing out the tonal richness of the ensemble in question.

The following projects characterize his current works:

- **CheRoba** Jazz Quartet with Lorenzo Frizzera (g), Ivan Tibolla (p) and Fulvio Maras (perc). The recording of their cd "L'occhio della betulla" with original works from Marco took place at the Radio studios RSI Lugano in November 2015;
- **CheRoba & il Fiato delle Alpi** Marco has been commissioned by the International Alpentöne Festival to write a composition for a 9 elements band. This project has been supported with a grant by Pro Helvetia. "La Stüa", a synthesis between composed and improvised music, has been premiered at the International Alpentöne Festival in Altdorf 2015. The recording of the album took place at the Musikinsel Rheinau in February 2016;
- **Orgelwind** Jazz/World Duo with Ivan Tibolla (org) playing own compositions. (CD "Orgelwind", CD Baby, 2015);
- **Santilli Alderighi** Mediterranean Jazz with the pianist Paolo Alderighi. (CD "Godiva soleva", MONS Records, 2012);
- **Belli in zona** Folk/World/Jazz with Giordano Muto (sax). (CD "Belli in zona", ALTRISUONI 2007);
- **Zappa Santilli** Chamber Jazz with cellist Mattia Zappa (Marco has been mandated the composition "Equinozio d'autunno", a suite in four movements for clarinet/bass clarinet and violoncello. This suite has been premiered as a part of the concert series "Concerti in San Martino", Ronco s. Ascona;
- Soloist with the **Amadé Clarinet Octet** performing jazz standards, big band arrangements and compositions written by Marco;
- **Marco Santilli Rossi** Pop/Pop-Rock, composing and arranging pop-songs, produced together with Urs Wiesendanger. The CD "Tempi passati" has been published September 2017. Several Songs are in the rotation of many Swiss Radios;
- Being adjunct clarinetist of the **Philharmonia Zurich**, Marco has taken the assignment of arranging a choice of classical pieces for the cyclus "Geschichten erzählen" (formerly "Opera viva") of the Zurich Opera and actively takes part in its ensemble. Participation at the "Salzburger Festspiele" in August 2012;
- From 2013 to 2018 participation in the board of the **Swiss Clarinet Society** (SCS), in 2018 he organized the "Swiss Clarinet Day" at the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana (CSI) in Lugano;
- Since June 2015, elected member to the board of the **SUISA** Distribution and Works Committee
- In 2017, following the invitation of the Swiss Embassy in Astana to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between Switzerland and Kazakhstan, he played three concerts with the Jubilee-**KazaCH Jazz-Trio** and gave a Master Class; in 2018 followed an invitation of the Philharmonic Theatre of Almaty to play own compositions and arrangements with the **Kazach State String Quartet**;
- Besides, he plays as soloist with jazz ensembles, Big Bands, wind bands, choirs and clarinet choirs.

Marco Santilli plays following instruments: Selmer Privilège B-flat clarinet, Selmer alto clarinet, Selmer Privilège bass clarinet.