



RAFFAELE CONTI (accordion) – BIOGRAPHY

Raffaele Conti was born in 1979 in Fossombrone, in the Marche region of Italy.

He began studying standard piano/bass accordion at the age of 10 with Maestro Enzo Veddovi. He then studied with Maestro Athos Donnini and later with Maestro Vladimir Zubitsky.

EDUCATION

In 2001, he participated in the Umbria Jazz Clinics jazz piano class.

In 2002, he began advanced studies with Maestro Simone Zanchini, with whom he studied accordion technique applied to countless musical styles and genres.

2005 – Invitation to perform at the 1st National Accordion Festival in the city of Urbania;

Since 2009, he has participated in various advanced courses, including international ones, in jazz and improvisation.

2009 – Advanced course in Macrocosmi 'Accordion & Jazz' with Maestro S. Zanchini at the 'G. Pergolesi' school, covering swing, bop and hard bop.

2010 – Macrocosmi advanced course in 'Accordion & Jazz' with Maestro S. Zanchini at the 'G. Pergolesi' school, focusing on swing, bop and hard bop.

2013 – Improvisation masterclass "Unheard Sounds I – Improvisation in jazz and everyday life" in San Leo on "instant composition/free jazz".

2014 – Improvisation masterclass "Unheard Sounds II – Improvisation in jazz and everyday life" in San Leo on "minimal music/music conduction".

2015 – Under the guidance of Maestros Bruno Tommaso, Gian Marco Gualandi and Simone Zanchini, he graduated from the Experimental Three-Year Course in Jazz at the G. Rossini Conservatory of Music in Pesaro, performing in collaboration with percussionist/vibraphonist Maestro Daniele di Gregorio.

2015 – Workshop & Festival "Jazzinty" in Novo Mesto (Slovenia), working with double bassist Joris Teepe, pianist Bill Laurance, drummer Yusuf Ahmed and accordionist Simone Zanchini.

2017 – Workshop & Festival "Jazzinty" in Novo Mesto (Slovenia), working with double bassist Joris Teepe, Jure Pukl, Andy Middleton and Simone Zanchini.

2018 – Workshop & Festival "Jazzinty" in Novo Mesto (Slovenia) working with double bassist Linda Oh, saxophonists David Binney and Igor Lumpert, and accordionist Simone Zanchini.

2019 – He obtained a Master's Degree in "Arrangement, Composition and Jazz Orchestra Conducting" at the "G. Rossini" State Conservatory in Pesaro under the guidance of Maestro Gian Marco Gualandi.

2019 – Participates in the "La Fenice" International Accordion Competition in the categories of *Variété soloist* and *Freestyle duo*, winning two second places.

2025 – Participated in the radical improvisation workshop "Il Tao dell'Improvvisazione" held by double bassist Daniele Roccato at the Church of S. Filippo in Fossombrone (PU), performing in the final concert alongside the Maestro.

ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES/COLLABORATIONS

He has played, recorded and founded countless bands and groups, both in fixed formations and combos, ranging in genres from tango, folk, traditional, jazz, funk, musette, manouche, pop, etc.

At the same time, he dedicates himself to solo projects and performances in which he presents unpublished pieces and personal reinterpretations of a wide variety of genres.

He also collaborates with artistic worlds outside of music, such as painting and theatre, performing in contexts ranging from the 'Teatro Stabile di Torino' to experimental and alternative artistic research festivals, such as live painting projects with artist Massimo Modula and painter/dancer/performer Alice Karshan.

He occasionally collaborates as a demonstrator for the accordion company 'Ottavianelli Accordions Factory' in Castelfidardo, for which he has also designed an original fretwork called 'Il Baffo di Apollo' (Apollo's Moustache).

For several years, he has collaborated with the ensemble "LIMS" (Laboratorio d'Improvvisazione Musica Sperimentale), which was founded within the Urbino Jazz Club (UJC) circuit, where he has also been an artistically active figure.

In 2017, he participated as a guest artist at the prestigious JAF (Jazz Accordion Festival) in Castelfidardo.

In 2018, he was commissioned to coordinate the jazz ensemble of the "G. Rossini" Conservatory in Pesaro in promotional and institutional events throughout the year.

In 2019, he began a side project teaching accordionists: nine live streaming sessions on Facebook every Sunday morning with in-depth discussions on hot topics related to the accordion and music. The project was interrupted in early 2020 due to issues related to the Covid-19 situation and the large number of 'teachers' who had appeared on the web.

The interruption of the teaching project gave rise to the 'Frank Marocco solos transcriptions' project, in which he edited the transcription of all the solos played by Frank Marocco on the album 'Freedom Flight' (Sabanou Productions), currently awaiting release.

In 2021, the music video for the original composition 'Retrò-Marcia (R. Conti)' was selected and broadcast during the prime time slot of the 'VII Festival Internacional da Sanfona' (VII International Accordion Festival – Brazil), which can be viewed at the following link: https://youtu.be/OAv_AvRhqZA?si=3mtYFyiLxG_XNj03&t=6509.

At the beginning of 2021, he began collaborating with the prestigious jazz drummer Ananda Gari, ethnic singer Sofia Silvi and guitarist Lucia Lazzari to form a quartet called 'Balkan Express', which works on traditional Balkan music.

In 2023, the quartet released their album 'Balkan Express' on the Castelfidardo label 'Nügo'.

In 2023, he was invited to perform at the PIF (Premio Internazionale della Fisarmonica) in Castelfidardo.

In March 2025, he is appointed coordinator and teacher of the Jazz Accordion Masterclass (JAM) during the prestigious "JAF" (Jazz Accordion Festival) in Castelfidardo.

In April 2025, he released two original jazz compositions for accordion published by the digital label 'NEXT Re-Chords':

- ['Retrò Marcia'](#)
- ['Blue Raff'](#)

In his musical career, he plays or has had the honour of playing with Stefano Fariselli, Milo Lombardi, Alex Gorbi, Denis Fattori, Massimo Valentini, Christian Marini, Ananda Gari, Enrico Montanaro, Antonino De Luca, Domenico Saccente, Valentine Gasser, Kanuthe Jabel, Marco Chiarabini, Antonangelo Giudice, Manuele Montanari, Daniele Mancini, Gigi Faggi, Francesco Mancini Zanchi, Giacomo Rotatori, Jean Gambini, Mirco Ballabene, Daniele Roccato, Fabio Battistelli and others.

Over the years, he has maintained his activity as a teacher of accordion and improvisation for music schools and in private settings.

He is constantly researching in the field of sound, arrangement and composition for accordion and beyond.