

**Vincenzo Balzani** graduated with first class honours from “Verdi” conservatory of music in Milan while studying with Alberto Mozzati. At the age of 16 he was awarded the “Liszt” prize at “Maria Canals” competition in Barcelona. In 1971 he was top prize winner at many famous competitions as: “Pozzoli” in Seregno, “Città di Treviso”, “F. P. Neglia” in Enna and “G.B. Viotti” in Vercelli. In 1975 he successfully represented RAI at the Maurice Ravel competition in Paris organized to commemorate 100 years since the birth of the French composer. As concert artist he has performed as recitalist, soloist with orchestra, member of chamber ensemble all over the world including the most prestigious Italian theatres and festivals. He has recorded extensively for Radio and TV and has released LPs and CDs. Since 1973 he has taught piano in music academies: he has been Professor of piano at “Verdi” conservatory of music in Milan for 20 years. He often serves as judge for many international competitions and also holds courses, master classes and lectures in Italy and abroad. In addition to his activities as pianist and teacher he is artistic director of “Valsesia Musica” and “Città di Cantù” international competitions and of “Monterosa - Kawai”, “Pianotalents”, “Pozzolino” and “Tadini” juniores contests as well. He has been nominated as artistic committee member of “Pozzoli” piano competition since 2010. Artistic director of “Associazione Culturale Valsesia Musica” in Varallo since its foundation, he also founded “Pianofriends” association in Milan in 2009.