

# Il Testamento

A theatrical performance  
with musical arias

by

Riccardo Riccardi



Vecchia Chiesa di San Nicolò, Bajardo  
11th July 2015 at 8:30 pm  
Free admission

in collaboration with

Royal Irish  
Academy of  
Music



A.C.L.E.

# Il Testamento

A theatrical performance with musical arias by Riccardo Riccardi

Vecchia Chiesa di San Nicolò, Bajardo, IM 11th July 2015 at 8:30 pm

Free admission

*ACLE, in collaboration with Accademia Culturale Linguistica Educativa Foundation, and in collaboration with the Royal Irish Academy of Music, produced this show during Summer 2015 in Bajardo. The work was chosen both for its artistic value and because it aligned with the Foundation's objective of promoting the learning of foreign languages through innovative methods and through intercultural activities among young people. For more information: <http://www.acle.it/>*

## About the work

Il testamento (The Will) premiered in Dublin at the Royal Irish Academy of Music on March 26th, 2014 and is presented in Italy for the first time. The performance of this work combines elements of a theatrical play and a chamber opera. The spoken texts are in English, the texts of the arias are in English, Portuguese, and Italian.

## The plot

Paola (singer/actress) and Claudia (pianist/actress), two cousins in their forties, meet in the house just inherited from an old uncle who has passed away. For Claudia it's a return: years earlier she had left her native village to find success in the city. Paola, on the other hand, never moved from the small town where they were born. She had always been the beautiful and extroverted cousin, admired by everyone, whereas Claudia had never succeeded, before leaving, in breaking out of her native shyness. In spite of the tight relation they had had in their youth, at the outset of this meeting the two cousins are cold and formal. They talk then of their uncle, Giovanni, a music teacher and coach who died without heirs. Memories begin to pour out and with the memories the two seem to rediscover their old familiarity and frankness with each other. What was the real reason Claudia left? What causes Paola's uneasiness even though she never moved from the village?

## The composer & playwright

The first work in Riccardo Riccardi's catalogue dates from 1973. A composer of chamber, orchestral and vocal music, he has, since the early 1990's, focused primarily on music theater. Riccardi's operas for both large and small casts are based on his own libretti, some original, as in this work, and others adapted from early 20th century writers. He holds a Chair of Composition at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome. More information at <http://www.riccardoriccardi.com/>



## The performers

Margaret Bridge, Dearbhla Máire Collins, Richard Thomas and Cormac O' Briain are all outstanding graduates of the Royal Irish Academy of Music.



**Margaret** (soprano) is a former young associate artist with Opera Theatre Company, with whom she performed in operas and concerts around Ireland. She received a scholarship and first class honours at Trinity College Dublin before completing a masters in music performance at the RIAM.



**Dearbhla** (pianist) has worked as a coach at the Wexford Festival Opera, and recently performed with students from the Juilliard School and the Royal Irish Academy of Music in the Ten Thousand Miles Away song project tour.



**Richard** (violinist) is the leader of the RIAM Symphony Orchestra and first violinist in the Mesefe Quartet, with whom performed at the Music in Drumcliffe Festival. He has been a prizewinner in the Dublin Feis Ceoil, Newpark Feis and Sligo Feis Ceoil.



**Cormac** (cellist) has performed at the Amsterdam Cello Biennale Festival and at the Aurora Chamber Music Festival in Sweden. In 2014 he won the Beggs and Partners Instrumentalist of the Year Award at the Ballymena Music Festival.