



# FRANCO DONATONI (1927–2000)

Marches (1979)  
for harp solo

[1] I 06:01

[2] II 04:43

Nidi (1979)  
for piccolo solo

[3] I 04:35

[4] II 03:47

Clair (1980)  
for clarinet solo

[5] I 04:01

[6] II 03:28

[7] Small (1981)  
for piccolo, clarinet  
and harp 08:15

[8] Estratto (1969)  
for piano solo 01:00

[9] Secondo Estratto (1970)  
for piano, harpsichord  
and harp 10:29

[10] Quarto Estratto (1974)  
for piccolo, flute, violin,  
mandolin, harp,  
harpsichord, piano  
and celesta 02:50

TT 49:15

Ensemble Adapter

**Ensemble Adapter**  
[3] [4] [7] [10] Kristjana Helgadóttir *piccolo*  
[5] [6] [7] Ingólfur Vilhjálmsson *clarinet*  
[1] [2] [7] [9] [10] Gunnhildur Einarsdóttir *harp*  
[10] Matthias Engler *celesta*

**Guests**  
[10] Aaron Dan *flute*  
[10] Chatschatur Kanajan *violin*  
[10] Seth Josel *mandolin*  
[9] [10] Petteri Pitko *harpsichord*  
[8] [9] [10] Elmar Schrammel *piano*

»SWR2

Deutschlandfunk Kultur

Recording venues: [3]–[7] Kammermusikstudio, SWR Stuttgart  
[1] [2] [8] [9] [10] Studio Britz, Deutschlandradio Berlin

Recording dates: [3]–[7] 28–29 Aug 2014  
[8] [10] 7 Oct 2014  
[1] [2] [9] 14 Apr 2015

Executive producer: [3]–[7] Björn Gottstein  
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Mastering: Alexander Feucht  
Production: [3]–[7] Südwestrundfunk 2014.  
Lizenziert durch SWR Media Services GmbH

[1] [2] [8] [9] [10] Deutschlandfunk Kultur

Publisher: [1] [4] [5] Ricordi, [2] [3] BMG Ricordi

Graphic Design: Alexander Kremmers (paladino media),  
cover based on artwork by Jakob Gasteiger

## AVVERTENZA

### Flauto, Ottavino

*Staccatissimo, pp il più possibile;* le note bianche devono essere eseguite premendo la chiave (non battere il dito) senza l'missione del fiato.

### Violino

*Balzato alla punta, pp il più possibile;* le note bianche devono essere eseguite premendo il dito sulla tastiera, senza l'intervento dell'arco.

### Mandolino

*Staccatissimo, pp il più possibile;* le note bianche devono essere eseguite premendo il dito sulla tastiera, senza l'intervento del plettro

### Celesta

*Staccatissimo;* le note bianche devono essere eseguite sfiorando il tasto corrispondente col polpastrello oppure, se è possibile, percuotendolo con l'unghia senza emissione di suono.

### Clavicembalo

*Staccatissimo; 4° sul II manuale (mod. Neupert);* le note bianche devono essere eseguite sfiorando il tasto corrispondente col polpastrello oppure, se è possibile, percuotendolo con l'unghia senza emissione di suono.

### Arpa

*Staccatissimo, pp il più possibile;* le note bianche devono essere eseguite battendo il polpastrello sulla nota corrispondente, senza pizzicare la corda.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

### Flute, Piccolo

*Staccatissimo, and as soft as possible; the white notes must be played by pressing (but not hitting) the key, with no emission of breath.*

### Violin

*Played by bouncing the tip of the bow, as soft as possible; the white notes must be played by pressing the finger to the fingerboard, without using the bow.*

### Mandolin

*Staccatissimo, as soft as possible; the white notes must be played by pressing the finger to the fingerboard, without using the plectrum.*

### Celesta

*Staccatissimo; the white notes must be played by brushing the corresponding key with the fingertip or, if possible, by striking it with the fingernail in such a way as to produce no sound.*

### Harpsichord

*Staccatissimo; 4° on the II manual (Neupert model); the white notes must be played by brushing the corresponding key with the fingertip or, if possible, striking it with the fingernail in such a way as to produce no sound.*

### Harp

*Staccatissimo, as soft as possible; the white notes are to be played by hitting the fingertip against the corresponding string, without plucking the string.*

### Pianoforte

*Staccatissimo, con la minima pressione delle dita;* le note bianche devono essere eseguite sfiorando il tasto corrispondente col polpastrello oppure, se è possibile, percuotendolo con l'unghia senza emissione di suono.

### N.B.

L'esecuzione è il più veloce possibile, secondo le possibilità di ciascun strumentista; le pulsazioni vuote hanno la stessa durata del suono (nota bianca o nera); il mantenimento della isocronia individuale è obbligo del massimo valore, ai fini del rendimento collettivo.

## DISPOSIZIONE DEGLI STRUMENTI

Clavicembalo Mandolino Arpa Celesta Pianoforte

Violino

Ottavino Flauto  
(senza direttore)

### Piano

*Staccatissimo, applying as little pressure as possible with the fingers; the white notes must be played by brushing the corresponding key with the fingertip or, if possible, by striking it with the fingernail in such a way as to produce no sound.*

### N.B.

*The piece should be performed as fast as possible, according to the possibilities of each individual instrument. The empty beats have the same duration as the sounded ones (whether black or white); it is essential, in order to produce the desired collective sound, that each individual instrumentalist maintain absolute regularity and evenness of tempo throughout the piece*

## SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

Harpsichord Mandolin Harp Celesta Piano

Violin  
Piccolo Flute  
(no conductor)

Durata 2' - 2'30" ca.

## Thrown back upon itself: Discoveries and Mysteries in the Music of Franco Donatoni

by Leonie Reineke

"A single idea suffices to compose a piece. There's no need to amass scores of them. Again and again, I observe how ideas are simply wasted, resulting in arbitrariness and complete confusion. In order to avoid this, we should think about codes or sets of guidelines, according to which we can organize, transform and develop single ideas."

Franco Donatoni (born in Verona, Italy in 1927) imparted this message to his students not only in the final years of his life but had already declared it his modus operandi decades earlier. A number of works by Donatoni are based on a nearly obsessive reduction of foundational materials, like pitch cells and even single pitches, from which he then derives the entire subsequent development of the piece. Perhaps the most obvious assumption one could make about this approach – that like a plant, an organic, closed whole could grow from a small germ cell – would lead to a dead end. For, although Donatoni often organizes a composition around a central musical thought, this organization is not associative. Instead, he works with strict, mathematically or sometimes geometrically generated patterns, in which chains of pitches are perceptible not as shapes or expressive gestures but rather as structured flows of energy. Symmetries, centralities and repetitions but also consciously deployed interruptions of the formal logic characterize Donatoni's musical language. He works on his musi-

cal constructions like a structural engineer: each decision is the result of careful consideration; he leaves nothing to chance or mere intuition. Even irregularities and radical breaks within the composition follow worked-out rules with utter precision. "In architecture," Donatoni explains, "there are also many cases, in which one or more asymmetrical elements form important regulators within the superordinate symmetry. Therefore, asymmetry is always part of symmetry."

This rigor, the preciseness and thoroughness, with which Donatoni approached composing, also caused him great difficulties. A predisposition to compulsive neurosis and depression regularly drove him to major crises that forced him to suspend his artistic activities for long periods of time. Multiple turning points and reorientations in his creative practice may explain why he never received the same degree of long-lasting fame that some of his other postwar colleagues have enjoyed. The still cautious interest in the composer and the hesitation to program his works in the concert circuit are testament to the mystery that Franco Donatoni has left the music world.

The composer's inscrutability excited the Berlin-based Ensemble Adapter, just like his compositional logic and rigor. For this release, the musicians decided to focus on various segments of Donatoni's solo and chamber music. As the percussionist and co-founder of the ensemble, Matthias Engler, explains, "We all like music that is rigorous and uncompromising – music like Donatoni's. He relentlessly strings together diverse fields of sound, working on them like a sculptor. Sometimes there are caesuras and then suddenly we hear something completely. However, contained

in every piece is a point of reference, to which everything else can be traced back. This can be a tonal center or meter for example. Thus, his works may be inorganic and to a certain extent brash and brittle but they are also lively and enthralling."

*Estratto*, a solo piano work from 1969, is made up of short, accentuated attacks that form a continuous pulse, so that the piece seems to develop systematically within the confines of an utterly consistent level of energy. The tonal material circles palpably around a core, a cell consisting of a few pitches that remain recognizable throughout the entire piece. However, Donatoni does not work here with connections that rely on functional harmony but instead with persistent repetitions that induce the dominance of certain pitches. In the course of the piece, the sonic texture becomes minimally more transparent through increasing pauses and after about a minute, the music simply breaks off, without building up tension, without any sudden changes, and without climax. *Estratto* is an example of Donatoni's rejection of extended forms of development. Instead, he looked to Karlheinz Stockhausen's "moment form" as an alternative. The "moment form" is a formal principle, according to which, as Stockhausen explained in 1962, "one can expect a minimum or maximum at each moment and cannot predict with certainty the direction of subsequent development."

*Secondo Estratto* from the following year also returns to this formal principle. This piece is about ten times longer than *Estratto* but draws on the same pitch cell. The timbral coloration that Donatoni worked into the composition is striking. With the combination of harp,

piano and cembalo, he expanded the instrumentation to a miniature orchestra of diverse keyboard and string instruments. However, this piece did not mark the end of this family of works. In 1974, he reworked the piece again, which resulted in a composition for two flutes, violin, mandolin, celeste, cembalo, harp and piano. In *Quarto Estratto*, the tempo and length, as well as the ordering of pitch materials, are remarkably similar to the original composition. The marginal decrease in the density of sonic events also follows the same course as in *Estratto*. However, the performance instructions, "as quickly as possible," are rather ambiguous and unclear, for the complete lack of bar lines or other signs for pauses or caesura begs the question, "Is each instrument supposed to play as 'quickly as possible' in an individual tempo or are all the voices supposed to follow a common tempo?" The ensemble's decision not to play in sync but rather to let each instrument determine its own tempo, made after a long and not totally satisfying investigation into the matter, had drastic consequences for the final sound: a complex polyphony of individual voices, which is likely what Donatoni had in mind. At the same time, this interpretive decision is also of great historical significance, since this performance was the very first recording of the composition.

The *Estratti* would not remain the only musical patchwork family in Donatoni's oeuvre. Soon, the self-referential de- and recomposing of older pieces would serve as an artistic escape from creative crises brought on by illness. In the '60s and '70s, he was seized by several periods of mental illness, which severely impaired his work and prevented him from creating something completely new. In this respect,

the piece of advice, which Donatoni would give to his composition students decades later, seemed like a maxim that he could have applied to himself: "For our work, we need resolve and will power. We need patience and loyalty to ourselves. Thus, never wait for 'inspiration'. The muse comes only after one has already begun working."

Donatoni had already struggled with music during his youth. He recalled, "As a child, I received violin lessons and was a complete disappointment to my teacher. I could neither hold the instrument properly nor use the bow. And I found the voice just baffling, like an unsolvable riddle. Up through my early twenties, my father would regularly assure me that as a composer I would remain unemployed." And yet, despite all this, Donatoni pursued his goal of studying music with great conviction. Meeting Goffredo Petrassi and Bruno Maderna was significant and paved the way for him to enter the contemporary music scene, where he received inspiration from the most diverse of personalities, from Karlheinz Stockhausen to Pierre Boulez to John Cage. This range of influences is also reflected in his heterogeneous creative phases. However, there is one thing that he followed intently from the very beginning: avoiding self-expression, "egocentricity" or concretely autobiographical traces in his compositions.

Following his persistent crises in the 1970s, Donatoni began to rework his own compositions with greater frequency. This process produced the 1981 trio *Small*, which is based on a total of three solo pieces for different instruments: *Marches* for solo harp from 1979 forms the first germ cell of the conglomerate and is

followed directly by *Nidi* for piccolo. In this piece, the composer works again with different transformations of extremely reduced source material. As Donatoni explains, "In *Nidi*, I begin with a small three-pitch cell, the series of which is transposed again and again. Then, I gradually weave additional pitches into the material. I chose the title *Nidi* (bird's nest), because I picture the piccolo as a cute little bird building its nest." *Clair* for solo clarinet is similarly virtuosic but permeated by more marked and abrupt dynamic contrasts. At the very start of the piece, Klezmer-like glissandi are heard, which could be interpreted as heralding Donatoni's later inclination to integrate traces of jazz into his sonic language.

Finally, from the three solo pieces emerges the trio *Small* for piccolo, clarinet and harp, which is constituted in part by unaltered passages taken from these three solo works. However, the three voices in this work do not proceed separately from one another, but, in some places, even seem to melt together. Time and again, certain figures played by the piccolo and clarinet follow one another with such great density that they form a cohesive melodic line. Similarly, there are moments, in which both wind instruments wind around each other like a DNA double helix. The composer says, "One could say that the piccolo is the husband, the harp the wife and the clarinet 'the third party'."

In *Marches*, *Nidi*, *Clair* and *Small*, a special kind of hybridity has been produced: three soli, which at first seem completely self-sufficient, are conjoined retrospectively through intentional copying and re-assembly to create a new expression. Thus, instead of searching for something that has "never been hear

before," Donatoni, as if driven by some compulsion, dissected his own creation and recomposed it. As Matthias Engler explains, "And it is precisely because he carried out this approach with such diligence and tenacity that a door onto something new, unmistakable and unpredictable opened up to us as an ensemble. I experience Franco Donatoni's music as something extremely authentic, for he always acted in his own mysterious world, without giving way to convention or fashion. Certainly, his personality is hard to grasp but this ultimately makes him all the more fascinating."

*translated from German  
by Noah Zeldin*

## Auf sich selbst zurückgeworfen. Entdeckungen und Rätselhaftes in der Musik von Franco Donatoni.

von Leonie Reineke

„Um ein Stück zu komponieren, reicht eine einzige Idee. Wir brauchen gar nicht viele Ideen. Immer wieder beobachte ich, wie Ideen einfach verschwendet werden. Das Resultat ist Beliebigkeit und völlige Verwirrung. Um das zu vermeiden, sollten wir uns einen Code – ein Regelwerk – überlegen, nach dem wir eine einzelne Idee organisieren, transformieren und fortspinnen können.“

Diese Überzeugung gab Franco Donatoni nicht nur bis in seine letzten Lebens- und Lehrjahre an seine Studenten weiter. Schon Jahrzehnte zuvor hatte er sie zu einem persönlichen Arbeitsprinzip erklärt. Etliche Werke des 1927 in Verona geborenen Italiener basieren auf einer nahezu zwanghaft reduzierten Materialgrundlage – wie Tonzellen oder Einzeltönen –, aus der sich der gesamte weitere Verlauf des Stücks ableitet. Die möglicherweise naheliegende Annahme, aus einer kleinen Keimzelle erwache ein organisches, abgeschlossenes Ganzes, ähnlich einer Pflanze, führt hier allerdings in eine Sackgasse. Zwar organisierte Donatoni eine Komposition oft um einen zentralen musikalischen Gedanken herum, doch keineswegs in einer assoziativ entwickelnden Art und Weise. Vielmehr arbeitete er mit streng mathematischen, teils geometrisch konstruierten Mustern, bei denen Tonketten eher als strukturierte Energieflüsse anstatt als Gestalten oder expressive Gesten wahrnehmbar sind. Symmetrien, Zentralitäten und Wiederholungen, aber

auch bewusst gesetzte Störungen der formalen Logik charakterisieren Donatonis Tonsprache. Wie ein Statiker arbeitete er an seinen musikalischen Gebäuden: Jede Entscheidung war das Ergebnis sorgfältiger Überlegungen, nichts überließ er dem Zufall oder einer intuitiven Laune. Selbst Unregelmäßigkeiten oder radikale Brüche innerhalb einer Komposition folgen akribisch ausgearbeiteten Gesetzmäßigkeiten. „Auch in der Architektur“, so äußerte sich Donatoni, „gibt es etliche Fälle, in denen ein oder mehrere asymmetrische Elemente wichtige Regulatoren innerhalb der übergeordneten Symmetrie bilden. Die Asymmetrie gehört also immer zur Symmetrie dazu.“

Diese Strenge, die Genauigkeit und die Konsequenz, mit der Donatoni das Komponieren anging, sollte ihm gleichzeitig das Leben erschweren: Eine zwangsneurotische Veranlagung und depressive Verstimmungen führten ihn regelmäßig in schwere Krisen, die seine Schaffenskraft über längere Zeit zum Aussetzen brachten. Mehrfache Einschnitte und Umorientierungen in seinem Schaffen mögen Gründe gewesen sein, weshalb ihm nie der gleiche dauerhafte oder wachsende Bekanntheitsgrad wie einigen seiner Kollegen in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts vergönnt war. Das auch heute eher verhaltene Interesse an seiner Person und das Zögern vor der Programmierung seiner Werke im Konzertbetrieb zeugen von der Rätselhaftigkeit, die Franco Donatoni der Musikwelt hinterlassen hat.

Diese Art der Unergründlichkeit eines Komponisten reizte das in Berlin ansässige Ensemble Adapter ebenso wie seine kompositorische Logik und Stringenz. Mit ihrem CD-Projekt widmen sich die Musiker ver-

schiedenen Segmenten der Solo- und Kammermusik Donatoni: „Wir alle mögen Musik“, so der Schlagzeuger und Ensemblemitgründer Matthias Engler, „die konsequent und kompromisslos funktioniert. Donatonis Stücke gehen genau in diese Richtung: Schonungslos reiht er Klangfeld an Klangfeld, auf eine sehr plastische Art und Weise. Manchmal gibt es Zäsuren und plötzlich folgt etwas anderes. Trotzdem ist in jedem Stück ein Bezugspunkt erkennbar, auf den sich alles andere zurückführen lässt. Das kann z.B. ein Tonzentrum oder ein Metrum sein. So sind seine Stücke zwar anorganisch und gewissermaßen spröde, dabei aber dennoch lebendig und packend.“

Die 1969 entstandene Komposition *Estratto* für Klavier solo beispielsweise setzt sich aus kurzen, akzentuierten Anschlägen zusammen, die einen durchgehenden Puls bilden. So scheint das Stück sich konsequent auf einem gleichbleibenden Energieniveau zu bewegen. Spürbar kreist das Tonmaterial um einen Kern – eine Zelle von wenigen Tönen, die über das gesamte Stück erkennbar im Zentrum bleibt. Allerdings arbeitet Donatoni hier keineswegs mit tonalfunktionalen Zusammenhängen, sondern schlicht mit einer Dominanz bestimmter Töne durch hartnäckige Wiederholungen. Im Laufe des Stücks wird die klangliche Textur durch zunehmende Pausen minimal transparenter. Dennoch ist dieser Prozess weit entfernt von einer dramatischen Entwicklung. So reißt die Musik nach einer knappen Minute unvermittelt ab – ohne Spannungsaufbau, ohne Umschwung, ohne Klimax. *Estratto* ist ein Beispiel für Donatonis Ablehnung ausgedehnter Entwicklungsformen. Er orientierte sich eher an der auf Karlheinz Stockhausen zurückgehenden „Momentform“. Hierbei handelt es sich um einen

musikalischen Formbegriff, bei dem „man in jedem Moment“, so Stockhausen im Jahr 1962, „ein Minimum oder ein Maximum zu erwarten hat und keine Entwicklungsrichtung aus dem Gegenwärtigen mit Gewissheit voraussagen kann.“

Auf dieses Formprinzip geht auch das ein Jahr später entstandene *Secondo Estratto* zurück. Das Stück ist etwa um das Zehnfache länger als *Estratto*, speist sich aber dennoch aus der gleichen Tonzelle. Auffällig ist die klangfarbliche Nachkolorierung, der Donatoni die Komposition unterzogen hat: Mit der Besetzung Harfe, Klavier und Cembalo erweiterte er das Instrumentarium auf einen aus unterschiedlichen Tasten- und Saiteninstrumenten bestehenden Klangkörper. Damit sollte die Werkfamilie allerdings noch nicht vollständig sein. 1974 bearbeitete er das Stück ein weiteres Mal und es entstand eine Komposition für zwei Flöten, Violine, Mandoline, Celesta, Cembalo, Harfe und Klavier: In *Quarto Estratto* sind sowohl Tempo und Dauer als auch die Anordnung des Tonmaterials der Originalkomposition frappierend ähnlich. Auch die geringfügige Abnahme der klanglichen Ereignisdichte folgt dem gleichen Verlauf wie in *Estratto*. Mehrdeutig und unklar allerdings erscheint die Spielanweisung „so schnell wie möglich“. Denn das gänzliche Fehlen von Taktstrichen oder anderen Zäsurzeichen wirft die Frage auf, ob jedes Instrument in einem individuellen „möglichst schnellen“ Tempo spielen solle oder ob alle Stimmen einem gemeinsamen Zeitmaß folgen sollten. Der nach längerer, zum Teil unbefriedigend gebliebener Recherche getroffene Entschluss des Ensembles, nicht synchron zu spielen, sondern jedes Instrument sein eigenes Tempolimit bestimmen zu lassen, hat drastische Konsequenzen für das klang-

liche Ergebnis: Es entsteht eine komplexe Polyphonie der einzelnen Stimmen, die von Donatoni vermutlich so gewünscht war. Dennoch kommt diese interpretatorische Entscheidung einer historischen Setzung gleich, da es sich hier um die Weltersteinspielung der Komposition handelt.

Die *Estratti* sollten nicht die einzige musikalische Patchworkfamilie in Donatonis Schaffen bleiben. Schon bald wurde das selbstreferentielle De- und Verkomponieren älterer Stücke für ihn zu einem kreativen Ausweg aus krankheitsbedingten Schaffenskrisen. In den 1960er und 70er Jahren ergriffen ihn mehrere psychische Leidensphasen, die seine Arbeit stark beeinträchtigten und ihm das Schöpfen von gänzlich Neuem versagten. Insofern wirkte der Ratschlag, den Donatoni seinen Kompositionsstudenten Jahrzehnte später gab, beinah wie eine Maxime, die er sich selbst einmal verordnet haben könnte: „Für unsere Arbeit brauchen wir einen starken Willen. Wir brauchen Geduld und Loyalität uns selbst gegenüber. Wartet also niemals auf ‚Inspiration‘. Die Muse kommt immer erst dann, wenn man bereits mit der Arbeit begonnen hat.“

Schon in seiner Jugend hatte Donatoni mit der Musik gerungen, erinnert er sich: „Als Kind hatte ich Geigenunterricht und war eine einzige Enttäuschung für meinen Lehrer. Ich konnte weder das Instrument richtig halten, noch den Bogen benutzen. Und das Stimmen blieb mir immer ein unlösbares Rätsel. Bis in meine frühen Zwanziger versicherte mir mein Vater regelmäßig, dass ich als Komponist arbeitslos sein würde.“ Dennoch verfolgte Donatoni entschlossen das Ziel, Musik zu studieren. Als bedeutsame

Schlüsselereignisse stellten sich Begegnungen mit Goffredo Petrassi und Bruno Maderna heraus, die ihm den Weg in den zeitgenössischen Musikbetrieb ebneten. Dort erhielt er Inspirationen von unterschiedlichsten Persönlichkeiten; von Karlheinz Stockhausen über Pierre Boulez bis hin zu John Cage. Diese Bandbreite spiegelt sich letztlich auch in seinen heterogenen Schaffensphasen wider. Eine Absicht allerdings hatte er von vorn herein verfolgt: die Vermeidung von Selbstexpression, „Ichhaftem“ oder konkret autobiografischen Spuren in seinen Kompositionen.

In der Folge seiner andauernden Krisen in den 1970er Jahren begann Donatoni, immer häufiger seine eigenen Werke neu zu bearbeiten. So entstand 1981 das Trio Small, das auf insgesamt drei Solostücken für verschiedene Instrumente basiert: Das 1979 entstandene *Marches* für Harfe solo bildet die erste Keimzelle des Konglomerats, das direkt im Anschluss komponierte *Nidi* für Piccoloflöte die zweite. Hier arbeitete der Komponist wieder mit verschiedenen Transformationen eines extrem reduzierten Ausgangsmaterials: „In *Nidi*“, so Donatoni, „beginne ich mit einer kleinen Dreitonzelle, deren Reihenfolge immer wieder vertauscht wird. Dann flechte ich nach und nach weitere Töne ein. Den Titel *Nidi* – zu deutsch: Vogelnest – habe ich gewählt, da ich mir die Piccolo flöte als kleinen, hübschen Vogel vorstelle, der sich sein Nest baut.“ Ähnlich virtuos wie *Nidi*, aber von deutlich markanteren und abrupten dynamischen Kontrasten durchdrungen ist das Stück *Clair* für Klarinette solo. Gleich zu Beginn dringt die klezmerartige Glissandospieleweise ins Ohr, die möglicherweise als Vorbote für Donatonis späteren Hang gelesen werden kann, Anklänge an Jazz in seine Klangsprache zu integrieren.

Aus den drei Solostücken ging schließlich die Komposition *Small* für Piccolo flöte, Klarinette und Harfe hervor. Dieses Stück setzt sich streckenweise aus unverändert übernommenen Passagen der Solostücke zusammen. Die drei Stimmen verlaufen hier allerdings nicht separiert nebeneinanderher, sondern wirken stellenweise wie mit-einander verschmolzen: Immer wieder folgen bestimmte Figuren von Piccolo und Klarinette so dicht aufeinander, dass sie eine zusammenhängende melodische Linie bilden. Ebenso gibt es Momente, in denen sich beide Bläserstimmen wie ein DNA-Doppelstrang umeinander winden. „Man könnte sagen,“ so der Komponist, „die Piccolo flöte ist der Ehemann, die Harfe die Ehefrau und die Klarinette ist der dritte.“

Im Fall von *Marches*, *Nidi*, *Clair* und *Small* ist eine besondere Art der Hybridgestalt entstanden: Drei zunächst vollständig autarke Soli sind nachträglich – durch gezieltes Kopieren und Neu-Zusammenfügen – zu einer Sinneinheit verwachsen. Anstatt also obsessiv nach Nie-Gehörtem zu suchen, hat Donatoni wie zwangsgetrieben seine eigene Schöpfung seziert und nochmals verkomponiert. „Und gerade dass er diesen Ansatz mit nahezu starrsinniger Konsequenz durchgezogen hat,“ so Matthias Engler, „hat uns als Ensemble eine Tür zu etwas Neuem, Unverwechselbaren und Unvorhersehbaren geöffnet. Ich erlebe Franco Donatonis Musik als authentisch. Denn er hat immer in seiner eigenen, rätselhaften Welt agiert, ohne sich an Konventionen oder Moden zu orientieren. Seine Persönlichkeit ist sicherlich schwer greifbar. Aber das macht ihn letztlich umso faszinierender.“

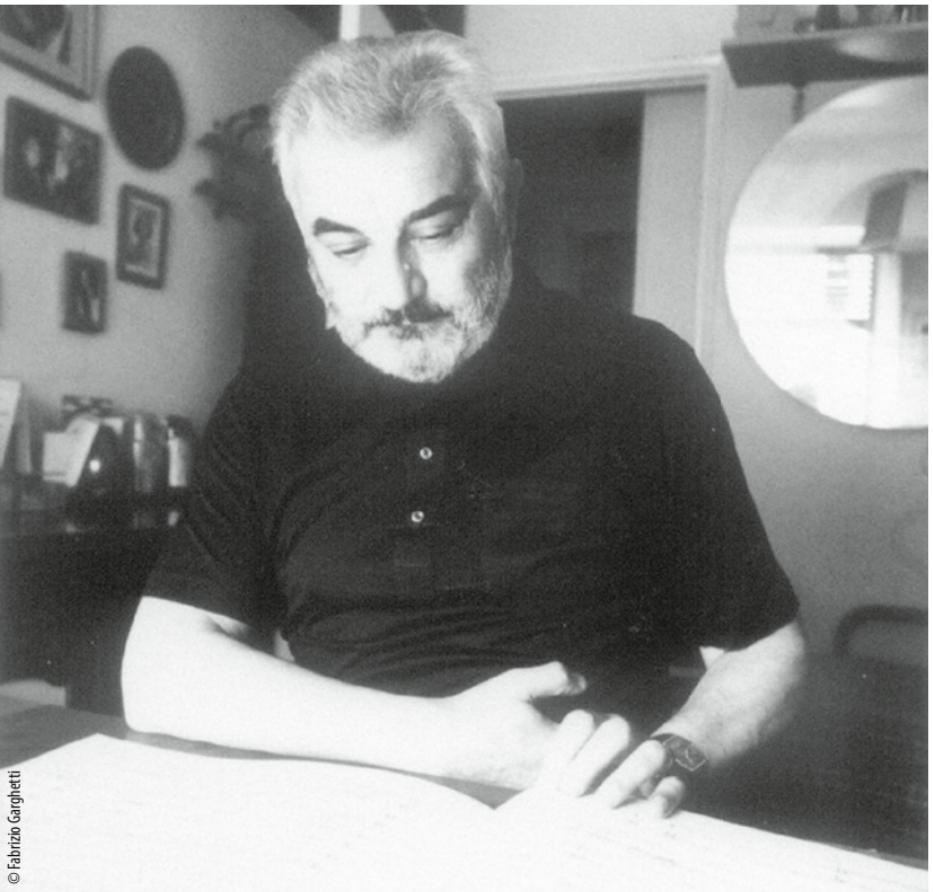
QUARTO ESTRATTO  
per otto strumenti

FRANCO DONATONI  
(1974)

A musical score page for eight instruments. The instruments listed on the left are: Ott., Vno., Fl., land., Cel., Clav., trpa., and Pf. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The second system begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The music features various note values (eighth, sixteenth, thirty-second) and rests, with some notes having stems pointing up and others down. The piano part (Pf.) includes dynamic markings like 'p' (piano) and 'ff' (fortissimo). The woodwind parts (Vno., Fl., land.) have slurs and grace notes.

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A continuation of the musical score from page 14. It shows the same eight instruments and two systems of music. The instrumentation remains the same: Ott., Vno., Fl., land., Cel., Clav., trpa., and Pf. The score continues the melodic and harmonic patterns established on page 14, maintaining the same clefs, key signatures, and time signatures. The notation includes various note heads, stems, and rests, with the piano part providing harmonic support through its chords and dynamics.



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## Franco Donatoni

Franco Donatoni was born in Verona on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1927. He studied composition at the G. Verdi Conservatory in Milan and at the G. B. Martini Conservatory in Bologna. In 1953 he obtained a diploma in the advanced course of composition taught by Ildebrando Pizzetti at the Accademia Nazionale di S. Cecilia in Rome.

He attended the Ferienkurse in Darmstadt in 1954, 1956, 1958 and 1961.

In the course of his career Donatoni won many prizes: the Liège prize (1951, *Quartet*), the Radio Luxembourg prize (1952, *Concertino* for strings, brass instruments and solo timpani; and 1953, *Symphony* for string orchestra), the S.I.M.C. prize (1961, *Puppenspiel* for orchestra), the Marzotto prize (1966, *Puppenspiel II* for flute, piccolo and orchestra), the Koussevitzki prize (1968, *Orts* for 14 instruments) and the Psacaropulo prize (1979, *Spiri* for 10 instruments). Donatoni taught in the Bologna, Turin and Milan conservatories from 1953 to 1978. He also held the chair of advanced composition at the Accademia Nazionale di S. Cecilia in Rome. From 1970 to 1999 he taught the advanced composition course at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena. In 1972 he was invited by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst to serve as composer in residence in Berlin for a year.

In 1979 he was invited to hold a seminar on his work at the University of California in Berkeley. He held various other seminars in Switzerland, France, Spain, Holland and Israel. In 1985 he was awarded the title

"Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Minister for Culture. 1999 saw the performance of *Fire (In Cauda IV)* and, on commission from the Salzburg Festival, *Poll* for 13 performers. His last orchestral works *Esa (In Cauda V)* – on commission from the Los Angeles Philharmonic – and dedicated to the orchestra's conductor as well as former pupil of the composer Esa-Pekka Salonen, and *Prom* – on commission from the BBC Proms – were performed posthumously: respectively in February and May of 2001.

Donatoni died on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2000.



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## Ensemble Adapter

Adapter is a German-Icelandic contemporary music ensemble, based in Berlin. The core of the group consists of a quartet with flute, clarinet, harp and percussion. Together with selected guest instrumentalists, this core occasionally grows into chamber music settings with up to 10 players. On international concert tours and in the studio Adapter plays world premieres and other selected works of the recent past. The ensemble also produces and co-produces larger interdisciplinary projects – and is interested in exploring and testing the limits of trans-medial approaches in various settings. In its workshops, Adapter transfers knowledge of how to write, study and perform contemporary music to composers, instrumentalists and creatives worldwide. Adapter stays up-to-date with the latest developments in the various scenes of contemporary creation – maintaining a progressive, authentic and powerful style.

Ensemble Adapter has been active since 2004, both in Berlin and internationally. A special focus of theirs, for many years, has been on the Scandinavian countries. Since 2011, the ensemble has been producing its own concert series named „Rotation“ on the premises of ExRotaprint, a former printing factory in Berlin's district of Wedding that has been re-opened as a centre for small businesses, social activities and the arts. The programming of the series 'Rotation' resembles Ensemble Adapter's versatile profile: young composers, international repertoire, experimental formats.

In recent years, Ensemble Adapter has also made appearances in various international festivals and concert series, such as Ultraschall (D), MaerzMusik (D), Wien Modern (ÖS), Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (GB), November Music (NL), Ultima (NO), Darmstädter Ferienkurse für Neue Musik (D), Time of Music (FIN), Reykjavík Art Festival (IS) and many more. Other concert trips lead them to Russia, Japan and the United States of America.

[ensemble-adapter.de](http://ensemble-adapter.de)



**Ensemble Adapter during the recording sessions**

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