

ANDREA BISSOLI • BIOGRAPHY

Italian guitarist Andrea Bissoli is the **author, artistic director and lead interpreter in *Villa-Lobos: The Guitar Manuscripts***, a three-CD international recording project released by Naxos, which was launched as a complete series box set in November 2016.

His recordings have been played on the **BBC, Classic FM, Radio France, WDR, Radio y Televisión Española, Rai, ABC and many North American networks**. Rádio Cultura FM (Brazil) selected the first volume of the series as their **CD of the Week** in early December 2013, and Naxos Deutschland launched it as the **Naxos CD of the Month** in January 2014. The three-CD box set was chosen as **Recording of the Month** by the specialist magazine *Seicorde* (Italy) in December 2016 and as one of the **Best CDs of the Month** by the music review *Amadeus* (Italy) for September 2018; the box set was presented as the **reference guitar recording** in ‘The Best Villa-Lobos’ editorial curated by David Hurwitz, Executive Editor at ClassicsToday.com, in June 2020.

Andrea Bissoli gave his first recital at thirteen, performing Villa-Lobos’s *Cinq Préludes*, and since then has won awards at numerous music competitions in his native Italy. He has studied with internationally renowned artists, including Stefano Grondona, Laura Mondiello, Alirio Díaz, Paul Galbraith and Oscar Ghiglia. He completed undergraduate and postgraduate courses at the Conservatorio Arrigo Pedrollo in Vicenza, both *cum laude*. Bissoli was also awarded a Diploma of Merit by the Accademia Chigiana in Siena after playing Bach’s *Ciaccona BWV 1004* at the Salone dei Concerti in July 2002. Three years later, he recorded the *Ciaccona* for the CD *La Guitaromanie*, released by the Vicenza Conservatory in 2007.

In 2006, he formed the guitar duo Phèdre Adroit with Federica Artuso. The duo have studied baroque music with Monica Huggett and Sigiswald Kuijken, and play nineteenth-century music on two period instruments, a ‘La Prevotte’ and a ‘Lacote’ respectively. Their repertoire includes **an all-Villa-Lobos programme made up of unpublished transcriptions for two guitars, created by Andrea Bissoli**.

Bissoli has been researching the works of Villa-Lobos for over a decade and has written articles for the specialist journal *Il Fronimo*. He has reconstructed the score of Villa-Lobos’s *Motivos Gregos*, a lost work for guitar, flute and female choir, by integrating the remaining historical sources. The project has earned him a mention in the latest version of the catalog compiled by the **Museu Villa-Lobos in Rio de Janeiro** and published by the Brazilian Ministry of Culture. He has transcribed *Dime perché* and *Tarantela*, two early works by Villa-Lobos dating from a time when the composer used to write guitar in hand. Bissoli has also completed *Valsa Concerto No. 2*, the earliest of Villa-Lobos’s guitar works to have survived, and has made an instrumentation of fourteen folksong arrangements from Villa-Lobos’s *Guia prático*, selecting pieces tailor-made for the guitar.

All of these, along with other unpublished works and renowned masterpieces, feature on the tracklist of the three-CD Naxos series, which has won widespread praise in the international press. The **Minas Gerais Philharmonic Orchestra** also took part in the project, recording the *Concerto pour guitare et petit orchestre* and the *Introdução aos Choros*, with Andrea Bissoli in the role of soloist. The recording sessions took place in Belo Horizonte in 2012, the same year that the Minas Gerais Philharmonic won the **Carlos Gomes Award for best Brazilian orchestra**.

Andrea Bissoli performs regularly as a soloist and chamber musician in Italy as well as abroad. He plays a guitar made by Jacques Vincenti, strung with New Nylgut strings by Aquila Corde Armoniche.