FACCINI PIANO DUO

Elia & Betsabea Faccini

Founded in Lucca in 2015, the Faccini Piano Duo consists of Italian British siblings Elia and Betsabea Faccini. Winners of over thirty national and international competitions - including the AMUR Contest for New Talents in 2022 and the 28th Mirabent i Magrans Competition in Sitges in 2024 - the duo is distinguished by an approach that combines interpretive depth, tonal exploration and a strong creative instinct, allowing them to carve out a distinctive artistic identity over the years.

Their concept of a piano duo goes well beyond traditional execution. Alongside performing the core four-hand and two-piano repertoire, Elia and Betsabea devote much of their energy to composing, arranging, and transcribing. Their programs emerge from the intersection of different eras, musical languages and worlds, ranging from the refinement of Ravel and Schubert to the rhythmic energy of Gershwin and from the grand orchestral works of Tchaikovsky to the film scores of John Williams and Ennio Morricone. This breadth is not merely a repertoire choice; it reflects their vision of the piano as a transformative instrument - one capable of evoking diverse soundscapes and telling musical stories through fresh perspectives.

Through their work on symphonic, operatic and orchestral scores, the Faccini Piano Duo explores the piano's capacity to capture and reinvent the complex textures of a full orchestra. Rather than simply scaling down a score, their transcriptions preserve its expressive richness, reimagining colours, balances and articulations specifically for four hands. The result strikes a balance between fidelity to the original masterpiece and creative freedom, offering listeners a whole new experience.

This passion for transcription extends beyond their own duo performances into collaborations with other musicians and ensembles. Highlights include projects with percussionists Fabian Perez Tedesco and Marco Viel, as well as the Guadagnini Quartet. Their musical partnership with the latter features an unusual and timbre-rich chamber lineup combining four-hand piano with string quartet, featuring works such as Manuel de Falla's *El amor brujo*, alongside Ottorino Respighi's *Feste Romane* and *Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No. 3*.

They have also created projects for other ensembles, most notably a transcription of Respighi's *Deità Silvane* for voice and string quintet, commissioned for Coop Art – I Concerti dell'Accademia degli Sfaccendati. These endeavours showcase how their work as arrangers goes beyond their own duo, blending a deep knowledge of the repertoire with inventive composition and a search for new expressive possibilities.

In June 2026, this creative work gained major recognition with the publication of their four-hand piano transcription of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture* by Da Vinci Publishing.

Earlier, in October 2022, Elia and Betsabea brought this creative spirit to the stage of the Teatro Regio di Parma, debuting in the production *Giovanna: La Pulzella, la fanciulla, l'allodola* alongside actress Lella Costa. Commissioned by the Verdi Festival, the project featured their original transcriptions of music from Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Giovanna d'Arco*.

This artistic vision also took shape in *Sounds of Cinema*, a project created and curated entirely by Elia and Betsabea. Here, iconic film scores by composers like John Williams, Ennio Morricone and Hans Zimmer are reimagined through original four-hand piano arrangements.

Over the course of their career, the Duo has performed for prestigious concert series and institutions, including Fondazione La Società dei Concerti di Milano, Perugia Musica Classica, IUC – Concerti alla

Sapienza in Rome, Fondazione Musica Insieme Bologna, Egerton Music Festival, Jeunesses Musicales International, Unione Musicale di Torino, Regio Theater in Parma and Società dei Concerti di Parma and Società dei Concerti di Trieste. In 2026, the Duo made their debut with the La Toscanini Orchestra in Parma, performing Francis Poulenc's *Concerto for Two Pianos and Orchestra*.

In June 2024, the Faccini Piano Duo released their debut album, *Ravel: Music for Piano 4-Hands*, in collaboration with the Italian Japanese label Da Vinci Classics. Dedicated to Maurice Ravel's four-hand piano music, the recording earned a five-star review and was named a "Coup de cœur" by the French music magazine *Classica*.

The Duo has also been featured on several radio stations, including Rai Radio 3 (on *La Stanza della Musica*), Radio Musica con le Ali and Vatican Radio.

Elia and Betsabea Faccini began their duo studies under Maestro Riccardo Peruzzi. They subsequently advanced their training at the Avos Academy in Rome, the International Divertimento Ensemble Academy in Milan and the Arrigo Boito Conservatory in Parma, studying with the Trio di Parma and Pierpaolo Maurizzi. They have further enriched their artistry through masterclasses with internationally renowned musicians, including Beatrice Rana, the Genova-Dimitrov Duo (Bulgaria) and the Silver-Garburg Duo (Austria). The Duo is currently completing advanced studies with Ludmila Berlinskaya and Arthur Ancelle, teachers at the École Normale de Musique de Paris - Alfred Cortot.