

8. Philharmonic Academy

Via Guerrazzi 13, Bologna

Founded in 1666 by Count Vincenzo Maria Carrati to promote the gathering together of the best musicians in the city, this academy played a key role in the European culture of the eighteenth century and became a severe and highly selective testing ground. Gioacchino Rossini was admitted here on June 24th 1806 in the class for Cantori (singers) "for the praise elicited from the progress he made in his profession" and in the very same year the opera singer, Isabella Colbran (who he would later marry), was admitted by acclamation. The composer accepted the appointment as Honorary Maestro in 1826, then Treasurer in 1830, Full Professor in 1843 and finally President in 1845. With the proceeds of his concerts he also founded a charity to support poor musicians and in 1877 the charity was named after him. Within the academy library archive are kept a number of personal items that enrich this extraordinary library. These include handwritten papers (including the musical score of *La Cenerentola* - Cinderella), a director's baton, a vintage fortepiano (predecessor to a modern piano) and some famous paintings.

www.accademiafilarmonica.it

9. Villa Baruzziana

Via dell'Osservanza 19, Bologna



The elegant and neoclassic historic house of Cincinnato Baruzzi, the favourite pupil of Canova, became a major meeting point in the first half of the 19th century. Thanks to his brother Tito, a schoolmate of Rossini, the sculptor became friends with the major figures of the theatrical scene; a marble inscription of 1842 commemorates "the enduring delight of arts" of a memorable night enriched with the genius of the musician. The sculptor made three marble busts of him, one for Prince Metternich (the plaster model for the statue is displayed here), one for the city council (destined for the music high school), and one for Giovanni Ricordi (as a contribution to his collection in the Milanese warehouses). Rossini generously supported his friend in the reconstruction work of his house after it was looted by Austrian troops in 1849.

10. Certosa di Bologna Monumental cemetery

Via della Certosa 18, Bologna

In 1820 Rossini bought a family tomb in the Certosa town cemetery (the exact location is V cloister, eastwards, close to arch n. 6). Here were subsequently buried his parents (Anna Guidarini and Giuseppe Rossini) his father-in-law (Giovanni Colbran, who Rossini described a warm friend), and his first wife (Isabella Colbran, the daughter of Giovanni). Rossini sketched a design for a marble monument and the sculptor Del Rosso di Cararra crafted it. The statue depicts Isabella seated and leaning against a pillar while crying for the loss of her father while hold a bust of him. Lower down a little angel sings and plays the zither. Rossini described the sketch in a letter to the Bolognese sculptor Adamo Tadolini as "two poorly made strokes, a drawing 'worthy of a music maestro'".



The Colbran-Rossini's grave

Text edited by: Cristina Giardini, Collaborator of the Municipal Theatre of Bologna



Bologna Welcome Tourist Information Office
Piazza Maggiore 1/e — 40124 Bologna
T +39 051 65 83 190
M booking@bolognawelcome.it
bolognawelcome.com



Museum of Music in Bologna. Portrait of G. Rossini by Pietro Bettelli

Walking with Rossini

Cavalier Gioacchino Rossini (Pesaro 1792 - Paris 1868), as he was traditionally called in Bologna, lived in this city from 1799 until 1851, leaving behind him several signs of his distinguished presence.

1. Palazzo dell'Archiginnasio

Piazza Galvani 1, Bologna

On the first floor, beyond the extraordinary library and the anatomical theatre of the seventeenth century, panelled entirely with wood, there is the magnificent lecture room of the legists (a medieval name for legal experts) later renamed Stabat Mater room, in honor of the first Italian performance of Gioacchino Rossini's opera of the same name on March 18th 1842 which was also repeated on the two successive days. This historic event, commemorated by a large plaque, was the peak of his fame in the city. The performance, involving the collaboration of the best artists of the time under the masterful direction of Gaetano Donizetti, was held in front of a crowd of more than 600 people in the hall and thousands in the nearby square. The composer decided to give all the proceeds of this event to charity.



2. Gioacchino Rossini Square

A square was named after him in 1864 and a special commemorating plaque was put on the facade of the conservatory: "Here the great Gioacchino Rossini entered as a student and left as a master of music".

3. Conservatory G.B. Martini

Piazza Gioacchino Rossini 2, Bologna

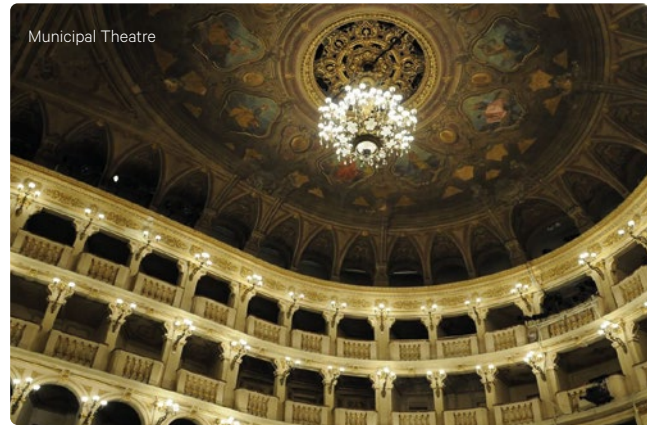
The old Philharmonic High School, established in 1804, became in 1842 the first Italian public music institute. Among the first students of the school there was the young Gioacchino Rossini, who attended, between 1806 and 1809, the classes for cello, piano and counterpoint. His first compositions date back to those years, as well as his first public performances including a historic concert with the opera singer Isabella Colbran, whom he would marry in 1822. In 1838 he was appointed Perpetual Honorary Consultant of the High School and carried out those duties until 1861. During those years it was said "he strives to maintain and enhance the prestige of the school". In today's building, the former Augustinian monastery of the Saint James estate,

the staircase of Alfonso Torregiani leads from a seventeenth century cloister to the first floor where there are the classrooms, the concert hall (today called Bossi Hall), the old library and the evocative Rossini Hall still preserves some valuable relics of the composer.

www.conservatoriorossini.it

4. Municipal Theatre

Largo Respighi 1, Bologna



In order to replace the Malvezzi theatre, completely destroyed by a fire in 1745, architect Antonio Galli Bibiena was entrusted with the task of building a new facility using the so called "bell layout", an innovation capable of creating truly extraordinary acoustics. The theatre was officially opened in 1763 and right from the start it played a key role in the cultural life of the city, hosting very famous artists. In 1809 the young Rossini was hired as harpsichord maestro and then in 1814, when he was already a successful opera composer, he came back with the opera Tancredi and then in 1815 with L'italiana in Algeri which were followed by his most meaningful compositions, both serious and comic, with great success. The lobby named after him is a grand room with magnificent chandeliers and opens onto a façade terrace which was added after the fire of 1931.

www.tcbo.it

5. Strada Maggiore

This road has always been one of the most elegant ones in town due to both its beauty and its colours. By walking along it, it is possible to trace back the years spent by Gioacchino Rossini in Bologna. At no. 100, in front of Porta Maggiore, at n. 32, in Palazzo Belvedere and at n. 18, in Palazzo Raffanini are located his parents' houses, where he lived from his first school years until the beginning of his career. In 1839 he stayed for a while at n. 29, in Bonfioli-Rossi building, former Institute of German Culture. At N. 45, in Palazzo Hercolani (currently used as an academic facility) Princess Maria Hercolani promoted several cultural initiatives to commemorate him, organizing some historic concerts further enhancing the fame of the composer.

6. House of Gioacchino Rossini

Strada Maggiore 26, Bologna



In 1823 Rossini, by this time a well-established musician, bought a mansion for himself and his wife, Isabella Colbran, and lived there with her until 1838. During the restoration work the building was first merged with the nearby Tortorelli house, and then the composer decided to put on the facade, already embellished with a nice frieze decorated with a music pattern, an epigram by Cicero (from the De officiis) "the master should not be graced by the mansion, but the mansion by the master" and on the right side of the building there is a quote by Virgil (from the Aeneid) "match the verses with the seven notes through a scented laurel grove".

7. International Music Museum

Strada Maggiore 34, Bologna

In Riario-Sforza palace (known today as Palazzo Sanguinetti) Gioacchino Rossini and his second wife Olimpia Pelissier were hosted by their tenor friend Domenico Donzelli from 1846 to 1851. Since 2004 these have been the premises of the International Music Museum, which is divided in three sections (books, portraits and instruments). The Rossini room displays some of his personal belongings, including his famous Playel piano, several precious musical scores (originals and copies), caricatures, portraits and marble busts.

www.museibologna.it/musica

