



NON FICTION

Rights List | Spring 2025

ilSaggiatore



Il Saggiatore is an independent publishing house, founded by Alberto Mondadori in 1958. A publishing house with a strong international vocation, keen on nurturing its own historic backlist without neglecting the search for new voices. More than sixty years later, the **Il Saggiatore** project envisioned by its founder has not changed, manifesting as an attempt to create a publishing house of people and words, with the idea that together they can interpret the zeitgeist and shape the future; accepting the challenge of the contemporary, blowing away traditional categories of fiction and non-fiction, and presenting to readers a catalogue that is alive, as alive as each of its texts, and infinite, as infinite as each universe.

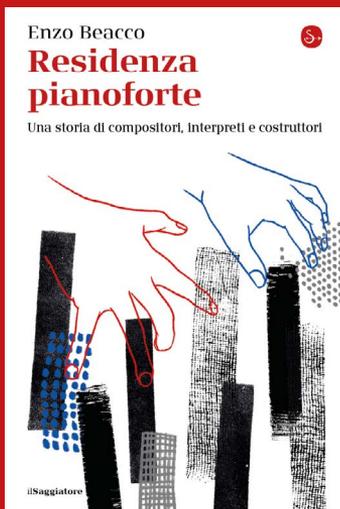
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HIGH LIGHTS



Enzo Beacco **Piano Residence**

**A History of Composers, Performers
and Inventors**

While the conviction that the piano is an instrument of another time with little future is widespread, Enzo Beacco reinterprets the history of the most well-known instrument, from the harpsichord and the fortepiano to the object that it is today, as a marvelous intersection of technical, artistic, and commercial invention, showing us how its twilight is further away than ever. While we meet piano makers, authors, and interpreters we realise, instead, that most likely the piano is immortal.



Antonio Canu **Paper Italy**

**Journey Between the Pages
That Have Told the Story of the Belpaese**

Paper Italy is a literary and sentimental journey across Italian landscapes, narrated by the voices of writers, poets, and travelers who captured their beauty, complexity, and contradictions. Antonio Canu guides us on a never-seen-before path to iconic places and hidden corners, revealing how the land has changed over time through the words of those who have lived and loved them.

An invitation to remind ourselves that Italy is a great literary work and an imaginary world to be inhabited.

Emilio Cozzi

Geopolitics of Space

History, Economy and the Future
of a New Continent

Emilio Cozzi guides us on the discovery of the extraterrestrial economy and geopolitics, retracing the fundamental milestones that in the course of history have made space reachable, with costly and not-without-risk space missions that have, however, brought humanity closer to infinity and beyond. Thanks to this detailed and fascinating journey, we can understand the present dynamics that are advancing the new space economy and preparing us to live in a new era that is in continual and swift expansion.

Lorenzo Perilli

Artificial Consciousness

How Machines Think About
and Transform Human Experience

This book is a journey into the uncertain confines between human and artificial, where consciousness could cease to be exclusively human. If memory, intuition, and even emotion can be replicated, the distinction between human and artificial dissolves. Perilli invites us to reflect on our role in a world where technology is no longer an instrument, but a possible new form of existence. The question isn't if machines will become conscious, but how this will change forever our definition of life and thought.



**HUMAN
ITIES**



Pub. date Feb 2025 | 312 pp.
Material available English sample
 Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Lorenzo Perilli is a philosopher and academic, an expert in humanistic computer science. He has led courses with a focus on the methodological implications and applications of computer science to classic texts and in the sphere of philosophical studies.

Lorenzo Perilli

Artificial Consciousness

How Machines Think About and Transform Human Experience

Machines can think? This question doesn't concern only the future of technology but also the profound meaning of what we define as human. Lorenzo Perilli doesn't limit himself to exploring what AI could become but examines how its existence is already redefining our understanding of consciousness and reality itself. *Artificial consciousness* examines the origins of the idea of consciousness, from ancient philosophy to modern science. Through the history of thinking machines, Perilli explores the boundaries between simulation and awareness, between learning and comprehension. Key concepts such as "imitation intelligence" and the "Turing test" are analysed, along with the neural networks and algorithms that today learn, predict, and operate. But is a system that responds in a complex way also aware of doing so? Or is consciousness something more, something that science still isn't able to capture? This book is a journey into the uncertain confines between human and artificial, where consciousness may cease to be exclusively human. If memory, intuition, and even emotion can be replicated, the distinction between human and artificial dissolves. Perilli invites us to reflect on our role in a world where technology is no longer an instrument, but a possible new form of existence. The question isn't if machines will become conscious, but how this will change forever our definition of life and thought.



Pub. date 2024 | 440 pp.

Material available English sample
Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD Polish (Otwarte)

Emilio Cozzi is a journalist and author. He writes regularly on space, technology and gaming culture for Wired Italia, Corriere della sera and Il Sole 24 Ore, as well as being a collaborator with the ISPI. Since 2019 he has directed the space economy section of Forbes Italia, and Cosmo.

Emilio Cozzi

Geopolitics of Space

History, Economy and the Future
of a New Continent

For centuries, space has been the domain of the divine and the unknown, unapproachable and sacred place, then instrument of competition between world powers, today the objective behind the activity of public and private companies that, in this dimension, glimpse economic value, material resources and global benefits for our future. Nations and commercial enterprises who until a few years ago were detached from any extra-atmospheric perspective, now look out the window to the cosmos ready to invest so that they might extract prestige and earnings.

Emilio Cozzi, among the most notable disseminators of space content and technological innovation in Italy, guides us on the discovery of the extraterrestrial economy and geopolitics, retracing the fundamental milestones that in the course of history have made space reachable, with costly and not-without-risk space missions that have, however, brought humanity closer to infinity and beyond. How have we come from the Soyuz, the first attempted Russian space missions, to SpaceX, Elon Musk's space company, which, in 2023, carried out no less than 100 launches of its Falcon 9 rockets? How have we passed from the technical difficulties of Apollo 13 to the space tourism promoted by Jeff Bezos and Blu Origin, his company that aims for the

advancement of missile technology and access to space for “all”? What is the impact of a potential industry of extra-terrestrial voyages, and what role does the conquest of space have in the geopolitical balance of the world? Are we talking about space colonialism? And lastly, what role does Europe play in respect to other countries when, with even Operation Cargo-2028 alone, it will once again be equipped with a suitable space structure?

Thanks to the detailed and fascinating journey of Cozzi, we can understand the present dynamics that are advancing the new space economy and preparing us to live in a new era – in reality already begun – that is in continual and swift expansion. The new space economy doesn’t concern only the space sector in a strict sense, as it extends to the ever more pervasive and mutable impacts of products, services and knowledge that derive from space.

Humanity is enjoying the effects of a new collective race beyond the sky: activity in sectors seemingly distant from the space industry, like precision agriculture, insurance planning, real-time surveillance, and economic calculations,

derive from and increasingly depend on satellite signals and data. New economic activity, often far from investment in orbital infrastructures, is born and proliferates in this direction. And if today, the only space stations able to host crews for multiple months at a time are the Chinese Tiangong and the International Space Station, very soon there will be more: to continue doing technological and scientific research, to study the human body and its matter, to create new materials and new pharmaceuticals, to record films with realistic effects in environments void of gravity, and to open new paths to entertainment and art.

Space is the new centre of Earth; after all, Tziolkovskij, the theoretical father of astronautics, who did all of the calculations to carry out the first ever space flights, asserted with conviction, that “Earth is the cradle of humanity, but one cannot live in the cradle forever.”



Pub. date 2024 | 248 pp.
 Material available English sample
 Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD German (offer)

Diletta Huyskes is one of the most important experts in the ethics of technology and the social impact of artificial intelligence. She co-founded *Immanence* to support public and private organisations in managing the impact of AI systems on society.

Diletta Huyskes

Technology of Revolution Progress and Social Battles, From the Microwave to AI

Sara is a woman, a mother. She is unemployed, single, and an immigrant. Her identity is a layered one, singular and unrepeatable. These social characteristics will render her suspicious for the rest of her life. Because, to a mathematical model – and to her country’s government – Sara is only a set of markers that, added together, generate a high-risk score, a statistical prediction that transforms her into a potential criminal. But her only fault is that of being herself, and of sharing a similar profile to other people who existed and were accused before her.

This and many other stories show us that a single number calculated by an algorithm can change the fate of entire social groups, risking a return to ancient injustices, amplified by the way in which we use these tools today. By retracing the history of technology, we can also pass through the history of social exclusion: every invention, from the bicycle to the microwave, right up to artificial intelligence, is the result of precise choices, values and human compromises that cause strong impacts on society. Thanks to the rediscovery of many feminist contributions proposed during the seventies and noughties, *Technology of Revolutions* pushes us to reflect on how to intervene to ensure that technological revolutions don’t lead to social regressions.

Carlo Sini

Filosofia e memoria

La vita come scrittura



Pub. date May 2025 | 300 pp.

Material available Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Carlo Sini has taught Theoretical Philosophy for over thirty years; academic of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, he has led conferences and seminars in the United States, Canada, South America, and various European countries.

Carlo Sini

Philosophy and Memory

Living Through Writing

Philosophy and Memory is a work that crosses the boundaries between life and thought, an invitation to reflect on the meaning of time, on liberty, and the construction of the self. Sini interweaves memories and episodes of his own existence with universal questions, transforming every fragment of life into a window on the human condition. At the centre of the book, there is philosophy as the practice of living, as the attempt to understand what ties us to others and to the world. Through simple and powerful symbols – like the flight of the swift, metaphor of a liberty that one wins with distance – the philosopher explores fundamental themes: the tension between necessity and choice, its relationship to memory, and the inevitable fragility of existence. The text moves between narration and reflection, offering pages dedicated to the value of language, to the responsibility of knowledge, to the complexity of time and to the meaning of human relationships. A personal journey that simultaneously talks to everyone, a philosophical exercise that invites the reader to reflect on their own path, on the meaning of living, and on the inextricable interweaving between thought and experience. How can we live in an authentic way without losing the capacity to think deeply about the world?



Pub. date March 2025 | 320 pp.
Material available Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Antonio Canu is a journalist and expert in the management of protected areas; he is a part of the directive board of the Italian Federation for Natural Parks and he is the president of WWF Travel.

Antonio Canu

Paper Italy

Journey Between the Pages That Have Told the Story of the Belpaese

Paper Italy is a literary and sentimental journey across Italian landscapes, narrated by the voices of writers, poets, and travelers who captured their beauty, complexity, and contradictions. Antonio Canu, with the eye of a naturalist, guides us on a never-seen-before path to iconic places and hidden corners, revealing how the land has changed over time through the words of those who have lived and loved. Through the pages of this book, we discover the wild and mysterious Sardinia of Grazia Deledda and David Herbert Lawrence, the Cinque Terre formed by humans and sung by Eugenio Montale, Monte Pollino, “the savage of Italy” described by Norman Douglas and the dwelling of Rafaele Nigro’s legendary “mammoth.” We emerge ourselves in the thousand-year story of the Marano and Grado lagoon with Ippolito Nievo and Claudio Magris, and we navigate along the course of the Po with the words of Riccardo Bacchelli and Gianni Celati. We explore the heart-wrenching beauty of the Dolomites with Dino Buzzati and the melancholic vastness of the Maremma through the eyes of Carlo Cassola and the words of Vincenzo Cardarelli. An homage to literature as an instrument for knowledge and reflection, a book that reminds us that Italy is first and foremost a great literary work and an imaginary world to be inhabited.



Pub. date 2024 | 178 pp.
Material available Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

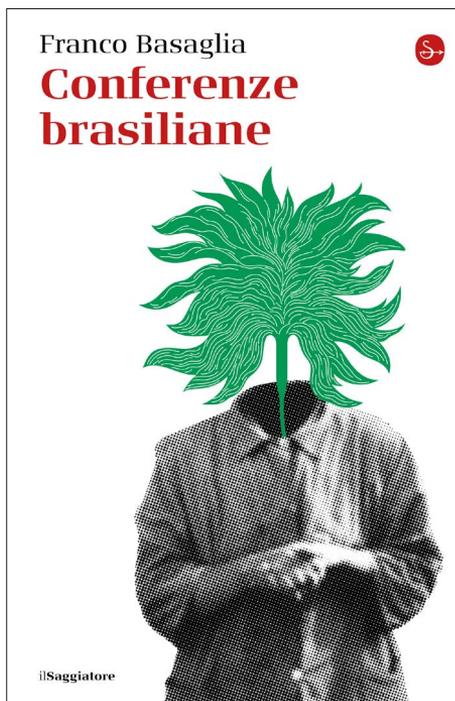
DonPasta is considered by the *New York Times* to be one of the most inventive food activists around. In 2018, he presented at the Festival del Cinema di Venezia his first documentary film on Italian cuisine *The Peasants*. He is the author of numerous books.

DonPasta

Sunday Lunch

Sentimental Journey into our Grandmothers' Kitchens

What is hiding within our grandmothers' kitchens? What secrets are concealed within their magical delicacies that preserve the scent of our childhoods? DonPasta, author of the Artusi Remix and the web series *Grandmothers of Italy in the Kitchen*, wanted to confront the nostalgia, and encounter, on a journey across the whole of Italy, region by region, the custodians of this country's ancestral culture: the grandmothers. Listening to their recipes, observing their preparations, but above all, gathering their family stories, DonPasta doesn't just reconstruct a sentimental collection of recipes, but most importantly, an Italian history made of war, love, travel, and encounters. Where every dish becomes an opportunity to look ourselves in the mirror, to find ourselves again, the children inside all of us. And perhaps, to try and imagine the scent of the future.



Pub. date March 2025 | 200 pp.
Material available Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD Slovenian (Zalobža)

Franco Basaglia (1924–1980) was a psychiatrist and a neurologist, and the main promoter of the Italian psychiatric reform that became law in 1978.

Franco Basaglia The Brazilian Conferences

Franco Basaglia is the man behind the law that revolutionised psychiatric institutions in Italy: law 180 of 1978, which decreed the closure of the insane asylums, and regulated obligatory sanitary treatment. That moment of rousing social emancipation was the result of a turning point brought about by a military doctor who was, at the same time, one of the major intellectuals of his time. From the conferences that he led in Brazil in 1979, his thinking emerges clear and defined, just like his mission to transform the public institution in which he was working to generate a real social impact. The transcriptions of the conferences are an important tool for moving closer to and understanding the thinking and activism of Basaglia; who in open dialogue with doctors, nurses, students, psychotherapists, and unionists, presents his reflections on the proposed themes, allowing for his incredible communicative capacity to emerge, as well as his way of working, and at the same time, his way of playing politics.



Essays

Pub. date 2023 | 916 pp.
Material available Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD Slovenian (Zalobža)
German (Psychiatrie Verlag)

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Edited by Franco
and Franca Basaglia

How Class Kills

The Mental Hospital Condition

Photographed by Carla Cerati
and Gianni Berengo Gardin

In 1969, Franco Basaglia and his wife and colleague Franca Ongaro asked the celebrated Italian photographers Gianni Berengo Gardin and Carla Cerati to photograph mentally ill people institutionalized in Italian psychiatric asylums. They agreed to the request, but things were not always easy. At one point, nurses in Parma sought to confiscate their negatives, but Berengo Gardin handed over blank film instead: the book includes some of those photos. In 1978, almost a decade after Einaudi published the book, “Law 180” came into effect, dismantling all such institutions.



Pub. date 2024 | 92 pp.

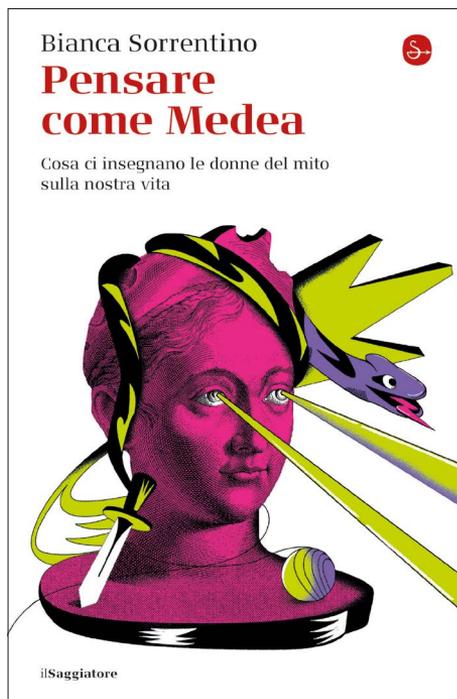
Material available Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Franca Ongaro Basaglia (1928-2005) worked with her husband and continued her commitment to the cause as a member of Parliament.

Gianni Berengo Gardin (1928) is one of Italy's most important photographers and photo-journalists, he published more than 260 photographic volumes.

Carla Cerati (1926-2016) was a writer and a photographer. As an author, she published novels, children's books, and photographic volumes.



Pub. date 2024 | 272 pp.
Material available Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD Portuguese Brazil
(Pensamento)

Bianca Sorrentino, scholar of the classical world, studies the relationship between myth and contemporary art, and curates programmes of poetry talks. She currently works for RAI.

Bianca Sorrentino

Thinking Like Medea

What the Women of Myth Teach Us about Life

What are the ancient fables if not a lens through which to observe ourselves? Interrogating the feminine figures of myth that often compete against each other or against an invisible enemy that tragically steers their destiny, and observing them from the point of view of the contemporary, Bianca Sorrentino restores the immortal heroines to their role as symbols in which to see our reflections or from which to distance ourselves. The roles that our “mythological ancestors” performed are still valid in the present, and they help us to interrogate ourselves on that subtle boundary between the legitimate claim of recognition and the risk that any clear-cut definition becomes limiting. Every woman of myth – Hecuba, Antigone, Dido, Medea, Electra and all the others – ideally dialogues with her counterparts about current events, literature, cinema, and science, raising themes that, though deriving from the feminine experience, transversally concern every individual and the living collective: civil engagement, concealment of pain, the search for one’s own voice, the search for love. Victims and warriors, mothers, daughters and sisters, lovers, sovereigns and citizens, the women of the ancient world, show us how the feminine perspective, traditionally considered as lesser, manages, however, in some ways to broaden horizons of universality, inviting us to reach an interpermeation between masculine and feminine principles.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Thinking Like Ulysses

What the Classics Can Teach Us about Life

What can the Trojan War tell us about women's empowerment and immigration? What can the myth of Ulysses tell us about human agency when it is pitted against seemingly insurmountable circumstances? And what about Orpheus? What can his figure teach us about humanity and its relationship with death? We tend to look at the Classics as dusty, as things from the past, something to study at university, but the truth is that they are far more modern than we think, and they can shed a marvellous light on what it means to be human in the 21st century.

Written with a charming levity that cleverly masks years of research, *Thinking Like Ulysses* is a heartfelt plea to rediscover the literary wonders of the ancient world and to heed their lesson: life in our contemporary world may be very different from Athens in the 5th century B.C., but perhaps we humans haven't changed much at all.



Pub. date 2021 | 232 pp.

Material available English sample
 Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD Spanish WR (Cátedra)
 Turkish (Epsilon)



Pub. date May 2024 | 264 pp.

Material available English Sample
Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD Spanish WR (Almuzara Editorial)

Giulia Fabriani is an astrophysicist and scientific journalist. She collaborates with the University of Roma Tor Vergata and writes for *Le Scienze* and *Edulnaf*, research dissemination magazines for the National Institute of Astrophysics. *History of Light* is her first book.

Giulia Fabriani

The History of Light

Our eyes see the different frequencies of light, made up of both particles and waves, as different colours: minor frequencies close to red, major ones close to blue, with all of the other colours in between. These characteristics give colour to all of the inhabitants of the cosmos, but visible light isn't the only kind that exists. Through a journey in space and time, departing from nearby places like our solar system, and traveling to black holes in faraway galaxies, we will discover other luminous origins of the universe: radio waves, microwaves, x-rays, and infrared. With a rigorous but educational approach, leaving aside formulas and technical terms, the author offers readers useful tools to learn how to handle the primary secrets of the universe, showing us how the investigation into light has two fundamental aims: it pushes us ever forward in the designing of space missions and observatories to satisfy the human thirst for knowledge, and it reminds us that stars, beyond lighting up the cosmos, also create the chemical elements of which everything is made. Because, if in the mists of time, the stars hadn't lit up, we would not even exist.



Pub. date Feb 2024 | 296 pp.
Material available English sample
 Full Italian PDF

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Vincenzo Levizzani is the first holder of a tenure in Cloud Physics in Italy. He teaches at the University of Bologna and is a research director at the Institute of Atmospheric and Climate Sciences of the CNR of Bologna.

Vincenzo Levizzani

When it Rains Outside

The History and Future of Rain

Vincenzo Levizzani takes us on a discovery of one of the most relevant phenomena not only for the life of the planet itself, but also for the cultural, religious, and artistic systems of the whole of humanity: rain. From the universal biblical flood to the shamanic dances to invoke it, from the cult of Giove Pluvio to Pre-Colombian civilisations: humanity has always had an awareness of the importance of and the mystique of rain. And also of its destructive potential. Starting with culture and art and arriving at science and meteorology, Levizzani tells us everything that we could ever wish to know about rain. Of its past and future, of what drought and storms mean for the Earth's tomorrow, of what they generate, and how they change the world around us.



The Book of Clouds

Pub. date 2021 | 280 pp.
Material available English sample
 Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD German (HarperCollins DE)
 Spanish WR (Almuzara Editorial)



Pub. date 2024 | 400 pp.
 Material available English Sample
 Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Edoardo Boncinelli Marco Furio Ferrario **The Restless Animal** Natural History of Dissatisfaction

Why does there always dwell in our soul a well of dissatisfaction? What are its origins and its effects on collective and individual human activities? A scientific and philosophical analysis combined, that spans millennia and cultures, responds to these questions tracing the history of our species from the origin of the world to the future of humanity, passing via the depths of the ego. An investigation guided by the allure of art and literature, by the rigor of science, and the intimacy of the sacred. “Our actual situation – the two authors assert – is that of restless animals: caught within internal dissatisfaction, owed to the biological evolution that has in part detached us from the rest of nature, and the external one, owed to the cultural superstructures that we ourselves have created.” A book about learning how to live with this sentiment and learning to manage a reality of our being that doesn’t render us less deserving of happiness or less eager to look at the future with confidence.

Edoardo Boncinelli is one of the leading Italian geneticists today. With il Saggiatore he has published, amongst others, *Evil* (2019), *School of the Mind* (2022), and *The Little Dictionary of Our Consciousness* (2023).

Marco Furio Ferrario after having studied at Columbia University in New York, obtained his Degree in Cognitive Science at the Statale University in Milan, with a thesis on experimental research in logical-mathematical decision-making processes and rationale in situations of stress. He has collaborated with Edoardo Boncinelli for many years.



Pub. date 2024 | 270 pp.

Material available English sample
Full Italian PDF

RIGHTS SOLD English WR (Melville Publishing House), Spanish WR (Círculo de Tiza), Dutch (HarperCollins NL), Catalan (Símbol Editors)

Stefano Bizzotto is a sports journalist and commentator. He has covered numerous FIFA World Cups and Winter and Summer Olympic Games for Italy's national broadcasting company RAI.

Stefano Bizzotto History of the World in 12 Football Matches

Is it possible to sketch the history of the world through the lens of a series of football matches? Stefano Bizzotto, surveying twelve legendary matches between the years of 1914 and 2012, explores the links between the popular sport and geopolitics, cultural history and the fall of empires: from 1914's Christmas Truce to the 1923 White Horse Final at the brand new Wembley Stadium, from the "Football War" – the name Ryszard Kapuściński gave the 1969 conflict between El Salvador and Honduras – to the 2015 friendly match between France and Germany, played while a series of coordinated Islamist terrorist attacks took place in different part of the city. Football may be "just a game," but it also reflects the world well beyond the stadium.



Tour of the World in a Cup

Forgotten Matches, Unforgettable
Moments of the World Cup Adventure

Pub. date 2018 | 330 pp.

Material available Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE



Officina il Saggiatore

A Little Illustrated Handbook for Seekers of... Series

This illustrated series is a product of *Officina il Saggiatore*: a project born from the forge of the publishing house, a direct emanation of the fermentation of ideas, of the exchange of perspectives and opinions, of a vision of the world in constant flux. The goal is the creation of a dialogue with readers and poses itself the fascinating challenge of presenting a book realised by a collective authorship, from the workshop of a publishing house. From our chatting and reading, from the bowels

of our desks is born a joyful, swift, and colourful series that asks the reader to open their eyes to the world and... seek. We seek leaves, flowers, and shells or even fonts in the world that surrounds us. These books are an invitation to all the explorers out there, to the people who are attentive to what is outside and around us, to those who preserve leaves between the pages of a book, or even those who take photographs of a beautiful vintage sign, to delve into and discover how every curiosity of ours is a doorway into a new world.

A Little Illustrated Handbook for ...



Libraries

Published 2024



Shells

Published 2024



Fonts

Published 2023



Flowers

Published 2023



Books

Published 2022



Leaves

Published 2021

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Piccolo manuale illustrato per cercatori di stoffe



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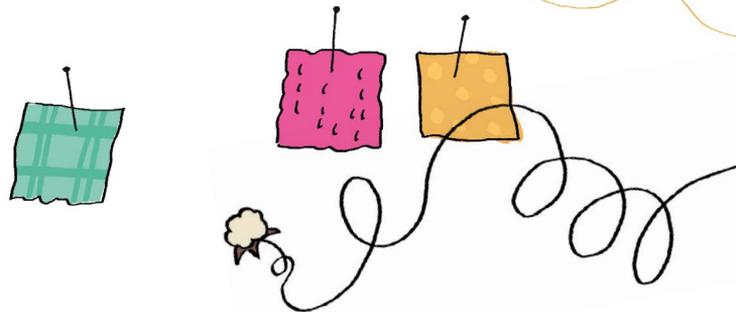
Pub. date July 2025 | 120 pp.
Material available Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

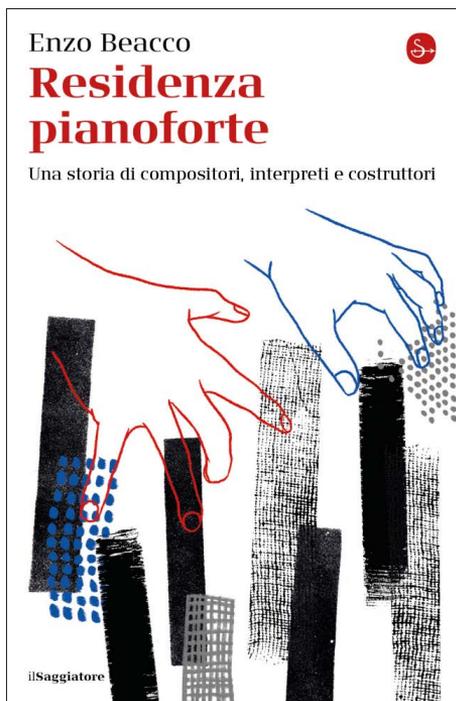
Our publishing house never sleeps, even when it is quiet, the wheels are in motion. **Officina il Saggiatore** is where our creativity finds form.

A Little Illustrated Handbook for Fabrics Seekers

There are weaves that aren't seen, secret twines that tie faraway hands and tell stories without words. Fabrics aren't only material: they are memory, motion, and imagination. Every textile tells of a journey, from the coarse fibres to the finished work, and to touch one means to discover traditions and innovations that merge, listening to the murmur of the loom, hearing the breath of those who have weaved threads and dreams. This little manual is a voyage across the poetry of textiles, an invitation to discover worlds that live in every fibre, to let yourself be enchanted by the quiet dialogue between tradition and modernity. Because every fabric, like every story, is a mystery that is waiting to be unveiled.



MUSIC



Pub. date Mar 2025 | 496 pp.
 Material available English sample
 Full Italian PDF

Enzo Beacco is an essayist and critic. For more than forty years, he has written and spoken about music in national papers and specialised magazines, and for radio, television, and operatic institutions.

Enzo Beacco Piano Residence

*A History of Composers, Performers
 and Inventors*

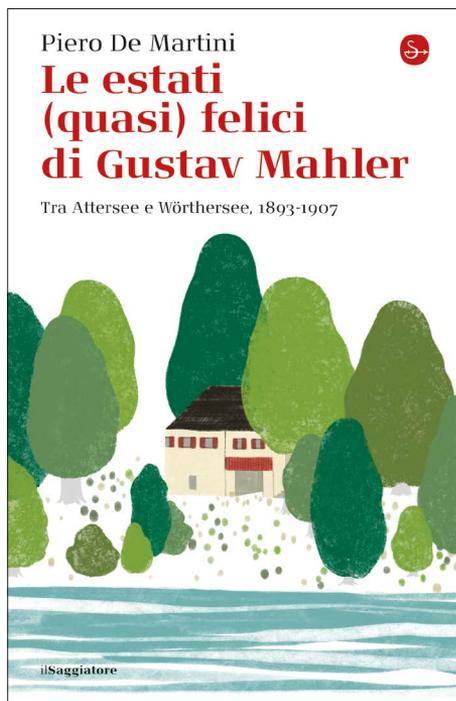
The conviction that the piano is an instrument of another time with little future is widespread, and yet, in our era, it remains at the centre of musical life, public and private, in the East and the West, with repertoires that reinvent themselves and amplify themselves and with markets that develop and adapt to the external changes of technology and society. Enzo Beacco reinterprets the history of the most well-known instrument, from the harpsichord and the fortepiano to the object that it is today, as a marvelous intersection of technical, artistic, and commercial invention, showing us how its twilight is further away than ever. It has changed structure, materials, environments: its “fluidity” – which adapts to the sensitivity of the interpreter and who listens to it – transforms it from mechanical object to biological organism capable of transformation and adaptation. While we meet piano makers, authors, and interpreters, we realise that most likely the piano is immortal.



History of the Orchestra

Pub. date 2015 | 286 pp.
 Material available Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE



Pub. date 2024 | 240 pp.

Material available Full Italian PDF

WORLD RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Piero De Martini is a designer and scholar of the history of music. For Il Saggiatore he wrote *Chopin* (2016), *The Houses of Music* (2018), *Schumann* (2020) and *Johannes Brahms* (2021).

Piero De Martini

The (Almost) Happy Summers of Gustav Mahler

Between Attersee and Wörthersee, 1893-1907

Mahler used to compose in the summer. In the other seasons, as well as reviewing and orchestrating his compositions, he was the director of an orchestra. It was his sister Justine who oversaw the search for a summer place that facilitated her brother's concentration and resulting work. In particular, there were two places that for different summers were the ideal setting for the creation of Mahlerian music. The little village of Steinbach with the mountains and a beautiful lake nearby, and Maiernigg, where he stayed from 1900 to 1907, which remained famous for the "Little House of Composing" that had been purposely built. Those places turned out to be happy oases for the extraordinary industriousness of Mahler who completed no less than seven symphonies. Elsewhere, his work struggled: the composer seemed parched. Piero De Martini retraces those fruitful seasons until July 1907, when suddenly, his five-year-old daughter died and less happy summers followed, where the enchantment of the productive isolation had been broken, and for Mahler, a final glimpse of life opened up in which, though having still many things to say and confront, it was impossible for him to recover his former serenity and lightness, and to overcome a tragic sentiment of life.



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Federico Maria Sardelli is a member of the scientific board for the Istituto Italiano Antonio Vivaldi and responsible for the Catalogo Vivaldiano. He won the Premio Comisso with his novel *L'affaire Vivaldi* (Sellerio). He is also a conductor and collaborates with Il Vernacoliere.

Federico Maria Sardelli

Vivaldi on Vivaldi

Inside the Manuscripts

Among those of his time, Antonio Vivaldi was the composer perhaps most subjected to misinterpretations and deliberate misunderstandings. Rediscovered relatively recently in comparison to Bach or Händel, his music has in fact undergone extreme reconstructions and superficial approaches for decades. Even today, people mistakenly believe that he was a simple or lightweight artist, and his scores little more than shorthand to be integrated with ornamentations, improvisations, special effects, and every other kind of interpretative license. Federico Maria Sardelli, one of the most eminent scholars and interpreters of the Venetian maestro, restores with this work the just merit to Vivaldi's intentions. Thanks to a thorough survey of his handwritten musical instructions, Sardelli brings to light how the scores are, in general, already complete with many useful directions for performing. Contrary to popular belief – even if Vivaldi didn't leave any writings on his music, poetics, or way of composing or performing – these pages reveal him to be the most generous of Italian baroque composers with technical and musical information. Guided by Sardelli, for the first time we come into close contact with his manuscripts, treasure chests of a tremendous amount of knowledge, crucial to comprehending his way of understanding and to interpreting his creations.

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