

Raí Biason Toffoletto

Raí was born in São Carlos, Brazil, in an Italian descendant family. Always having contact with all sorts of music in his environment, as teenager, he got interest in piano and classical music, what led him to study in his hometown at the conservatory *Allegro*, where latter he was made part of the teaching staff between 2009 and 2010.

In 2006, Raí was accepted in the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), where he studied piano with Maria José Carrasqueira, earning his Bachelor degree in 2010. In the same year he played a solo piano recital for the Opening Season Concert at MuBE (São Paulo).

In university he also attended the *basso-continuo* classes of Helena Jank, who introduced him to the harpsichord and Early Music practice. To finish his studies at university, he developed a research project funded by FAPESP: “*L’Amitié et L’Amour de Sigismund Neukomm*”, where he had Prof. Jank as his supervisor and Prof. Pedro Persone as adviser. This project consolidated his liking for early music and early keyboard repertoire, thus turning his musical performances towards the continuo playing. In Brazil, he performed some solo harpsichord recitals and he has integrated the USP’s Early Music Ensemble as continuo player.

Whenever possible, Raí attends music festivals and masterclass with several teachers, among which are: Alessandro Santoro (BR), Homero de Magalhães Filho (BR/FR), Nicolau de Figueiredo (BR/FR), Pedro Sousa Silva (PT), Ana Mafalda Castro (PT), Elizabeth Wright (US), Kris Verhelst (BE), Kate Clark (AU/NL).

Currently, he studies harpsichord with Prof. Jacques Ogg and continuo with Prof. Patrick Ayrton at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague (NL). Raí is also part of the ensemble *Sorte D’Air*, dedicated to 18th century french music.