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Artistic Research and Education

The inclination towards experimentation and artistic research led him from the outset to explore various unconventional musical styles. Improvisation, interplay, blends of electronic and acoustic sounds, polyrhythmic explorations, interdisciplinary forays into nature, mathematics, and music are common features of his music.

Born in Alessandria on August 16, 1992, into a family rich in musicians, he initially approached the violin and later the electric bass and double bass. During his years of study at the Conservatories of Alessandria and Piacenza, he had the opportunity to study with renowned Italian artists, including Riccardo Fioravanti, Enrico Fazio, and Paolino Dalla Porta. Additionally, he attended masterclasses with Linda Oh, Ben Wendel, Dominique Di Piazza, and Fabian Almazan. In 2016, he graduated cum laude with a thesis on *Kaleidophone and Thesaurus*.

Driven by a strong passion for the natural world, in 2018, he earned a degree cum laude in biology, focusing on the ecological impact of allochthonous species. In 2020, he completed his two-year program at the Conservatory of Piacenza with his work *Cross-Rhythms*. These works form the basis for the development of his artistic research, leading him to win a scholarship for AReMus, a second-level Post-Graduate Master's program held in the Conservatory Santa Cecilia in Rome in 2022. In 2023, he became the first musician selected for the doctoral program in artistic research at the University of RomaTre.

Currently, his research project, *patterns for transcendence*, focuses on the interrelations between improvisation and cultural/natural ecology. The output of this project includes a photographic-musical album called *[insita]*, released on September 18, 2023, with the label nusica.org, and a series of site-specific improvisation performances, *[in situ]*, taking place from 2023 to 2025, where environmental sounds are integrated into the compositional and improvisational process.

Live Performances

With his projects, he has had the opportunity to perform in prestigious venues in Italy and abroad, here you can find only the most relevant ones. With his quartet *Leonardo Barbierato // patterns for transcendence*, he performed at Jazz in Sardegna 2023 (CA), European Jazz Expo 2023 (CA), Café des Arts 2023 (TO), Casa del Popolo (AT), and Monfrà Jazz Festival 2021 (AL).

His solo project *[in situ]* was selected through a national call as an emerging artist under 35 to create a double performance/installation at *DUNE - Arte, paesaggi e utopie 2023* (GR), organized by Accademia Mutamenti and Collettivo Clan. During this event, environmental sounds, audience, and improviser's sounds converge within an electroacoustic chain, giving rise to a radical site/situation-specific improvisation.

In July 2023, he was one of the five musicians selected by Sosta Palmizi for a musical/improvisational dance show at the Cantiere Internazionale d'Arte 2023 (SI), exploring the interrelationship between gestuality and improvisation.

With the jazz/fusion trio Alpaca, he played his original compositions at Monfrà Jazz Festival 2023, 2019, and 2018 (AL), Borghi in Jazz 2019 (CB), Area M 2019 (MI).

With the quartet SLWJM, he performed, also with original compositions, at the Torino Jazz Festival 2019 (TO), Aim Festival (MI) 2020, Torino Jazz Club (TO), BonsaiBeat Festival 2020 (TO), NeonNoon Festival 2019 (LI), HomeGipsyHome 2020 (TO), DischiRotti 2019 (BO). Also, with the quartet SLWJM, he is included in the program at Teatro Gioiello (TO), with the show "Black HITstory revisited," in collaboration with Federico Sacchi, Willie Peyote, Gianni Denitto, Simone Garino, and Barbara Menietti, scheduled for December 5 and 6, 2023.

As a session musician in jazz/improvisation/electronic music projects, he performed at Monfrà Jazz Festival 2023 (AL),

Canaleontica 2023 (CN), Valenza Jazz Club, FuoriLuogoFestival 2022 (BI), Auditorium Akademia Paderwsky in Poznan 2019 (PL), Festival Contro 2019 (AT), Novara Jazz Festival 2015 (NO), and Sori Winter Jazz 2014 (GE).

Awards, Grants, Scholarships

In 2023, he is a finalist and winner of a special mention for innovative creative projects at the Isio Saba Prize (CA) with his quartet *Leonardo Barbierato // Patterns for Transcendence*. In the same year, with the solo project *[in situ]*, he is selected through national calls for emerging artists for two artistic residencies: *DUNE - Arte, paesaggi e utopie* (GR) and *Improvvisi II - Sosta Palmizi*. Also in 2023, he is selected to participate in the RAPPLab6 seminars on artistic research at the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome. In 2022, he wins the scholarship for a doctoral program in artistic research at the University of RomaTre and he is selected to participate in the RAPPLab4 and 5 seminars in Vienna (MdL) and Tallinn (Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre), respectively. In 2021, he wins the scholarship to attend the second-level Master's program AReMus at the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome. In 2020, with the quartet SLWJM, he wins the first prize for the best emerging project at the AIM Festival at Castello Sforzesco in Milan, while in 2019, he is awarded third place in the Stefano Cerri National Competition for jazz bassists and double bassists, organized by Area M at the Auditorium Stefano Cerri (MI). In 2018, he is one of the three Italian musicians selected to participate in the workshops of the European Jazz School in Marburg (DE) and Poznan (PL).

Studio Sessions

In 2023, his album *[insita]* is released with the nusica.org label, an audio-visual project where eight photos containing urban and natural elements serve as the starting point from which Barbierato extracts the score, transforming images, patterns, and abstractions into suggestions for as many musical compositions. These compositions range from free improvisation to electronic sounds, from minimalism to jazz. The images, originating from various places (and 'non-places') in different contexts and latitudes, focus on details that make it difficult to trace the geographic area, giving life to eight original compositions. The album has received excellent reviews and has been broadcast on the program *Battiti* on Radio3, which has always been a reference point for avant-garde music.

In 2021, with the quartet SLWJM, he releases the album *MEGA* with the Bunya Records label. The album receives national acclaim for its exploration of balance between black music, jazz, electronic elements, and improvisation.

In 2019, with the jazz-fusion trio Alpaca, he releases a self-titled EP featuring tracks that play with harmonic and rhythmic symmetries and geometries.

As a session musician, he has participated in numerous studio collaborations, both in pop and jazz contexts, including the recording of the track *Le giostre di Piazza Savona* with the quintet of ECM artist Gianni Coscia, *Rec it Be* for the RecLab studio, the album *Touch the Sky* by Raised by Haze, singles by Nicola Project, Andrea Grimaldi, and many others.

Teaching Experience

I have been teaching electric bass, music theory, and ear training at IEM Music Institute (AT) since 2018.

Music teacher at CPIA2 (TO) during the academic year 2021-2022.

Teacher of Music Technologies at the Monti Music High School (AT) during the academic year 2020-2021.

Electric bass teacher at the Alfieri Artistic High School (AT) during the academic year 2019-2020.

Papers

Barbierato Leonardo, '[in situ] : re-thinking the role of musical improvisation performance in the context of the ecological and cultural crisis.', *Research Catalogue*, RUUKKU (2024) <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/2154855/2154856/0/0>

Barbierato Leonardo, 'Groovieglio Creativo', *Guitar Club*, 2023.