



Agnese Toniutti - Biography

Very Short (1042 characters)

Agnese Toniutti is an Italian pianist specialized in contemporary and 20th Century music. She dedicates herself to the exploration and research on peculiar piano repertoire, often revolving around the concept of sound and its role in musical composition. Her work investigates the complementarity of composition and improvisation in musical creativity, both as an author and interpreter. Cage, Scelsi, Cardini are some of her favorites; incursions into the territory of improvisation, performance and extemporary composition, are also encouraged by studying Seventies' art movements. Her collaborations often include other artistic disciplines (acting, photography, dance, visual arts, and multimedia). Among her recent projects is the release of [Subtle Matters](#) (Neuma Records, 2021), a recording where she re-interprets the "timbre-piano" invented by Lucia Dlugoszewski, and the verbal scores by Philip Corner, and the recording of [Sonatas and Interludes for prepared piano](#) by John Cage (Neuma Records 2023), both Best Bandcamp Contemporary Classical of the month. As a soloist and chamber music pianist she has performed in several venues and international festivals in Europe and the USA.
www.agnesetoniutti.com

Short Bio (2515 characters)

Agnese Toniutti is an Italian pianist specialized in contemporary and 20th Century music. She dedicates herself to the exploration and research on peculiar piano repertoire, often revolving around the concept of sound and its role in musical composition, investigating the complementarity of composition and improvisation in musical creativity, both as an author and as interpreter. Her solo recitals are often thematic or monographic, carefully interweaving live performance with extracts from writings and audio documents selected after musical, bibliographical and archival study. Among them, the monographical "portrays" of Giacinto Scelsi, John Cage, Giancarlo Cardini, and the recitals dedicated to Fluxus movement (featuring premieres by Philip Corner e Dick Higgins) and to women's creativity from the 50ies to nowadays (including Lucia Dlugoszewski's "timbre" piano research project). Her collaborations often include other artistic disciplines (acting, photography, dance, visual arts and multimedia). Among her recent projects is the release of [Subtle Matters](#) (Neuma Records, 2021), a recording where she re-interprets the "timbre-piano" invented by Lucia Dlugoszewski and the verbal scores by Philip Corner (Best Bandcamp Contemporary Classic, Top Five 2021 for national review Alias - il Manifesto). In 2020 she also released the piano solo disc [Lento trascolorare – piano music](#) (Da Vinci Classics, 2020) with music by Giancarlo Cardini. In 2022, she composed the sound part of the collaborative multimedia installation *The moon is full, but it is not the moon* (Luxembourg, 2022). In 2023 she released the recording of John Cage's [Sonatas and Interludes for prepared piano](#) (Neuma Records, March 2023), and she contributed to the collection *Fluxus&Neo Fluxus - Stolen Symphony part I* (Sub Rosa, May 2023) and *Fluxus&Neo Fluxus - Keeping together part II* (Sub Rosa, 2024) with pieces by Mieko Shiomi, Dick Higgins, Philip Corner, Giancarlo Cardini and La Monte Young. As a soloist and chamber music pianist she performed in Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, France, Germany, UK, Czech Republic and USA, as well as at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Palazzo Cavagnis in Venice, Strehler Theater in Milan (live RAI broadcast), Pavillon Le Corbusier – Fondation Suisse in Paris, Palazzo Congressi in Lugano, State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, University of North Texas (USA). She also performed for the "Komponisten Colloquium" series (Oldenburg, Germany), the "ALL FRONTIERS - Indagini sulle musiche d'arte contemporanee" festival (Gorizia, Italy), "Angelica – Centro di Ricerca Musicale" festival (Bologna, Italy), "Bari Piano Festival" (Bari), "Ossessioni Festival" (Faenza), "Gamo International Festival" (Firenze), "Italien Musiziert" festival (Stuttgart, Germany), "Sixty Years in Flux" event (Genoa), SoundScotland (UK), MaerzMusik Festival - Berlinerfestspiele (Berlin).
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Long Bio

Agnese Toniutti is an Italian pianist and independent researcher specialized in contemporary and 20th Century music. She studied with G. Lovato, graduating from Conservatory of Venice with a thesis on Giacinto



Scelsi. She also specialized in piano and chamber music and attended masterclasses with F.-J. Thiollier, M. Damerini, L. De Barberiis and P. M. Paul.

Her work revolves around the role of sound in musical composition, investigating the complementarity of composition and improvisation in musical creativity, both as an author and interpreter.

Her solo recitals are often thematic or monographic, carefully interweaving live performance with extracts from writings and audio documents selected after musical, bibliographical and archival study. Among them, the monographical “portrays” of Giacinto Scelsi, John Cage, Giancarlo Cardini, and the recitals dedicated to Fluxus movement (featuring premieres by Philip Corner e Dick Higgins) and to women’s creativity from the 50ies to nowadays (including Lucia Dlugoszewski’s “timbre-piano” research project).

Record releases: [Lento trascolorare – piano music](#) (Da Vinci Classics, 2020), a monographic CD for solo piano dedicated to the music of Giancarlo Cardini, and [Subtle Matters](#) (Neuma Records, 2021), featuring music by Lucia Dlugoszewski, Tan Dun and Philip Corner for piano, inside piano and “timbre-piano”, with the use of various extended techniques. The recording was featured among the ten Best of Bandcamp Contemporary Classics releases and the Top Five 2021 choices by Italian national review Alias - il Manifesto. In 2023 she released the recording of John Cage’s [Sonatas and Interludes for prepared piano](#) (Neuma Records, March 2023), and she contributed to the collection [Fluxus&Neo Fluxus - Stolen Symphony part I](#) (Sub Rosa, May 2023) and [Fluxus&Neo Fluxus - Keeping together part II](#) (Sub Rosa, 2024) with pieces by Mieko Shiomi, Dick Higgins, Philip Corner, Giancarlo Cardini and La Monte Young.

Research contributions:

March 2024 - intervention in discussions and a talk organized by MaerzMusik Festival in Berlin. The festival focussed on the work of composer Lucia Dlugoszewski. The lecture titled *Problem as Possibility: Dialoguing with Dlugoszewski’s scores* was staged as a performative lecture and was the most recent step of the research collaboration with musicologist Kate Doyle, PhD.

April 2023 - publication on *Contemporary Music Review* Special Issue: Engaging Analysis and Performance of an article written in collaboration with Kate Doyle, PhD. The title of the paper is *Problem as Possibility: A Dialogue about Performance and Analysis with Lucia Dlugoszewski’s Experimental Notation as Case Study* (<https://doi.org/10.1080/07494467.2023.2193090>).

November 2021 - publication of two essays for the book *Looking within - The Music of John Palmer*, Vision Edition 2021, entitled "John Palmer: composer, improviser, performer," and "John Palmer's *to the night* (1) and *to the night* (2): from the piano to the score and back".

October 2021 - speaker at "Dialogues: Analysis and Performance," a musicology and performance conference organized by the University of Toronto. Talk in collaboration with Kate Doyle, PhD (Rutgers University-Newark), October 8th, 2021. Title: *Problem as Possibility: Experimental Notation as Nexus of Concept and Praxis, Theorist and Performer*.

November 2020: participation in the American Musicological Society Annual Conference - panel "At the Borders of Notation," through a talk-interview in the intervention of Kate Doyle, PhD titled *The Suchness of Sound: Lucia Dlugoszewski’s Revolutions of Musical Form and Instrumentation*.

Her interest in **Giacinto Scelsi’s** music is expressed through both performance and research, during piano recitals and seminars dedicated to the composer. On 8th January 2019 - Scelsi’s date of birth - she performed a recital at Isabella Scelsi Foundation in Rome. A tour in the USA, including lectures and [performances on Scelsi’s music](#), took place in February 2019. From 2015 to the present, she has been delivering seminars and lecture-recitals in Conservatories of music and at Universities in Italy and Germany while regularly performing Scelsi’s music. In 2019, at “Le voci dell’inchiesta Documentary Film Festival”, she introduced at the piano *The first motion of the immovable*, documentary film dedicated to Scelsi and directed by Sebastiano D’Ayala Valva, winner at Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival and Torino Film Festival.

She collaborates with the Isabella Scelsi Foundation Journal ... *i suoni, le onde* in Rome.

In 2010 she performed *Around Scelsi*, a concert-research on Scelsi and his musical environment (program edited by Luciano Martinis, vice-president of the Scelsi Foundation in Rome). In 2013 she lectured and performed at the “Seminario Popolare sul Pensiero dell’Estremo Oriente” on the subject *On the border between East and West: Giacinto Scelsi and the Sound*. In 2014 she was the music director of “Scelsiana 2014”, an international festival and masterclass for wind instruments dedicated to the music of Giacinto Scelsi which involved performers and teachers who worked closely with the composer.

In 2016 she premiered **Giancarlo Cardini’s** *Tre momenti di sessualità infantile*, starting a close collaboration with the composer himself, who dedicated to her a new piece, *Terza Fantasia, ad Agnese Toniutti* (2018). Two monographic recitals and a release, *Lento trascolorare – piano music*, Da Vinci Classics 2020, are the outcome of this collaboration.

Her repertoire includes several piano solo, [prepared piano](#) and chamber music pieces by **John Cage**, together with performance pieces as *Water Walk* and *Sounds of Venice*, performed in Venice in 2018 for the



European project “Ecouter le monde”, in collaboration with Radio France ([here is the video](#) documentation). In 2023 she released the full *Sonatas and Interludes for prepared piano*, Neuma Records 2023. The disc was included in the monthly Best Bandcamp Contemporary Classical. [Here](#) you can find the press release.

Other research and performance projects include the one dedicated to the international artistic movement **Fluxus**, with the 2018 premiere of the graphic score by Dick Higgins *Emmet Williams's ear*, at the fabulous Egidio Marzona's land art collection “Art Park Verzegnis”, and the collaboration with composer Philip Corner (here [a premiere](#) of two of his pieces). Some of this repertoire has been released in *Subtle Matters*, Neuma Records, 2021 and some in *Fluxus&NeoFluxus - I and II* (Sub Rosa, 2023 and 2024). In October 2023 she played with Corner in a recital for his 90th birthday at Reggio Emilia, for Festival Aperto. In 2024 was invited in Berlin by Archivio Conz to perform two solo recitals related to Fluxus and again in Prague for a three-hour long Fluxus event featuring also musicians Anna Clementi, Deborah Walker, Luciano Chessa, Werner Durand, Miroslav Beinbauer.

Also to mention *Only 76 (Women composers)*, a work-in-progress project focussed on women composers' repertoire for piano solo from 1950 to the present, especially considering artists who had a professional collaboration with the authors she mostly dedicated to, including Lucia Dlugoszewski's “timbre” piano research project.

Toniutti started researching on **Dlugoszewski's** repertoire in 2017. Since then she released her transcription of Dlugoszewski's “Exacerbated Subtlety Concert” in *Subtle Matters* (Neuma Records, 2021), and premiered the piece in Europe at the Angelica International Festival in Bologna, IT. She collaborated in the two-year program dedicated to the composer by contemporary music festival MaerzMusik in Berlin as an expert of her repertoire. She performed there in 2023 and 2024, taking part in the related Symposium with talks, discussions and lectures, and collaborating with Erick Hawkins Dance Company, New York, in staging some of Dlugoszewski-Hawkins works.

In October 2023 she spent a research period at the Library of Congress In Washington DC, researching in the Hawkins-Dlugoszewski's papers. She was then able to make her transcription of the work *Cantilever*, music by Dlugoszewski and choreography by Hawkins.

Besides 20th century compositions, her repertoire includes also pieces of contemporary composers as Azio Corghi, Salvatore Sciarrino, Carlo Boccadoro, George Crumb, Marco Stroppa, John Palmer, Silvia Colasanti, Mieko Shiomi, featuring premieres of Filippo Perocco, Caterina Venturelli, Da Jeong Choi, Colin Riley among others. Several were the new pieces composed and dedicated to her.

As a performer, Ms. Toniutti likes to explore unconventional ways to strengthen communication between performers and audiences by putting in dialogue contemporary music with other artistic disciplines (acting, photography, dance, visual arts and multimedia).

[Ludic Inventions](#) is a collaborative project with composer C.Riley and video artists K.Dirse and S.Covarrubias. Taking the start from Colin Riley's miniatures for piano, it involves further development by the composer (electronics), working closer with Toniutti (piano preparations/improvisation), Kristijonas Dirse (film) and Sabina Covarrubias (live video performance). Visuals and sound synergize in a malleable live immersive performance. The work was commissioned in 2022 and premiered in 2023 for Sound Scotland.

In 2022 she has composed the music for the multimedia exhibition *The moon is full but it is not the moon*, in place in Luxembourg city from June to August 2022, a collective work in collaboration with visual artists Gjoj De Marco, Andrej Mirčev, Karolina Pernar (Luxembourg, June-August 2022. Produced by Rotondes, Luxembourg, with the support of Luxembourgish Ministry of Culture and the City of Luxembourg).

Among her other projects and collaborations: *Dialoghi cromatici*, with the jazz pianist Armando Battiston, *Qui e Oltre*, installation with music, photography, visual and land art, *A stain on silence*, performance with piano and actor, *Le boeuf sur le toit*, with painting and video art, *Hommage a John Cage*, with contemporary dancers, *Around Scelsi*, musical research on Scelsi's cultural environment, *Three trees and three sons* with actor, *Piano Twelve*, ensemble of twelve pianists.

She has **collaborated with** several musicians including Carin Levine flute, Joelle Leandre double bass, Frances-Marie Uitti cello, Alessandra Giura Longo flute, Christian Pruvost trumpet, Deborah Walker cello, Marco Fusi violin, Paolo Zavagna electronics.

She took part in **ensembles** directed by Joelle Leandre (*Hommage à John*, project dedicated to Cage, Italian premiere, 2009) and Pauline Oliveros (*Environmental Dialogue*, Venice 2015, later on air on Wave Farm Radio, NY).

In her collaborations as **artistic director** she creates unusual situations in selected unconventional places, to offer listeners new experiences of musical fruition.

She has worked on projects of **music dissemination**, particularly related to contemporary and 20th century music, in public schools and with adults.



She has also been involved in **music education**, teaching to children, young people and adults, training future teachers and conducting youth choral and instrumental ensembles. She is currently teaching in Italian Conservatory.

As a soloist and chamber music pianist she performed in Italy, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, France, Germany, UK, Czech Republic and USA, as well as at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Palazzo Cavagnis and Palazzo Pisani in Venice, Strehler Theater in Milan (live RAI broadcast), Duse Theater in Bologna, Palazzo Congressi in Lugano, State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, Pavillon Le Corbusier – Fondation Suisse in Paris, the University of North Texas (USA). She also performed for the “Komponisten Colloquium” series (Oldenburg, Germany), the “ALL FRONTIERS - Indagini sulle musiche d'arte contemporanea” festival (Gorizia, Italy), “Angelica – Centro di Ricerca Musicale” festival (Bologna, Italy), “Bari Piano Festival” (Bari), “Ossezioni Festival” (Faenza), “Gamo International Festival” (Firenze), “Italien Musiziert” festival (Stuttgart, Germany), “Sixty Years in Flux” event (Genoa), SoundScotland (UK), MaerzMusik Festival - Berlinerfestspiele (Berlin).

More **info** at: www.agnesetoniutti.com / www.youtube.com/user/agnesetoniutti / [Spotify Agnese Toniutti](https://open.spotify.com/artist/agnesetoniutti)