

Curriculum Vitae

Maria Blengino

Contact information

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Profile

Passionate and dedicated music professional with extensive academic and practical experience in jazz singing and music disciplines. Proven ability to teach modern music singing, manage front desk operations at a specialized feminist library and conduct bibliographic research. Strong communication skills, with a particular focus on jazz music and its promotion, especially highlighting the contributions of women in jazz. Advanced in English and proficient in multiple digital tools. Experienced in speaking at conferences in various cultural environments.

Education

PhD in Jazz and Popular Music Research

Institut für Jazzforschung, Kunstuniversität Graz (KUG), Graz, Austria
2024 – present

Master's Degree in Music and Theatre Studies (Music Curriculum)

Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy
2021 – 2024

Thesis: “*D’altro canto, canto d’altro(ve)*. La sperimentazione vocale tra Italia e USA”.
Grade: 110/110 with honours

Bachelor's Degree in Jazz Singing

Conservatorio G.F. Ghedini, Cuneo, Italy
2017 – 2021

Thesis: “Frank Loesser: dalla canzone americana allo standard jazz”.
Grade: 110/110

Secondary School Diploma (Classical Studies)

Liceo Classico G.B. Bodoni, Saluzzo, Italy
2010 – 2015

Work Experience

Intern

Women's Italian Library, Bologna, Italy
2023

- Managed loans and book return for library users.
- Relocated books and magazines, specializing in music.
- Utilized web catalogues and bibliographic research tools.
- Authored a bibliography on Women in Jazz Music titled "*Le Jazziste*".

Modern Music Singing Teacher

Music School "Associazione Musicainsieme", Luserna S. Giovanni, Italy
2018 – 2019

- Taught the use of voice and physiological mechanisms in modern singing.
- Conducted breathing exercises and vocalizations.
- Provided repertoire-based singing exercises, focusing on film soundtracks.

Speaker at conferences and book presentations

- "*Percepire, immaginare, essere. Confronti eterogenei sull'esperienza di artiste nella musica*" ("*Perceiving, imagining, being. Heterogeneous comparisons on the experience of women artists in music*")

Eufonica – Bologna Fiere, Bologna, Italy | *May 2024*

Reported on my music experience with artists Valentina Mattarozzi, Marianna Puscio, and Laura Gramuglia. Coordinated by Riccardo Negrelli.

- "*Luca Cerchiari dialoga con Stefano Marino e Roy Menarini*" ("*Luca Cerchiari in dialogue with Stefano Marino and Roy Menarini*")

Sala Borsa, Bologna, Italy | *February 2024*

Presented the book "*Frank Sinatra. 'La Voce' tra musica e cinema*" ("*Frank Sinatra. 'The Voice' between music and cinema*") (2024) by Luca Cerchiari; introduced the speakers.

Articles, biographies, and bibliographies

- *Mary Lou Williams*, published on the website of the Women's Encyclopedia, www.enciclopediadelledonne.it, 2023.
- *Lorez Alexandria*, published on the website of the Women's Encyclopedia, www.enciclopediadelledonne.it, 2023.
- *Le Jazziste*, bibliography written for the Italian Women's Library, via del Piombo 5, Bologna, Italy, 2023.

Projects

- **Personal website on jazz music**

Developing a website dedicated to jazz music, featuring articles and videos of my vocal interpretation of jazz, with a focus on women in jazz music.

2024

- **Vocalist in a musical duo with guitarist and composer Emanuela Napolitano**

Bologna, Italy
2024-present

Forming a duo performing jazz standards and bossanova pieces.

- **Vocalist in a musical trio with double bassist Alessandro Fattorini and guitarist Andrea Grimandi**

Bologna, Italy
2023-2024

Established a trio performing jazz pieces and jazz Manouche, inspired by Django Reinhardt.

- **Vocalist in a musical duo with guitarist Andrea Grimandi**

Bologna, Italy
2021-2024

Formed a duo performing jazz standards with elements of blues and soul.

Attended conferences, book presentations, and workshops (selected)

- **Book presentation at the event “Una come lei”: “Figlie del sé. L’epica rivoluzionaria di Amelia Rosselli e Patrizia Vicinelli” (“Daughters of the self. The revolutionary epic of Amelia Rosselli and Patrizia Vicinelli”)** – Marzia D’amico; poetry readings by Mariasole Ariot, Martina Campi, Diletta D’Angelo, Serena Dibiase, Giusi Montali

Women’s Italian Library, Bologna, Italy | *June 2024*

- **Conference “Eighth Rhythm Changes Conference – Jazz Encounters”**

Kunst University, Graz, Austria | *April 2024*

- **Conference “Invisible Lady. Le donne suonano il jazz” (“Invisible Lady. Women play jazz”)** – Stefano Zenni

International Museum and Library of Music, Bologna, Italy | *April 2024*

- **Conference “High Priestess of Soul” dedicated to Nina Simone – Emiliano Pintori, Silvia Donati**

International Museum and Library of Music, Bologna, Italy | *November 2023*

- **Conference “Femminismo intersezionale: la creatività teorico-pratica del black feminism” (“Intersectional feminism: the theoretical-practical creativity of black feminism”)** – Rita Monticelli; “[...] *analisi del matrimonio [...] e dei diritti di genere [...] nel Code de la famille senegalese*” “[...] *analysis of marriage [...] and gender rights in the Senegalese Code de la famille*”) – Ndack Mbaye

Ex convent of Santa Cristina, DAR Department, Bologna, Italy | *November 2023*

- **Conference “La voce, prima. Artaud, Cage, Stratos” (“Voice, first. Artaud, Cage, Stratos”)** – Enrico Pitozzi

International Centre for Humanistic Studies “Umberto Eco”, Bologna, Italy | *October 2023*

- **Conference “Frank Sinatra. A Twentieth Century Icon” – Luca Cerchiari, William A. Everett**

IULM University, Milan, Italy | *September 2023*

- **Conference “L’empatia emotiva del live” (“The Emotional Empathy of Live”)** – Riccardo Negrelli, Valentina Mattarozzi, Claudio Rosa

Museum Luigi Donini, San Lazzaro di Savena, Italy | *April 2023*

- **Conference “Tra classica e jazz – la Rhapsody in Blue di George Gershwin” (“Between classical and jazz – Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin”)** – Stefano Zenni

International Museum and Library of Music, Bologna, Italy | *March 2023*

- **Workshop “*The Orchestra in the Mouth - instrumental vocal sounds and Collaborative Vocal Improvisation, Circlesinging and Vocal Painting*” – Roberto Demo, Giulia Matteucci**

Laboratorio di Voce e Musica, Bologna, Italy | *December 2022*

- **Book presentation “*Un lampo a due dita, Gli scritti di Louis Armstrong*” – Emiliano Pintori, Enrico Farnedi, Stefano Zenni**

International Museum and Library of Music, Bologna, Italy | *November 2022*

- **Book presentation “*Sophisticated Giant – The Life and Legacy of Dexter Gordon*” – Maxine Gordon, Piero Odorici, Emiliano Pintori, Paolo Benedettini, Andrea Niccolai**

Camera Jazz & Music Club, Bologna, Italy | *May 2022*

- **Lecture “*Musicology and Popular Music*” – Luca Cerchiari (IULM University – Milano)**

Online from Rimini campus – University of Bologna, Italy | *April 2022*

- **Book presentation “*Arrigo Polillo (1919-1984). Un maestro internazionale della critica jazz*” (“*Arrigo Polillo (1919-1984). An International Master of Jazz Criticism*”) – Luca Cerchiari, Stefano Marino**

Alma Mater Studiorum, Bologna, Italy | *March 2022*

- **Conference “*Da Nilla Pizzi a Cristina Zavalloni. Interpreti, autrici e compositrici a Bologna*” (“*From Nilla Pizzi to Cristina Zavalloni. Female performers, authors and composers in Bologna*”) – Riccardo Negrelli**

Sala della Musica (in Sala Borsa), Bologna, Italy | *March 2022*

- **Lecture “*Jack Kerouac & Miles Davis: Writing and Music at their Best*” – Francesco Meli**

Online from Rimini campus – University of Bologna, Italy | *February 2022*

- **Workshop “*George Cables Jazz Workshop*” – George Cables**

Camera Jazz & Music Club, Bologna, Italy | *December 2021*

- **Book presentation “*Sophisticated Giant*” by Maxine Gordon (2019) – Emiliano Pintori, Piero Odorici, Francesco Martinelli**

International Museum and Library of Music, Bologna, Italy | *November 2021*

Skills

Communication and interpersonal skills

- Strong organizational and communication abilities honed through classical and music studies at the conservatory and university. Direct experience in music practices as a singer in a duo and trio, along with practical work during my internship and presentations at conferences and book talks.
- Experience in international settings and volunteering, enhancing cross-cultural communication.
- Effective engagement with young girls, children, and organization staff through my Modern Music singing teaching and roles in oratories and summer camps.

Languages

- Italian: Native
- English: C1 (listening, reading, writing, spoken production, spoken interaction)

Digital Skills

- MuseScore
- Audacity
- Bibliographic research tools and online Catalogues
- Social Media
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Internet Browsers
- Windows

Volunteer and international experiences

- **Volunteering at the feminist publishing festival “*Flush*”**
Italian Women’s Library, Bologna, Italy | *September 2024*
- **English Course**
EF, Toronto, Canada | *May 2024*

- **“West End Experience” Summer School**
City Academy, London, UK | *August 2019*
 - **Volunteering with Consolata Missionaries, Turin, Italy**
Kenya, Africa | *August 2014*
 - **English Course**
FLS Citrus College, Glendora, California | *July 2014*
 - **Oratory and Summer Camps Staff**
Paesana, Italy | *2009 – 2014*
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Choral Experiences

- **Choir “*Envie de Chanter*”**
Envie, Italy | *2015 – 2018*
 - **High School Choir**
Liceo G.B. Bodoni, Saluzzo, Italy | *2010 – 2015*
 - **Choir “*Hope*”**
Saluzzo, Italy | *2012 – 2014*
 - **Choir “*Chorus Smile*”**
Paesana, Italy | *2003 – 2013*
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