

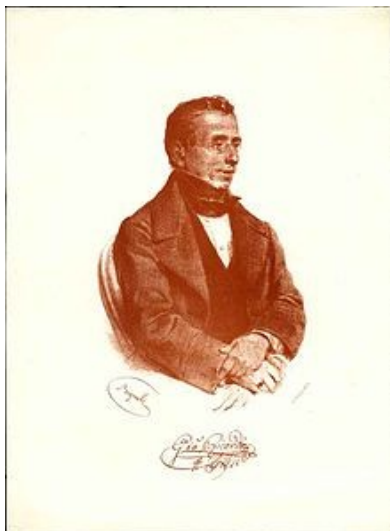
# RICORDI & C.



Ricordi is a music publishing house in Milan, founded in 1808 by Giovanni Ricordi (Milan, 1785-1853).

Historically linked with the Teatro alla Scala, which acquired the music library in 1825, Casa Ricordi was subsequently directed by Tito Ricordi I (1811-1888), Giulio Ricordi (1840-1912) and Tito Ricordi II (1865-1933). During XIX century they were the first editors of the great Italian opera composers from Rossini to Puccini and opened branches in Naples (1864), Florence (1865), Rome (1871), London (1878), Palermo, Paris (1888). Ricordi became a public company in 1956 and in 1994 was acquired by BMG.

## Giovanni Ricordi



*Giovanni Ricordi (1785-1853) lithograph*

The founder Giovanni Ricordi was the son of a glazier. He studied violin and became first violinist of a small theatre in Milan. He looked closely at the musical environment of the city and began to conceive his first commercial project, opening up a music copy bureau stall for theatres, providing orchestras and singers with the manuscript materials. In 1806 the first major contract with Teatro Carcano gave the company a more solid economic situation, thanks to a clause that guaranteed the copyist Giovanni Ricordi the ownership of the copied materials. In 1807 Giovanni Ricordi formed his own archive of materials belonging to the first example of a music

library. To switch from the slow and heavy work of the copy shop to a more agile and profitable printing one, Giovanni Ricordi in Summer 1807 travelled to Leipzig, where he studied the chalcographic methods for several months at Breitkopf. Thanks to new techniques of lithography and intaglio printing, he managed to reduce costs and increase editions. Moreover, with the use of second or third quality smaller papers, and the modern keys of lyrical parts, he brought out the economical edition.

### **Tito I Ricordi**

Tito I was probably the true soul in developing the greatest period of the House. In 1825 he started to work and his first employment was as engraver. Skilled lithographer, excellent pianist, he travelled and became a friend of the most celebrated musicians. He promoted cultural initiatives of the house and the Official Music of Milan and organized concerts in which artists as Liszt, Thalberg, De Bériot, Field played.



*Tito Ricordi (1811-1888)  
lithograph by Mancastropa*



*Giulio Ricordi (1840-1912)  
lithograph by Mancastropa*

### **Giulio Ricordi**

Ricordi family reached the top with Giulio. Among the three Ricordi, he was the most sentimental and opened to all cultural and artistic interests. Under his spur Ricordi became the center of the entire contemporary artistic world. His activity was not just about the industrial field : he was a journalist (he began in 1866 under the direction of the Official Music of Milan), painter, draftsman, watercolorist, and musician under the pseudonym J. Burgmein. In 1879 he founded "Teatro alla Scala" Orchestral Society in Milan. Giulio Ricordi had always absolute faith in the greatness of Italian art opera, which he saw embodied first by Verdi and then by Puccini, considered almost a spiritual son.

His death marked the end of an era, a way of working and living.

### **Tito II Ricordi (1865-1933)**

After a degree in engineering, Tito II was a sensitive musician, a brilliant and successful man in society. He travelled to France, Germany, England and America, deeply interested in commercial and industrial organization and in the theatrical life of the other countries.