



The "Alpe Tina" or Villa Anfossi, as it appears on the entrance sign and in the monogram version, "AT", painted on the fireplace in the main hall



A teacher and his school

When Giovanni Anfossi (Ancona, 1864–Milan, 1946) took up residence in Alpino, on the heights above Stresa, it was 1908, and he was already an established musician. Alpino—healthy and picturesque—had long been a retreat for painters and members of high society, and with the opening of the Simplon railway tunnel in 1906, it had become a fashionable holiday destination. In the years to come, it would attract many renowned musicians, some of whom would frequent Villa Anfossi

Designed by the Milanese architect Giuseppe Bagatti Valsecchi (1845–1934) in an eclectic Renaissance style, the panoramic residence is also known as "Alpe Tina," named both for its location on an alpine pasture and for the maestro's wife, Tina, who had been his pupil. The villa boasts a large garden and a pavilion where the musician composed, played the piano, and taught. A stone inscription on the lake-facing façade reads *PARVA DOMUS MAGNA QUIES* ("small house, great peace"), capturing the spirit of the place. A vivid glimpse into the maestro's activity and network is offered by the archive preserved from the villa, containing scores, letters, brochures, notes, invitations, dedications, and autographs.

A composer since his student years, Anfossi graduated in piano and composition from the Naples Conservatory and began teaching piano at the Collegio Reale in Verona (1888), while also performing as a concert pianist. Teaching students and nurturing young talent came naturally to him: in Milan, his home from 1894 onward, he taught at the Collegio Reale delle Fanciulle and the Bruni-Morandi Institute, sat on the examination board of the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory, and above all, founded the Pasquale Anfossi School, named after his musical ancestor (1727–1797). Among his outstanding students were Franco Verganti of Stresa and Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli, who would go on to earn international acclaim and perform during the Settimane Musicali.

In Stresa, Anfossi took part—as organizer, conductor, and pianist—in numerous events, often charitable, featuring several of his female students. Notably, two major concerts were held at the Regina Palace Hôtel (1913 and 1915), and another at the Kursaal in 1914, where Anfossi's patriotic hymn *Diana Italica* was premiered. The piece was performed again in 1915 at the newly inaugurated Ricreatorio Rosmini. In 1931, the maestro and his pupils once again performed to great success in the hall of the Grand Hôtel Alpino.



Giovanni Anfossi, elegant and refined, with his ever-present pipe



A selection of scores, dedications, and programmes from concerts and competitions, from the archives of Villa Anfossi

POPE PIUS XI at VILLA ANFOSSI

The construction of the villa is commemorated by an epigraph, preserved on the exterior of the house, written by Achille Ratti, who became Pope Pius XI in 1922 and was on several occasions a guest of the maestro in Alpino. Fascinated by the place, he described it as follows:

"Here, everything is music, and the task of the maestro is to translate into notes the proud voice of nature."



Villa Anfossi and its garden, in historical and contemporary photographs



The programme of the concert held at the Kursaal of Stresa in 1914, featuring the hymn *Diana Italica*, one of Anfossi's most renowned compositions, and the article published in September 1931 in *Il Gazzettino* di Stresa Borromeo, dedicated to the concert given by the maestro and his pupils in Alpino

Il grande concerto strumentale al "Grand Hôtel Alpino"

L'annunciato concerto strumentale diretto dal maestro Giovanni Anfossi ha avuto splendido svolgimento nel salone del *Grand Hôtel Alpino* la sera del 5 ottobre, dinanzi ad un pubblico numerosissimo, intellettuale ed elegante, tra cui spiccavano molte belle signore e signorine della colonia villeggiante e varie autorità locali, tra le quali il Barone On. C. E. Bontle, il Podestà di Stresa, il Podestà di Gignese, il segretario politico, il segretario capo di Stresa cav. Davolio.

La cronaca della bella serata, organizzata a totale beneficio della locale Chiesetta *Mamma della Nere*, è lietissima sotto ogni riguardo: riunione mondana di schietto carattere aristocratico e festa d'arte nobilissima per merito dell'ottimo direttore e dei bravi interpreti.

Ma la caratteristica preminente del grande concerto sta senza dubbio nelle calorose, insistenti e unanimi ovazioni che hanno salutato l'illustre maestro Giovanni Anfossi e tutti i suoi intelligenti allievi e collaboratori, i quali meriteranno singolarmente un lungo discorso in merito alle loro interpretazioni.

Il programma ricco e scelto comprendeva musiche di Wagner, Chopin, Beethoven, Grieg, Pich-Mangiacavallo, Moszkowski, Rachmaninov, Ole Olsen e dello stesso maestro Anfossi, che ha trovato

Gli ospiti del "Grand Hôtel Alpino," nella stagione estiva 1931

Cav. Alberto Garibaldi e famiglia
Cav. Luigi Caprelli e famiglia
Prof. dott. Rocchetti
Prof. dott. Rocchetti
S. E. N. D. Sayer e signorina Marchese
M. Chiodi
N. D. Frattini
Ing. Enrico Viganti



A. BENEDETTI MICHELANGELI



Il maestro prof. Anfossi
con profonda stima
5 giugno 1914

