



Chasing Icarus

An ~~ElectroBaroque~~ musical

*...Two childhood soulmates meet again
years after being torn apart, only this time
they are fighting each other
for the role of lifetime...*

Bosticco & Randall

Bridgerton the Musical
meets Hedwig meets Amadeus

1700. Rome. The Vatican forbids women to sing in public. This leads to the dark underground practice of castrating young boys to preserve their angelic voices and create super vocalists:

Castrati.

Nero, a peasant boy with a gift for singing. Violante, a noble "girl" obsessed with opera, who's actually non binary. They grow up together, best friends and soulmates, until Nero is sold off to a Conservatorio and castrated.

Years later, the search for the next opera star is announced. Nero is fresh out of college and steals his way to an audition; but can he navigate the intrigue-riddled backstage of the Roman opera houses?

With a powerful ally and lover in roguishly charming writer Pietro Metastasio, it seems Nero might do just that..

When a new challenger appears! Except this newcomer is none other than Violante incognito, who has disguised themselves as a castrato to chase gender euphoria and evade the laws that would have them silenced.

Will their love prevail, or will the thirst for fame consume them?

What is Chasing Icarus?

- *A Modernized History Musical* (à la Hamilton & Six)
- *Cutting edge electro-folk pop songs* blended with Baroque Orchestral sounds (in the vein of Billie Eilish, Imogen Heap and Sigur Ros)
- *A dynamic tragicomedy*: briskly paced twists and turns, punctuated by poetic, high-emotion musical highlights
- *A story of now*, highlighting how issues of gender identity have been with us for centuries
- *A flexible script* amenable to multiple treatments, from out-of-the-box to big budget

Authors' Notes



The idea for Chasing Icarus was born when my brother played me a song by Icelandic band "Sigur Ros". The ethereal sound enchanted me, and I was gobsmacked to find out that the haunting voice of the lead singer belonged to a man.

An idea sprang to mind. There was a dark chapter of Italian history that was barely taught: that of the first music idols. The **Castrati**.

I fell down the rabbit hole of castrati's biographies. They were capricious Divi, both womanizers and man-eaters, Beatles-like in their command of frenzied fans. They were the **first true pop-stars**. They were also lonely creatures. They couldn't marry, by papal decree; they were considered neither men nor women, and welcome in neither circle; they were poor children sold by their peasant parents in the hope they would develop angelic voices and become famous. Many didn't.

Something about their story and the **liminal spaces** they occupied felt deeply personal, though I couldn't quite put my finger on it. Still, Matt and I started writing. It was years later, and several drafts in, that the connection hit me like lightning. The **conversation on gender** had evolved a lot and we had started interviewing non binary and **trans** folks, listening to first-person experiences and stories... It was in the middle of an intense writing session, listening to one of our consultants, that I realized: the trans story is my own. I am non binary. Chasing Icarus was the catalyst, the map, the lantern, the shovel; my gentle companion on the journey of my discovery towards my true self.

As Matt and I are both **LGBTQ**, we wanted to write a story about **shame trauma**, how even as children we quickly learn to disguise so many aspects of ourselves to appease the public eye... therefore developing toxic beliefs of being frauds, secretly "unworthy". Castrati are a powerful metaphor for this: if they couldn't become Gods through singing, they had no place in society.

Chasing Icarus is a story about finding one's true self-worth, learning to tell apart mere **validation** and **real love**. In order to touch the Sun, the man-made wings must melt. Icarus must fall into the sea. The Ego must die.

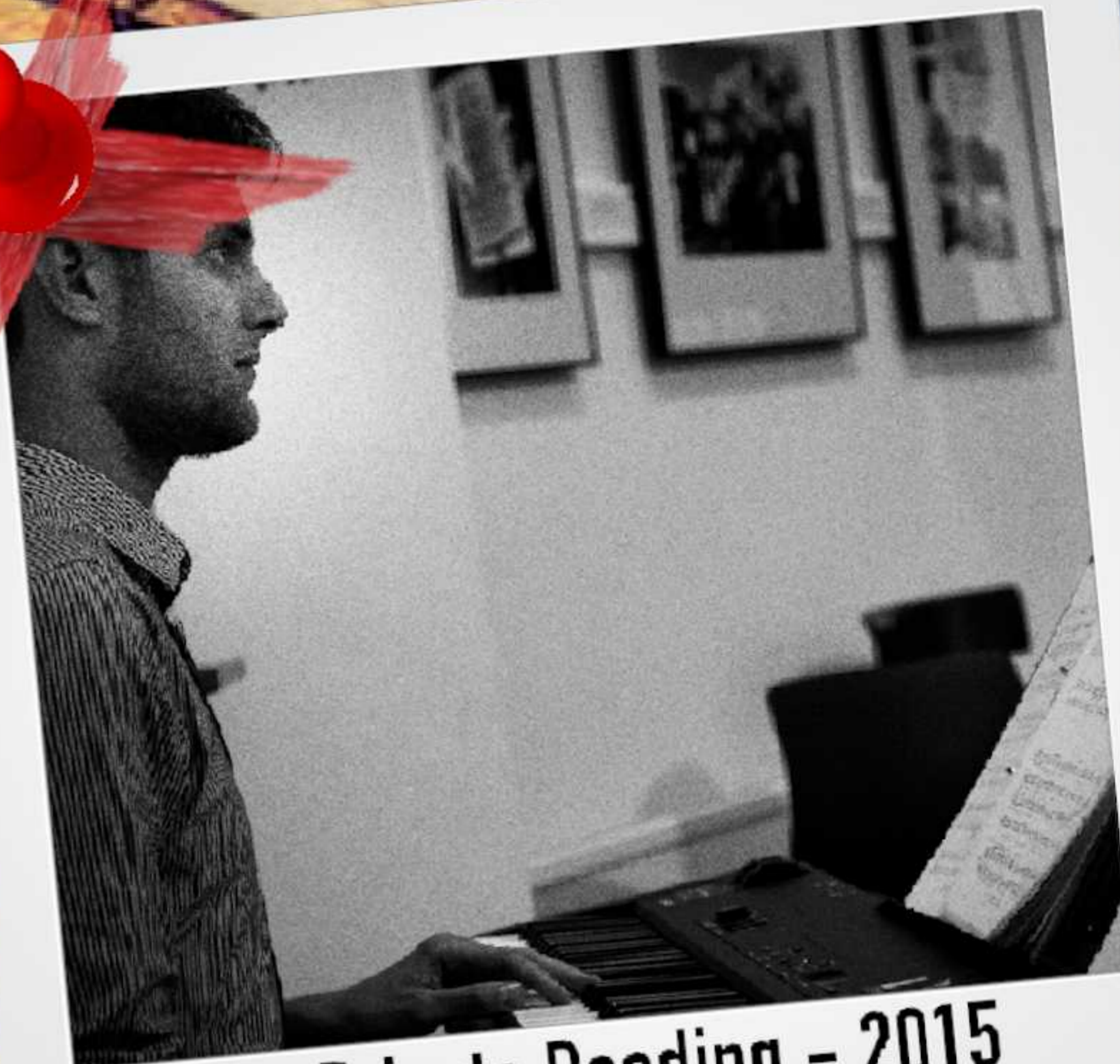
Carlo Bosticco

Developmental History



NYC Workshop - 2014

Cast including: Javier Ignacio (Broadway: Sideshow, Parade),
Elysia Jordan (US Tour: School of Rock)



London Private Reading - 2015

Cast Included: Lucyette Cliffe (West End: Wicked, Les Miserables)
Rebecca Gilliland (West End: Wicked)
Amy Cooke Hodgson (West End: Austentatious)

Symphony Orchestra of Guiyang - China, 2017
Excerpts of *Chasing Icarus* selected for *A Night on Broadway*
With international star *Avela Chen*



Mercury Songwriting Contest in association with Perfect Pitch

Our song places second
Mercury Songwriting Contest
June 2020

MY OWN OTHER HALF
CARLO BOSTICCO & MATT RANDALL



**2021 - Director
Charlotte Peters**

(Warhorse,
An Inspector Calls)

joins the team

ARTS COUNCIL
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Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND 2022**

Industry Showcase
The Other Palace Theatre, London

2023

Bosticco & Randall



Carlo Bosticco
(music, lyrics, book)

On top of his work with Matt, Carlo has provided additional lyrics for *Travels with my Aunt* by Broadway veterans George Styles and Anthony Drewe. Carlo is also the lyricist for pop act *ARI ANNA*.

As an actor, Carlo is soon to be seen in *Roman Holidays* (Leicester Curve and West End).

Other acting credits include *King Ludwig II* in *My Parsifal Conductor* (Off-Broadway), the Olivier-Award winning production of *La Bohème* by company *OperaUpClose* (London), *From Stage to Screen and Back Again* (West End), *Mercutio* in *Romeo and Juliet* (Teatro Stabile di Verona, Italy).

www.carlobosticco.com
IG: carlobosticco



Matt Randall
(music, arrangements)

In addition to his musical theatre work with Carlo, Matt is co-writer for pop singer-songwriter Hege.

Matt also works in the music industry as a performer and he is currently accompanying international drag superstar *La Voix* on her fabulous UK tour.

Matt has played in shows such as *Wicked* (UK tour and West End), *Avenue Q* (UK tour), *Godspell* (Lyric theatre and UK tour), *Annie* (UK tour), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (UK tour), *Blood Brothers* (UK tour), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (UK tour) and others.

Matt has worked as a Music Producer for RTL Television in Germany, Music Producer/Arranger for *West End Live* in London, and Composer for *Fiction Factory Productions* in Cardiff.

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