



Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino - Biography

Best Italian World Music Band - MEI 2010

Babel Med Music selection 2011

The original brain child of the writer Rina Durante, Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino is the foremost and longest standing traditional music band from Salento, in Puglia, Italy, coming together some 35 years ago, in 1975.

In 2007 the lead passed from the original founder of the band, Daniele Durante, to his son Mauro, already a highly regarded frame drums player and violinist who has played with numerous artists, such as Ludovico Einaudi, Piers Faccini, Ballake Sissoko, Ibrahim Maalouf, Stewart Copeland and La Notte della Taranta.

At the age of 26, Mauro Durante is the musical assistant of Ludovico Einaudi, Maestro Concertatore of La Notte della Taranta, and works with him in the creation and artistic production of that spectacular performance. Canzoniere opened the Concertone of La Notte della Taranta in Melpignano, performing live in front of over 100,000 people.

With a range from the energetic pizzica pizzica, to the tenderness of songs of love and longing; from the festa-like exuberance of a local band to an ironic glance towards modernity, Canzoniere provide an intense and atmospheric spectacle.

With 16 albums and numerous performances in Europe, the Middle East, Canada and the USA, Canzoniere have always evoked an enthusiastic response from audiences and sensitively admiring reviews from the music press.

Discography

1977 (FONIT CETRA) canti di terra d'Otranto e della Grecia Salentina

1980 concerto 1

1983 come farò a diventare un mito

1985 concerto 2

1988 Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino

1991 concerto 3

1994 sott'acqua e sutta ientu navegamu and mamminieddhu zucaratu,

1997 ni pizzecau lu core,

1998 ballati tutti quanti ballati forte (Felmay),

2000 canti e pizzichi d'amore and carataranta

2001 pizzica pizzica

2002 alla riva del mare and serenata,

2010 focu d'amore (Ponderosa music and art)

The Repertoire

Most of the songs played by the Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino are music for dance: the traditional dance of Salento, called pizzica or, nowadays, taranta. This dance is linked to a local cultural phenomenon called tarantism; sometimes it is danced between woman and man, as a form of courtship.

This kind of music is passionate, obsessive and conducive to trance, owing to the fact that its main rhythmic actor is a local type of frame drum, the tamburello, which resounds like a never-stopping beating heart. The power of this music is at its highest during live shows, when the audience moves and dances to the rhythm.

In their shows Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino also include traditional love songs (ballads with beautiful melodies and lyrics, typical of folk poetry, which used to be sung under the window of the beloved one), lullabies, work songs (significant testimonies of the bad conditions of the working classes), and jokes, as well as new compositions, in an attempt to create a continuum between tradition and modernity.

Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino live concerts are a life explosion: full of energy, passion, rhythm, and mystery, they bring the audience from the past into the present, and back.